



Open Space Plan for the Town of Aquinnah



August
2020

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Section 1 - Plan Summary

“An island within an island,” Aquinnah is located nearly 14 miles from the mainland at the westernmost end of Martha’s Vineyard Island. It is separated from Chilmark, its only neighboring town on Martha’s Vineyard, by a boundary that runs largely through water bodies (Menemsha Bight, Basin, and Pond and Squibnocket Pond). Over 95% of the town is surrounded by water, and much of that is open sea.

Residents and visitors alike marvel at Aquinnah’s pristine natural resources – vistas, water, and air. This triad is rivaled by only a handful of other towns within the Commonwealth, and is also exceptional within Martha’s Vineyard itself.

Cast alongside the Atlantic Ocean, the town’s natural terrain is its most striking features, with development ensconced well within the natural landscape. Much of the town’s shared identity – both its tribal members and its townspeople - is underpinned by its reverence for the terrain itself. This continues to be instructive for all planning initiatives and remains central to its Open Space & Recreation priorities. Moving forward, there will be more intentional thought given to promoting different forms of recreation to a wider range of users across open space offerings within the town.

Section 2 – Introduction

Aquinnah was incorporated as the Town of Gay Head in 1870 and comprises approximately 3,400 acres. The predominantly residential community has 363 (2014 estimate) year-round residents and is known for its Native American heritage, the Gay Head Cliffs, and its beautiful beaches. The Town changed its name to Aquinnah in 1998.

The town has joint watersheds with its neighboring town, Chilmark, but the two municipalities share just 3,000 feet of land boundary: 1,791 feet on Long Beach, and 1,209 feet between the ponds. This small stretch between the ponds is the location of the single road providing access from Aquinnah to all other points on Martha’s Vineyard. In addition, a small triangular-shaped piece of land, approximately 8,620 square feet in size, lying on the “Chilmark side” of the Menemsha Basin Boundary is legally incorporated within the Town of Aquinnah.

Aquinnah’s landscape is defined by soft rolling hills, low heathlands, magnificent ocean vistas, and the famous Gay Head Cliffs, a recognized Natural Landmark. Aquinnah’s prevalence of undeveloped land and its exacting enforcement of rigorous wetland regulations will also leave it well positioned

to endure Climate Disruption and attendant Sea Level Rise (SLR). Its mixed and many coastal resources – from salt marsh and bogs to tidal flats and dunes – will endure SLR by either migrating upland or evolving into a different wetland type. With relatively few exceptions, manmade infrastructure has been carefully sited and will not pose as impediments to these changes.

Statement of Purpose

Open space acquisition remains an ongoing endeavor across the island. A recent acquisition of over 45 acres by the MV Land Bank exemplifies this commitment. This occurred during the drafting of this Plan. Since the town's most recent Open Space & Recreation Plan, in 1981, roughly 650 acres have been protected in perpetuity, with the Wampanoag Tribe owning nearly 35% of it. With island real estate so coveted and finite, land acquisition costs are incredibly steep. In turn, entities with conservation aims are very intentional and strategic about which properties should be pursued for conservation or recreation purposes.

Planning Process and Public Participation

Despite the passage of nearly four decades since the Town's last Open Space & Recreation Plan, much of the Town remains largely the same. Though development has certainly occurred, the major change is somewhat existential; nearly half of Aquinnah's open space is now deed restricted - enshrined and no longer in the crosshairs of potential development.

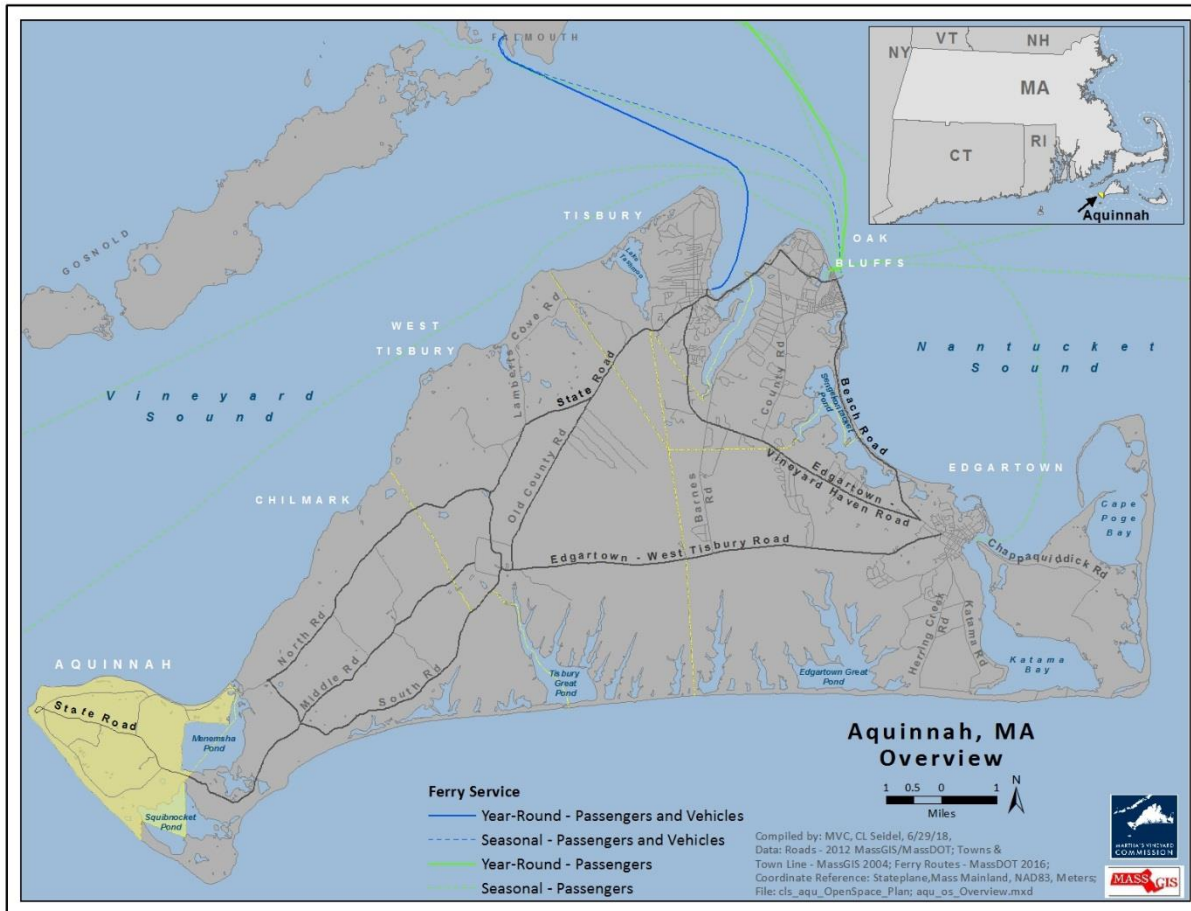
The Town worked with the Martha's Vineyard Commission to construct this Plan. A Parks and Recreation Committee was formed, and an American Disabilities Association (ADA) Coordinator was appointed. A survey was crafted to solicit input from town residents and its formation and findings are discussed in more detail in Section 6. In short, the responses yielded valuable insights that serve to inform this document's Action Plan.

Both the survey and public meeting were posted in high visible places – online and at Town Hall – to ensure a range of stakeholders had the chance to provide input. As the town's lone EJ community, the Tribe received a direct invitation from the town and was a vocal contingent during the public meeting; they also accounted for a handful of the survey responses. Fortunately, these efforts took place before a major disagreement over construction of a casino on Tribal property which has since diminished collaboration between the Town and Tribe.

Section 3 – Community Setting

A. Regional Context

Regionally, Aquinnah shares certain characteristics with the other towns on Martha's Vineyard: overall seclusion from the mainland, highly variable seasonal populations, lifestyles and landscapes dominated by the ocean, and unique economic constraints.



Within this greater Island context, Aquinnah retains a unique character as well. The furthest point from any of the ferries or points of entry, Aquinnah retains the most purely rural qualities to be found on Martha's Vineyard. Its 2016 population represents just over two percent (2%) of the total population of Martha's Vineyard. By no small margin, it has the fewest number of residents of all the island's towns.

The visual character of each of the six towns of Martha's Vineyard is distinct. On a small scale, the down-Island towns are the "cities and their suburbs", while the less populous, less commercial up-

island towns are the "countryside." The Island's geography and history created the contrasts between its more settled seaport towns and its farming communities. While open space is necessary for all six towns, it is especially important up-Island, to maintain the visual diversity of Martha's Vineyard.

B. History of the Community

However small the community, it is the most ethnically diverse on the island, with ethnic minorities comprising 43% of its year-round population. The clear majority of these are descendants of the Island's original settlers, the Wampanoags. The federal recognition in 1987 – and subsequent development – of the “Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)” is the single most significant and defining milestone in recent Aquinnah history, and figures largely in any discussion of the Town's future. Archaeological sites and Indian cemeteries are important elements in the Town's past and future.

The longer arc of Aquinnah's inhabited history dates back to roughly 1100, five thousand years prior to Bartholomew Gosnold's arrival in 1602. Native Americans occupied the lands by virtue of a more nomadic existence for this extended, early chapter. It wasn't until 1687 when a new ownership paradigm emerged. At this time, Governor Dongan of New York purchased Indian rights from Joseph Mittark, Sachem, to secure Gay Head as part of his manorial grant. The English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts purchased title just a quarter century later, which it retained until the Revolutionary War. Title changed hands once again with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts staking their claim. In turn, the native denizens no longer exercised rights to control the land upon which they resided.

Attempts at guardianship through the Governor of Massachusetts largely failed, owing to friction with the Native Americans. In 1869, Tribal members received enfranchisement by the General Court, along with a final apportionment of lands in accordance with Western ownership norms. Yet to formally exercise the right to vote, inhabitants needed to belong to a proper town. Gay Head was incorporated by the Governor of Massachusetts the following year, though this amounted to little more than nominal changes across the town.

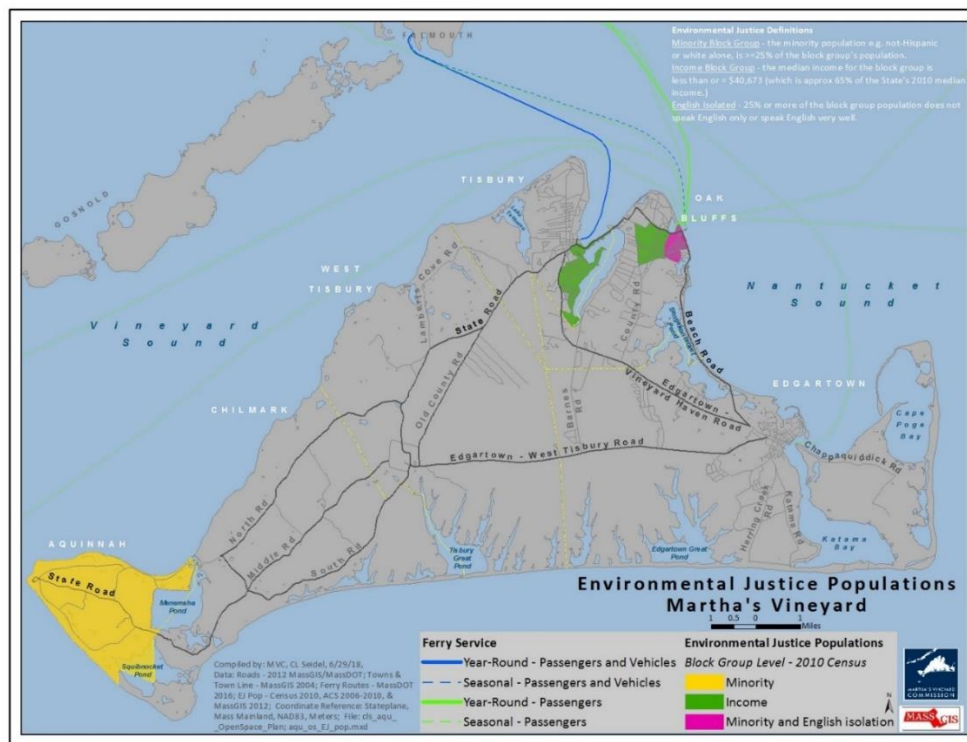
Farming and fishing remained the dominant industries until the end of the 19th century when brickmaking became a cornerstone of the local economy. Yet Town leaders quickly reckoned that harvesting clay would undermine Gay Head as an enduring tourist destination – and the Gay Head

Clay Company shuttered its doors just two decades later. The legacy of this choice is visible to all who visit the Aquinnah Circle and its most remote beaches today, as the clay cliffs underpin the Shops at The Circle and provide the renowned backdrop to both Philbin and Moshup Beach. Tourism remains the primary economic engine of Aquinnah, today. In turn, great effort is made to preserve the Town's coastal, rural qualities – a character that remains unrivaled across the Commonwealth.

A key investment took place in 1951, when electricity finally arrived in Aquinnah. The Town was the very last in the Commonwealth to be tied into the power grid. This development was widely heralded as a milestone event across the Town, as most residents eagerly anticipated the amenity and embraced the different quality of life it afforded.

C. Population Characteristics

Aquinnah has the smallest population on the Island, with a 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate of only 363 year-round residents, which is projected to decline to about 194 persons by 2035. On average, this amounts to roughly 68 people for every square mile. It is the most racially diverse population on the Island with about 27 percent of its population identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native. This is reflected on the Environmental Justice map, below.



Although small relative to the other Island towns, Aquinnah's population is estimated to be at its highest in 2014 compared with U.S. decennial census counts between 1930 and 2010. However, per UMass Donahue Institute population projections, Aquinnah's population is projected to decline 41 percent between 2014 and 2030 and further decline 10 percent to 194 people by 2035. This contrasts with county-wide county projections that anticipate modest growth of 6 percent and 3 percent in total population respectively between 2014 and 2030, and 2030 and 2035. Aquinnah's population per the decennial census data dropped from 344 in 2000 to 311 in 2010.

Just over a quarter of Aquinnah's year-round households are estimated to have low/moderate income. The thresholds for low/moderate income are based on household size; in the Dukes County area, the income threshold for a two-person household to have low/moderate income, for example, would be \$52,600.

Since 1930, Aquinnah's population increased most significantly between 1970 and 1980. This was a time when the county also showed significant population growth, yet the Town far outpaced the other Dukes County towns. Local population grew 86 percent, while the county boasted a 46 percent increase. However, Aquinnah's total population growth between 1930 and 2014 was only 125 percent (from 161 to 363 people); while the county's total population increased about 240 percent (4,953 to 16,816 people).

AQUINNAH AND DUKES COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE 1930-2014 & 2030/2035 PROJECTIONS

Year	AQUINNAH		DUKES COUNTY	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1930	161	--	4,953	--
1940	127	-21%	5,669	14%
1950	88	-31%	5,633	-1%
1960	103	17%	5,829	3%
1970	118	15%	6,117	5%
1980	220	86%	8,942	46%
1990	201	-9%	11,639	30%
2000	344	71%	14,987	29%
2010	311	-10%	16,460	10%
2014	363	17%	16,816	2%
2030 projected	215	-41%	17,902	6%
2035 projected	194	-10%	18,453	3%

Source: Martha's Vineyard Housing Needs Assessment 2013; 2010-2014 American Community Survey, as provided by MVC; Massachusetts Population Projections, UMass Donahue Institute, as provided by MVC. Note: ACS data based on samples and are subject to variability

Aquinnah is expected to have a greater share of older adults in the years to come compared with the county. Between 2000 and 2014, Aquinnah's population of children age nineteen years and under declined from about 28 percent of the total population to about 22 percent of the population; the population of age twenty to sixty-four years increased slightly from 62 percent of the population to 68 percent; and the population age sixty-five and over remained about the same at 10 percent.

However, the age composition of the population by 2035 is projected to change dramatically in Aquinnah with only 6 percent under age nineteen, 44 percent age twenty to sixty-four years; and 50 percent age sixty-five and over - a significant increase in the population of older adults. County-wide, projections indicate that about 29 percent of the total population will be age sixty-five and over by 2035.

Age Distribution 2000-14 & 2035 Projection

Age	2000				2014				2035 projection			
	AQUINNAH		DUKES COUNTY		AQUINNAH		DUKES COUNTY		AQUINNAH		DUKES COUNTY	
	Est.	%	Est.	%	Est.	%	Est.	%	Est.	%	Est.	%
under 19	95	28%	3,665	25%	79	22%	3,597	21%	12	6%	3,492	19%
20 to 64	214	62%	9,169	61%	248	68%	10,263	61%	85	44%	9,622	52%
65 +	35	10%	2,153	14%	36	10%	3,055	18%	97	50%	5,339	29%
Total	344	100%	14,987	100%	363	100%	16,915	100%	194	100%	18,453	100%
Median Age	37.1		40.7		39.1		45.7		---		---	
Source: US Census 2010; 2010-2014 American Community Survey; Note: ACS data based on samples and are subject to variability; Massachusetts Population Projections, UMass Donahue Institute												

A significant economic difference apparent on the Island in comparison to statewide is that there is a prevalence of self-employed workers in all Island towns. Statewide, the 2014 ACS estimates indicate that only 6 percent of all workers age sixteen years and older are self-employed, yet about 19 percent of all workers in Dukes County are self-employed and about 46 percent in Aquinnah are self-employed, which is by far the highest estimated self-employment rate of all the Island towns.

Roughly 54 percent of Aquinnah's total labor force is employed in the services sector, which includes professional, scientific, management, administrative, entertainment, food, accommodations, and other services. Similarly, about 45 percent of Dukes County labor force is employed in the services sector. About 15 percent is employed in construction in Aquinnah and about 16 percent in construction in the county. Only about 3 percent in the town and 12 percent in the county are employed in wholesale/retail trade. A significantly larger percentage of Aquinnah residents is employed in the agriculture, forestry, or fishing sector at about 13 percent, compared to the county's 2 percent. Employment in government accounted for 10 percent of the total labor force employment; this can be attributed to having two governments - the Tribe and the Town.

TABLE 4.13: EMPLOYEMENT BY INDUSTRY, 2015

Industry	AQUINNAH		DUKES COUNTY	
Total	199	100%	8,764	100%
Services	107	54%	3,950	45%
Construction	29	15%	1,408	16%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	5	3%	1,049	12%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	8	4%	937	11%
Manufacturing	4	2%	329	4%
Government	20	10%	384	4%
Transportation, Warehousing	1	1%	211	2%
Information	0	0%	316	4%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	25	13%	180	2%

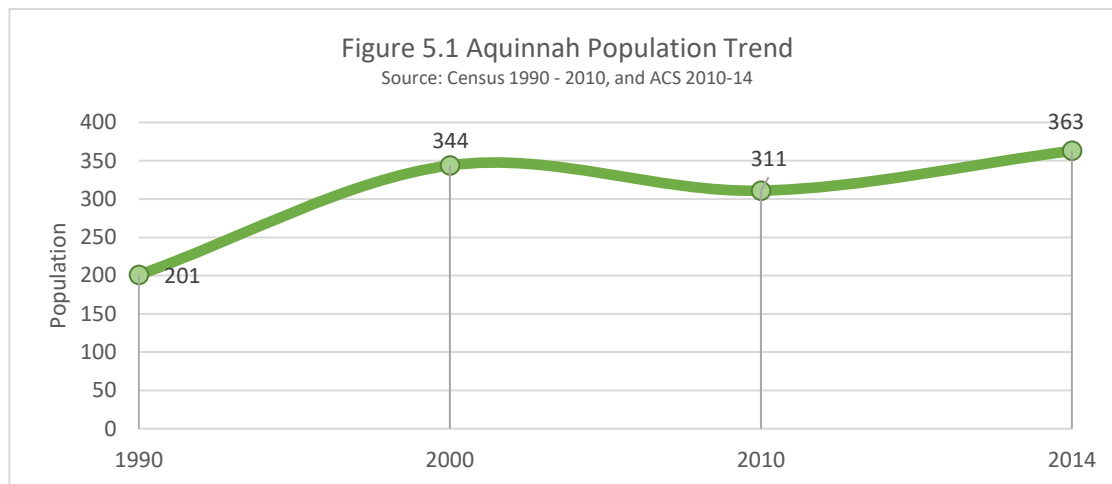
Source: MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. As provided by MVC

The unemployment rate in Aquinnah is lower than county wide – per the MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development 2015 figures, Aquinnah’s unemployment rate was 4.8 percent and the county was 6.9 percent. However, as expected in a resort area, the average January unemployment rate is higher than the annual rate – 7.7 percent for the town and 12 percent for the county – but the town January rate is still significantly lower than county-wide, indicating that a smaller share of Aquinnah residents is employed in industries that fluctuate with seasons (such as tourism industries).

TABLE 4.14: AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT, 2015

	AQUINNAH	DUKES COUNTY
Labor Force	207	9,328
Employed	197	8,688
Unemployed	10	640
Area Unemployment Rate	4.8%	6.9%
MA Rate	5%	5%
Average January Unemployment Rate Area	7.7%	12%
Average January Rate MA	5.8%	5.8%

Source: MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development



D. Growth & Development Patterns

Most of Aquinnah is zoned as a Rural-Residential District, which permits detached single-family dwelling on minimum two-acre lots. Other than provisions for Affordable Housing, there are no provisions for attached single-family, two-family, or multi-family dwellings. However, section 3.302 allows compact siting by special permit with up to twenty units on lots of 5,000 s.f. minimum adjacent to open space that, together with the house lots, would equal the two-acre minimum for each dwelling. The remainder of the town is zoned as the Marine Commercial District, which does not permit residential uses.

These limits certainly limit population growth, though Aquinnah is struggling to simply maintain the residents they have. Given projections show a sharp loss in local population by 2030, they are actively working to create Affordable Housing. This would likely happen on a pair of town-owned lots near Town Hall. This downward trend is especially surprising given the town's population grew by nearly two thirds between 1990 and 2014.

Per Section 6.9-2 of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw, the total number of building permits issued each year for residential construction is limited as follows:

For each of the three years commencing on the first publication of notice of the Planning Board hearing, the Building Inspector shall issue no more than six (6) permits each year for new residential construction. Two additional permits may be issued each year to the Aquinnah Resident Homesite Recipients. Except for Resident Homesite Permits any permit not issued in any year will not carry over to the next year. These permits are not transferable, in whole or in part.

The legacy of this bylaw is visible on a mere scenic drive across the island and can be decisively quantified. From 2009-2018, nearly 1100 single family building permits were issued, island-wide. Only 35 of these were in Aquinnah, while the next lowest total across the towns was 132. In addition to the

Rate of Development District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) that limits the total number of building permits issued (described above), the following overlay districts also impact residential development in Aquinnah:

- **Town of Aquinnah District of Critical Planning Concern** – this overlay district covers the whole town except for the Indian Common Lands and requires a special permit for siting of buildings, structures, and additions, etc.
- **Island Road District, Special Ways Zone, and Special Places District** – requires special permits for changes to stonewalls, limits vehicular access, and limits height of structures.
- **Flood Plain Zone** – requires flood plain permits for new construction or substantial improvement to existing structures.
- **Coastal District** – does not permit construction within one hundred feet of wetlands, water bodies, beaches, dunes or the crest of bluffs over fifteen feet high; construction permitted within 200 feet with special permit.
- **Moshup Trail District of Critical Planning Concern** – limits parking areas and parking, requires a special permit for new construction to review siting, and restricts building materials.
- **Gay Head Cliff Area District of Critical Planning Concern** – requires a special permit for the siting of buildings, structures, and additions, etc.
- **The Wild and Scenic North Shore District of Critical Planning Concern** – a limited area extending one hundred feet seaward from the mean low water line that prohibits permanent structures unless municipal or commercial fishing, etc.

The local economy of Aquinnah is largely confined to Shops at the Aquinnah Cliffs; they form a key component of the Aquinnah Cliffs Cultural District (ACCD), the only federally recognized Cultural District jointly managed by a Tribe and Municipality. With very few exceptions, these seasonal shops are the only commerce hub in the town. The Cliffs are undoubtedly a marquee destination, but their distance from the three down-island towns and exposure to the elements notably limit the merchants' opportunity to generate revenue.

The choices noted earlier to covet the scenic marvels across town, despite the opportunity costs, have proven decisive in the Aquinnah we see today. Tourism is a seminal force that infuses dollars into the merchants selling cuisine and wares along the Circle at the Cliffs. The striking beauty is also evident in real estate values, amounting to property taxes that allow the small town to employ dedicated staff members. Few residents seem at odds with this reality. Many are eager to find creative solutions that make a life for families and young generations affordable, but also embrace the vast open space assets as a key part of the town's identity. And to a person, they agree the splendor is worth preserving.

The rural existence of Aquinnah’s residents is widely evident in the lack of wastewater treatment centers or municipal water supplies. All homes, municipal facilities, and public restrooms have Title 5 septic systems or Advanced De-Nitrifying systems to minimize nitrogen contribution into the watersheds. Given the soil complexities found in parts of town, siting of these systems is done in exacting fashion. Such precision certainly impacts the final location of homes as well. Private water



wells are the sole option for property owners looking to develop land for residential use. The Towns' two acre zoning helps maintain a prevalence of uncontaminated drinking water.

As for transportation, there are only a handful of paved roads in Aquinnah, with nearly all of them intersecting with State Road. This corridor serves as the geographic and topographic spine traversing through town. Formal pedestrian facilities are limited to walking paths, though the traffic is so sparse that residents and visitors routinely use these paved roads for extended walks; the Town promotes this through periodic summer mowing along many of the town-owned roads – for another 3'-4' of grass buffer alongside the travel lanes. There are no dedicated bicycle accommodations along any of the roads, though cyclists abound on many of them; many skilled riders are willing to take their chances sharing the roads given limited vehicular traffic. Indeed, there are enough cyclists to justify a seasonal bike ferry that runs between Lobsterville and the fishing village of Menemsha in the neighboring town of Chilmark.

Section 4 Environmental Inventory & Analysis

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

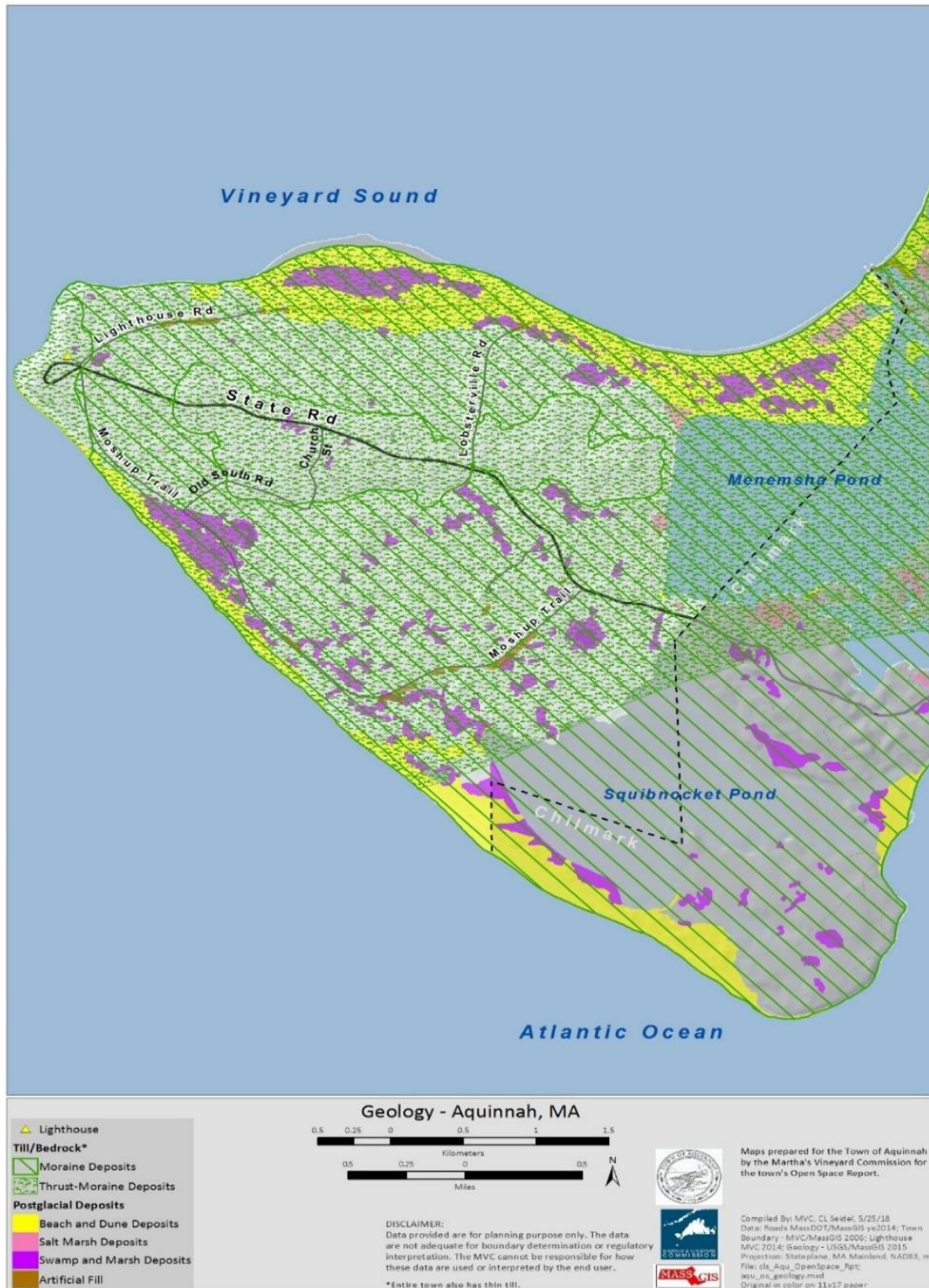
Topography

Aquinnah's topography is characterized by hills that are neither long nor high. However, due to the lack of any tall trees, small hills, modest fields, and low cliffs appear larger than they are. The inland area of Aquinnah is marked by its rolling rises in land and a predominance of open vistas. The seaside is primarily flat with some slight rises in land and a predominance of open vistas.

Geology, Soils and Their Capacity for Use

I. Geology & Soil Development

The kinds of soils that develop in any area depend largely on the parent material and the topography. The soils in Aquinnah developed on glacial deposits that were gouged out of older coastal deposits of sands, silts, and clays north of the area (see Geology Map for deposit types). The wide diversity of materials results in a range of soil types (see Soil Map). The loams and sands may be underlain by very compact clay till or coarse sands and gravels. Each soil type affects our ability to use the soil for agriculture, sewage disposal, or road construction in a different way.



Soils develop by a complex series of chemical and physical changes caused by infiltrating rainwater, vegetation, water table level, and agricultural practices. These changes result in the formation of a sequence of horizons in which different particle sizes and chemical complexes are organized. This can be seen in the topsoil and subsoil, which are marked by distinctive colors and textures. These upper layers of the soil give clues to soil scientists as to what the deeper parent materials may be. Some soils give clues to the presence of a high water table or a hardpan. These clues are important to the Town in deciding approximate uses of the soils for roads, homesites, and agriculture.

II. Soil Distribution

Throughout the Town, the pattern of soil types is a complex one. With the presence of clay and the very hilly topography, the lowlands are typically wet. The presence of clay layers may, however, lead to springs or seeps forming wet areas, even on hill slopes. The alternating layers of clays and sands, which were gouged up, broken, folded, and smeared by the advancing glaciers, creates a variety of parent materials to develop very different present-day soils. The retreating ice released meltwaters that cut valleys and deposited eroded sands and gravels.

The soils may be broadly grouped into those developed on sand and gravel, those developed on clay or clay till, and those which developed in sands but formed a cemented “hard-pan.” These soils are distributed in a complex and seemingly random pattern throughout the Town.

III. Soil Capabilities

The soils in Aquinnah were extensively mapped in 1980. The limitations of each soil are described for use in sewage disposal, commercial sites, homesites, landfills, and others. The survey is not detailed enough for use on parcels under two acres in size. It is most appropriately used for general planning purposes.

The soils are classified and mapped based on their texture, drainage, flooding, slope, and presence of hardpan (see Soil Map). The qualities all affect the use of the soil for homesites, roads, etc. The soils map can be used to define critical areas where certain uses are not appropriate and other areas where these uses should be encouraged. The percentage of clays, silts, and sands varies with soil types and directly affects the soils suitability for sewage disposal. This is so because clay soils may not infiltrate sewage resulting in a back-up of the system. On the opposite extreme, coarse sands and gravels may accept sewage so readily that nearby shallow wells may be contaminated. In another case, the presence of a seasonal high water table may require the use of leaching trenches instead of a leaching pit.

IV. Recommendations

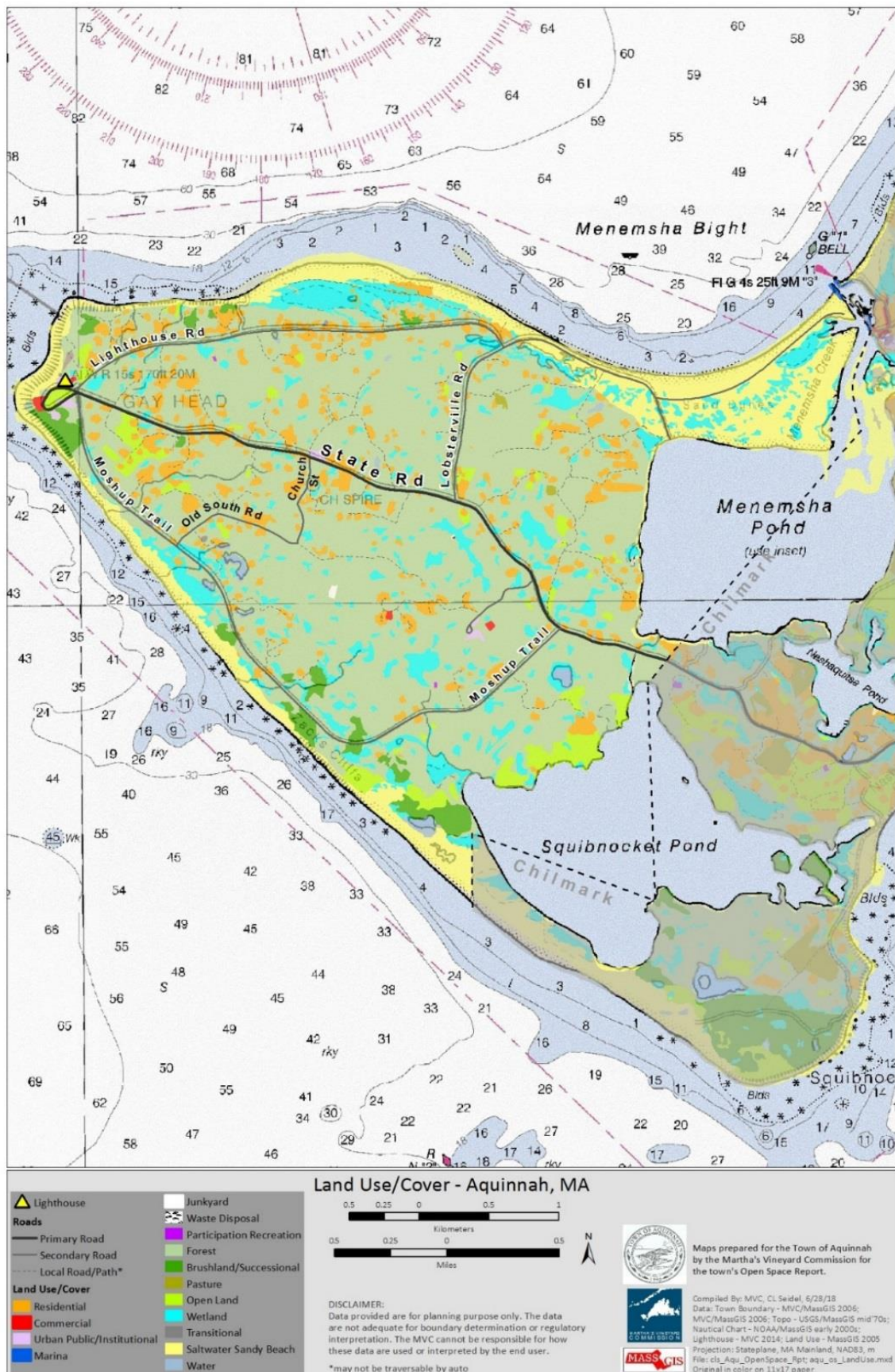
The limitations of each soil for such uses as sewage disposal, road construction, and homesites should be used in the subdivision review process. Situations where a lot or lots are entirely severely limited for sewage disposal should be avoided. Extensive areas that are severely limited might be used as open space, or the lots may be laid out so that each lot contains a part of the limited area, as well as a part of the suitable area.

In some areas where a large portion of the area proposed for subdivision is severely limited, borings or percolation tests may be required as part of the subdivision plan. These severely limited areas might also become the target of open space purchases.

B. Landscape Character

The landscape of Aquinnah remains largely unmarred. Careful consideration has been given to all types of exterior materials permitted and well-enforced height restrictions. As a result, its rural trappings remain widely intact. Visitors and residents alike are keenly impressed that formative change in Aquinnah is often measured in epochs and eras - and is not at the blind mercy of human degradation.

The Town's clay pits are also a recognized natural feature, revered by the Wampanoag Tribe. Moshup's Trail DCPC accounts for a striking viewshed seen by thousands of tourists each year, and appreciated daily by local merchants from their shops at the Aquinnah Circle at the Cliffs. The overlay district's regulations ensure development remains subservient to the natural contours and shading of the area's coastal terrain. The view of Moshup Trail from the Cliffs has left an indelible mark in the eyes of all who behold this marvelous sight.



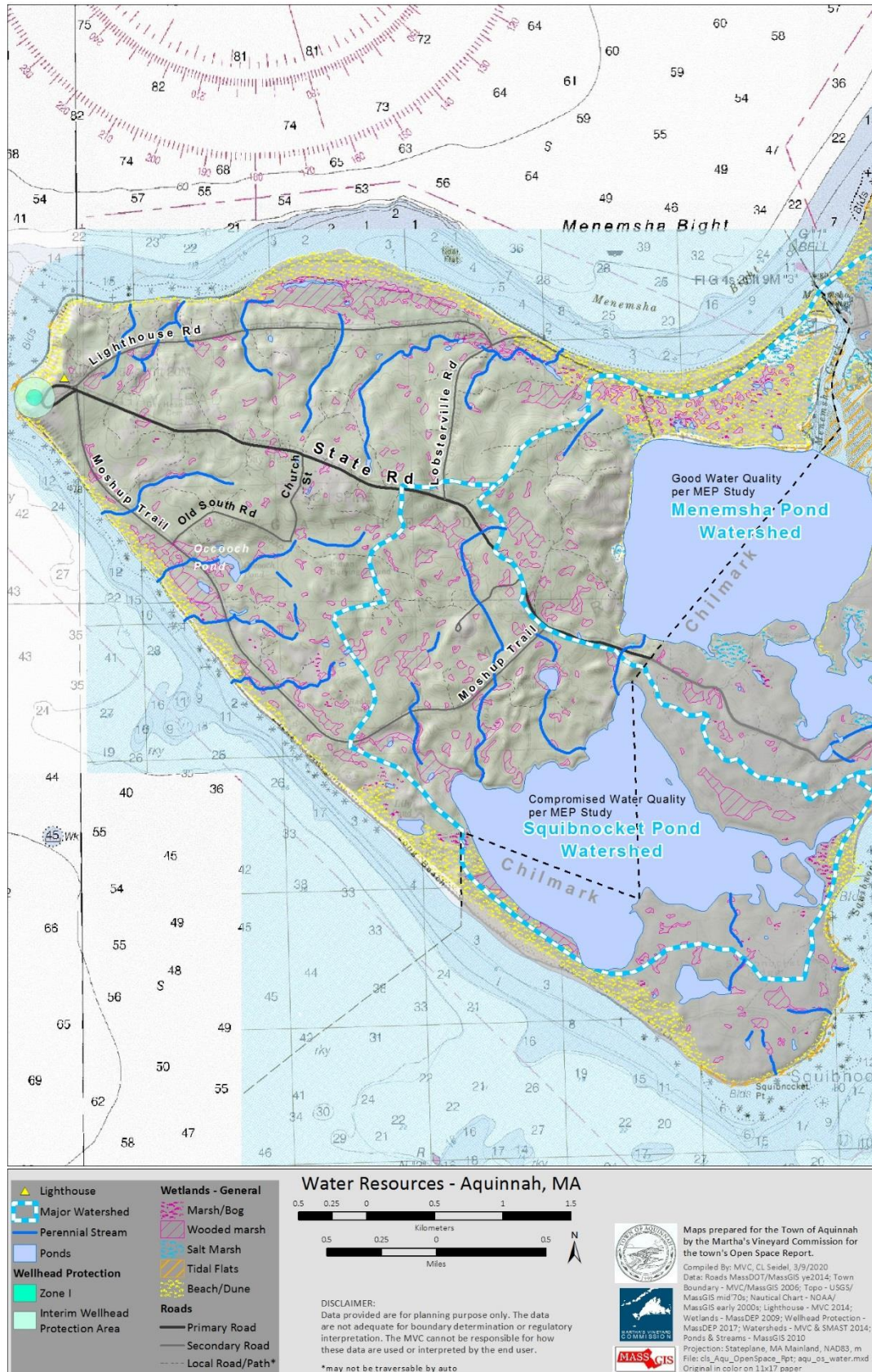
C. Water Resources

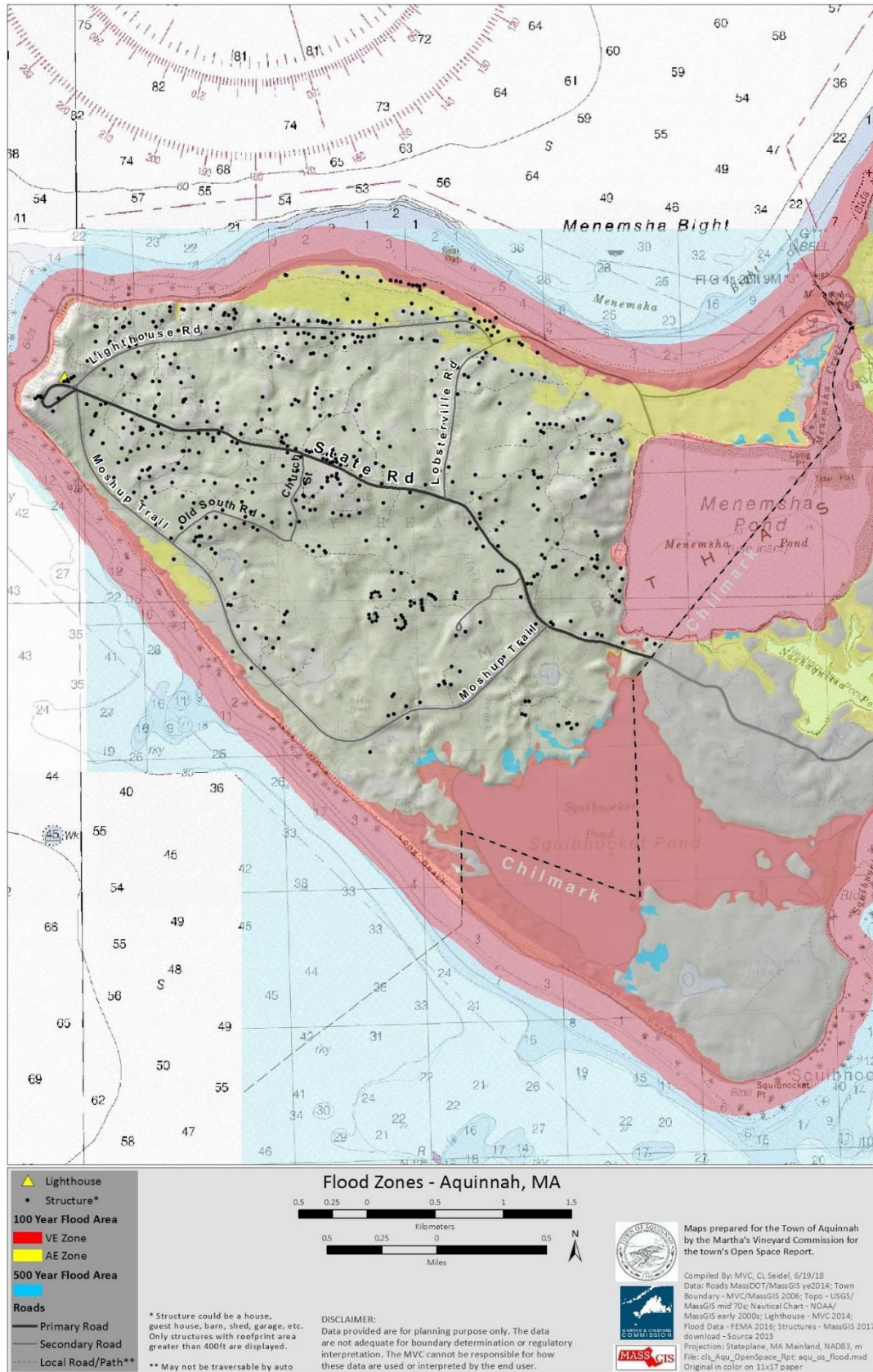
The Town of Aquinnah contains a large portion of fresh and salt water resources comprised of approximately 583 acres of surface water and 550 acres of permanent and seasonal wetland areas. The existing barrier beaches, coastal dunes, coastal beaches, and coastal banks must also be included under wetland areas under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. 131, s. 140), but their area is unknown. Generally, wetlands and water resources cover a large proportion of the Town's 3,500 acres and must be considered in open space planning. The breakdown of these areas is as follows:

Surface Water	
<u>Fresh</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Black Pond	5
Black Brook	N/A
Lily Pond	3
Ocooch Pond	4
Squibnocket Pond	285
<u>Salt</u>	
Menemsha Pond	286
<u>Other Wetland Types</u>	
Permanent	380
Seasonal	170

One of the Town's chief resources is the tidal salt water of Menemsha Pond, which provides a supply of shellfish including clams, quahogs, scallops, eels, and blue crabs. The fresh water of Squibnocket Pond is a source of eels, white perch, and other edible fin-fish. Both areas provide a wide variety of water-related recreational activities and wildlife habitats.

Unlike most areas of the Island, Aquinnah does not have exceptionally high quality or ample quantity of groundwater. The aquifers are generally ranged from very poor to variable. In those areas where groundwater is found, there is considerable uncertainty as to the quality and quantity of the aquifer. The depth to water varies from 10 to 300 feet and the quality varies from high in dissolved minerals and fine sediment. Other areas, located along the coast, are characterized by limited amounts of fresh water and a high vulnerability to salt water intrusion.





D. Vegetation

The vegetation of Aquinnah is mainly composed of a scrub oak and heath community, along with some large groves of Beetlebung trees. That being said, the dominant categories of trees within town are black and white oak. Oak stands of 41 to 60 feet are not uncommon, although the tree heights do vary from 1 to 20 feet near the shore to the larger trees inland. The densities of the tree stands are illustrated through several land surveys as having many areas with an 80-100% crown closure. With such a dense abundant oak forest, the growth of individual trees in woodlots could be improved considerably by thinning, pruning, and other practices. This great amount of forested land is a considerable firewood resource in the Town, which, if properly managed, could provide a substantial renewable source of energy.

Other vegetative areas in the Town consist of shrub swamps, which can be found scattered throughout town. Tidal salt marshes can be found off Menemsha Pond in the Lobsterville area. Both areas contribute greatly to the diversity and preponderance of wildlife.

There are no publicly managed, manicured, or pruned trees that the town maintains. As the stunted vegetation reveals, the wind and salt dictate the heights and forms of those trees that do manage to mature. Indeed, the landscape is the canvas upon which these harsh forces leave their mark.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Squibnocket

Squibnocket Pond and its contiguous areas constitute perhaps the greatest wildlife biome in the State of Massachusetts. It is a complete ecosystem with fresh water entry at Black Brook. It also boasts an outlet to saltwater, site of one the few remaining Alewife runs on the Island. It includes pond, marsh, and swampy areas, beach, dune, open areas, scrub, cover, coastal heathlands, savannah, and some limited upland forest. The rocks off the shore provide a resting place for Gray seals in winter.

It provides both nesting and feeding areas for a multitude of waterfowl and has the largest number of nesting Canada Geese on the Island. These are non-migratory feral Canada Geese, as migratory Canadas do not nest on the Vineyard. Other birds nesting there include Mute Swans, Black Duck, herons, Spotted Sandpipers, and Piping Plover, to name a few. Special and unusual species include the Alder Flycatcher and Virginia Rail.

In addition to its value as a nesting area, it is a feeding area for shorebirds, herons, ducks, geese, and swans. There is tremendous variety in the habitat found there; from open areas and outgrown fields to oak woods and a few stands of planted spruce, which offer dense nesting and roosting cover. It includes the only cattail marsh of any size on the Island – the breeding ground for Alder Flycatcher and Virginia Rail. Deer, Otter, and Muskrat abound as well as fish of several varieties such as Perch and Pickerel.

Squibnocket Ridge is an important wintering area for Rough-legged Hawk, and Harlequin Ducks can be found along its shores. This is one of the few areas in Massachusetts where Harlequin Ducks can be seen with regularity.

Cranberry Lands

This is an unusual dune, beach, swamp, and wetlands area surrounded on three sides by salt water – Sounds and pond. Several small ponds in the interior provide nesting, feeding, and resting for waterfowl of all kinds. Shore-eared Owls nest and hunt there, as do some species of shorebirds (Spotted Sand piper). It is a good habitat for sparrows, herons, and snowy egrets, among many others. It is one of the few remaining areas of undisturbed gull and tern nesting, is one of the largest nesting areas in all New England for the Black Crowned Night Heron, and one of the only four breeding colonies of Snowy Egrets in New England.

There is unusual topography and habitat throughout the area. Potholes and wetlands are interspersed among sand dunes and scrub thickets, providing cover for mammals as well as birds. Bog orchids, wild cranberries, beach plums and wild roses make both interesting floral and excellent cover and nesting habitat for herons.

It has been estimated by Massachusetts Audubon Society that there was a population of 10,000 Herring Gulls and about 1,500 Great black-backed Gulls. The latter are rapidly taking over where the Herring Gulls used to be the only nesting species.

Lobsterville Bog – Swamp

The myriad of fresh water wetlands attracts waterfowl like Teal, Widgeon, and Hooded and Common Merganser. The cranberry bogs and potholes offer protected feeding for many kinds of wildlife.

Zach's Cliffs – "Moshup Trail Sanctuary"

The heart of the rare coastal Heathland habitat. Excellent wildlife habitat consisting of many wet, swampy areas full of potholes and cranberry bogs provide protection and habitat for waterfowl and land birds. Plenty of fresh water, overgrown fields, and scrub are suitable for game birds and small animals.

Otter and Muskrat occur in the area as well as excellent habitat for hawks feeding. The endangered orchid *Arethusa bulbosa* has been found in the area.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Unique Features

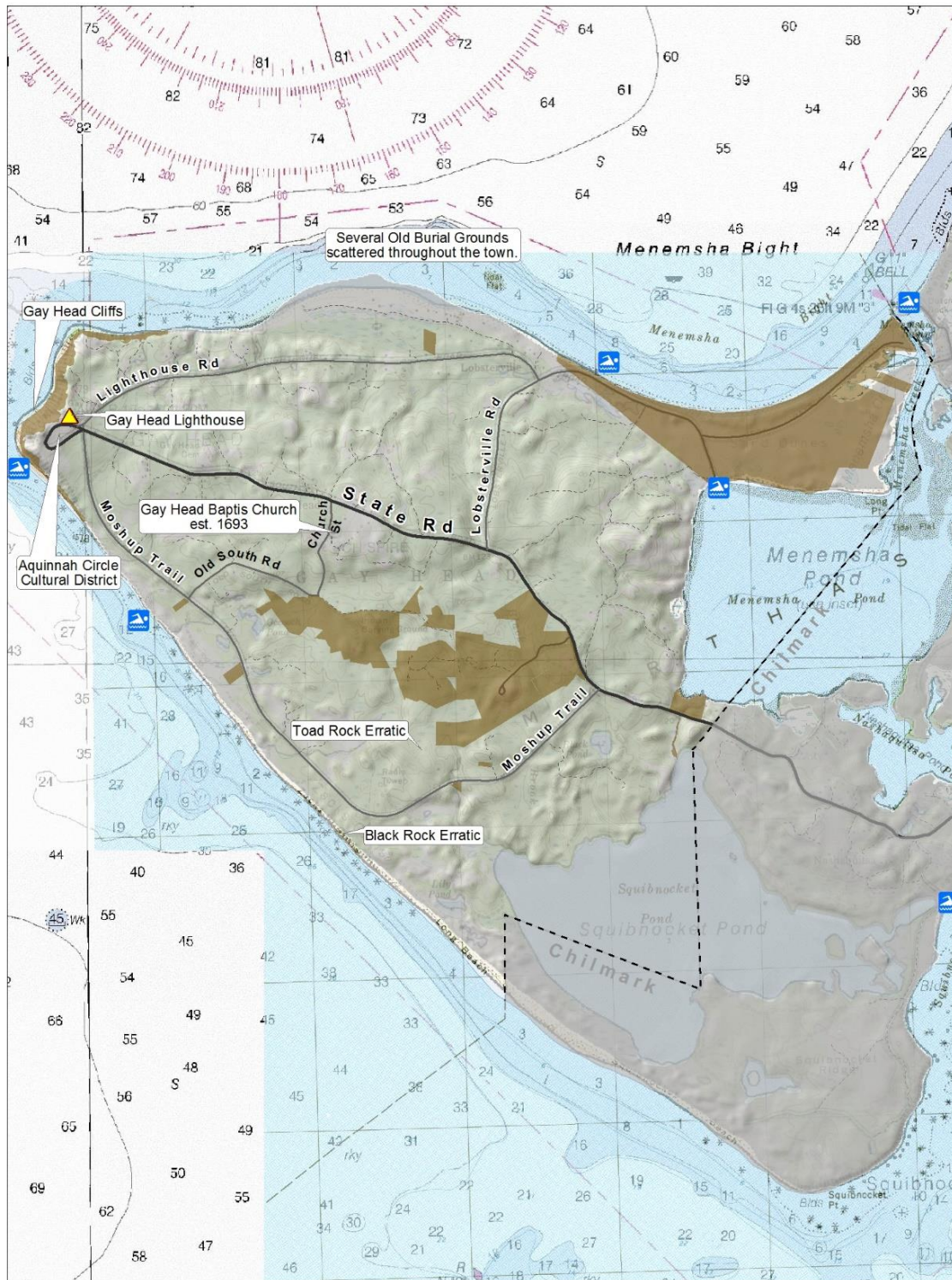
Aquinnah is a place of refuge for rare species. Within the Lobsterville area, there are two endangered floral species – Rock Rose (*Helianthemum demosum*) and Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium arenicola*). Both wildflowers have been field checked by plant consultants and have been listed with the Massachusetts National Heritage. Another rare flower located in the Lobsterville area is the Horn or Sea Poppy (*Glaucium flavum*). It is quite unusual to have these three unique floral species in one area.

The area is also home to six state-listed species: dune noctuid moth, straight lined mallow moth, least tern, northern harrier, piping plover, and the northeastern beach tiger beetle.

The Aquinnah Circle Cultural District (ACCD) is also a key feature in the Town. The designation by the Massachusetts Cultural Council was the result of a unique collaboration between the Town, Tribe, and several partner organizations. The MCC started the Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative in 2010, to stimulate new arts and cultural activity in towns as well as attract creative business to the district areas. A Cultural District is a specific area in a town that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities and assets.

The ACCD is home to the Gay Head Cliffs Lookout, Gay Head Light, Aquinnah Cultural Center, numerous Wampanoag tribal member-owned restaurants & retail shops featuring local arts & cuisine, beautiful parks for picnicking, and hiking trails to explore and access the nearby Moshup Beach. The Town and Tribe will continue to leverage the Aquinnah Circle's designation to provide cultural and economic benefit while keeping its natural beauty and integrity intact.

Unique geological features include the Clay Pits, Occoch Pond, and Cook's Spring. Other notable elements that punctuate the landscape include moors, hummocks, and glacial erratics such as Toad Rock. The glacial moraine legacy is still very palpable while driving scenic roads of Aquinnah and walking its contours.



Unique Features/Character - Aquinnah, MA

Legend:

- Lighthouse
- Beach
- Tribal Lands
- Roads**
 - Primary Road
 - Secondary Road
 - Local Road/Path*

Scale:

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1
Kilometers

0.5 0.25 0 0.5
Miles

DISCLAIMER:
Data provided are for planning purpose only. The data are not adequate for boundary determination or regulatory interpretation. The MVC cannot be responsible for how these data are used or interpreted by the end user.

*may not be traversable by auto

Map Prepared by: MVC, CL Sedel, 7/2/18

Compiled By: MVC, CL Sedel, 7/2/18

Data: Town Boundary - MVC/MassGIS 2006; MVC/MassGIS 2006; Topo - USGS/MassGIS mid/70s; Nautical Chart - NOAA/MassGIS early 2000s; Lighthouse - MVC 2014; Beaches - MVC 2014; Tribal Lands - Wampanoag Tribe 2016

Projection: Stateplane, MA Mainland, NAD83, m

File: ch_Aqu_OpenSpace_Rpt_aqu_os_UniFeet.mxd

Original: in color on 11x17 paper

MASSGIS

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G. Environmental Challenges

Climate

Aquinnah's climate can be characterized as being moderate. Average winter temperatures range from approximately 30° to 35° F, while average summer temperatures range from approximately 75° to 80° F. The ocean temperatures produce a steady sea breeze that keeps the town warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Foggy weather is common during the spring and fall due to the difference in the land and water temperatures. The moderate climate of Aquinnah is favorable to vacationers who frequent this tiny resort community.

That being said, the townspeople recently identified four major hazards the town must increasingly reckon with through the State's Municipal Vulnerability & Preparedness (MVP) program: SLR, Storms, and Flooding to Temperature & Precipitation extremes, Wildfire, and Sea Surface Temperature Rise & Ocean Acidification. Key projections included a local climate akin to Maryland by 2050 and North Carolina by the end of the century. High end SLR estimates topped six feet over the latter time horizon.

These new paradigms omen significant change for Aquinnah - socially, culturally, and coastally. The historically renowned cranberry crop, harvested by the Wampanoag Tribe is at stake, given a minimum of 100 nights of frost is necessary to remain viable. The region's changing climate now threatens this benchmark, as fewer winter nights dip to freezing temperatures. Vector-borne illnesses are suspected to proliferate with both a warming climate and resulting habitat shifts for vegetation, mosquitos, and ticks.

At the local, November MVP workshop, the discussion of immediate hazards facing the community was cast alongside the local wrath of historical storms. The Hurricane of 1938 is perhaps the most notable; surge from the south obliterated Hariph's Bridge and left Aquinnah and a small portion of Chilmark cut off entirely from the remaining land mass of Martha's Vineyard (see Appendix, Overview Presentation slides). That torrent of water then continued across Quitsa and Menemsha Ponds and decimated an entire village then existing at Lobsterville. The Bridge was again wiped out in 1944. Flooding from a 1954 storm inundated the bridge but the structure endured as floodwaters receded.

In the past decade, a spate of storms have battered coastal Aquinnah. Superstorm Sandy of 2012 scoured the sandy soil beneath Lobsterville Road, ensued by pavement collapse, making the road impassable. Winter Storm June of 2015, Hurricane Hermine of 2016, Winter Storms Niko & Stella, and

Tropical Storm Jose of 2019 have all left their marks on Aquinnah's barrier beaches, fragile wetland resources, and hallowed cliffs.

SLR is already markedly impacting the south shore of Martha's Vineyard, placing several miles of Aquinnah shoreline exposed to open ocean at extreme risk. And storms of course have long left their mark where land meets sea. Yet it's the mounting frequency of these events, compounded by SLR, that increasingly puts Aquinnah in the crosshairs of Climate Change. With all but the one exception of Dogfish Bar on its northern shore, the coast of Aquinnah continues to erode. The ocean-facing, southern shore endures the fastest rate of erosion across town.

Additional Challenges

Water Quality of the Ponds

The water quality of Martha's Vineyard's ponds have received significant attention in recent decades. Several major ponds have impaired water quality down island. The problem isn't quite as acute up island, but an issue to be reckoned with nonetheless. Given the ubiquity of Title 5 septic systems, nitrogen contribution will remain a threat to the ponds ecologic stability until higher performing systems reach critical mass. While Menemsha Pond remains high quality, Squibnocket Pond's health is already compromised; this owes largely to its confined shores; there is no tidal flushing into the ocean. This predicament could change if its barrier beach is breached, or a manmade dredge operation opens it up to the sea. This latter scenario is highly unlikely given the biodiversity which thrives in its brackish waters.

Chronic Flooding

Aquinnah has over 40 culverts, an indicator the town is brimming with many streams. Much of this infrastructure is outdated, with some of it in disrepair and/or maintenance. A small crew of public works staff covers a lot of ground with limited resources, but nonetheless, there are culverts in need of attention. This issue is only compounded by undersized hydraulic openings which contribute to routine flooding in select locations during heavy rainfall events.

In the past year, the Town has applied for multiple grants to help finance assessment, design, engineering and permitting work for upgrades of high priority culverts. Best yet, culverts were a high priority items flagged at the Town's MVP workshop last year and its Action Grant proposal includes a key

community volunteer component, where residents will ground truth predicted culvert locations and assist in a number of their assessments.

Sedimentation

Beyond unsafe driving conditions, another impact of flooding is sedimentation that reduces flow in its creeks, streams, and rivers. Herring Creek is a prime example of this. Heavy rainfall has yielded runoff into the creek, along with scouring. Some low tides reveal a riverbed fully exposed and impassable for aquatic life. Given the cultural significance of this creek to the Wampanoag Tribe, they have recently completed a major dredging and bank stabilization project to restore the bankfull width of the creek. This challenge has been leveraged and turned into an opportunity for beach nourishment. The dredge spoils are being transported to Lobsterville Beach to help combat ongoing erosion. Moreover, that beach project was the site of a major culvert replacement in 2016, exemplifying how these challenges often intersect with one another.

Environmental Equity

The Open Space resources discussed in the following sections are plentiful and found in all corners of Aquinnah. No home is more than two miles away from a public beach and the publicly accessible conservation lands can be found at just about every turn. For those looking to use the town's recreational facilities, they are found near Town Hall; this facility is truly central by geographic estimates. Environmentally, townspeople would be hard pressed to identify inequities.

Forestry

Land use and vegetative cover maps will prove instructive in helping the town both promote a virtually non-existent forestry industry in town (as noted in Goal #7) and mitigate wildfire risk. That being said, any entrepreneurial ambition to harvest tree stands would be closely monitored by the Town's Planning Board and Conservation Commission, as they are charged with maintaining scenic character and ecological integrity.

Hazardous Waste and Landfills

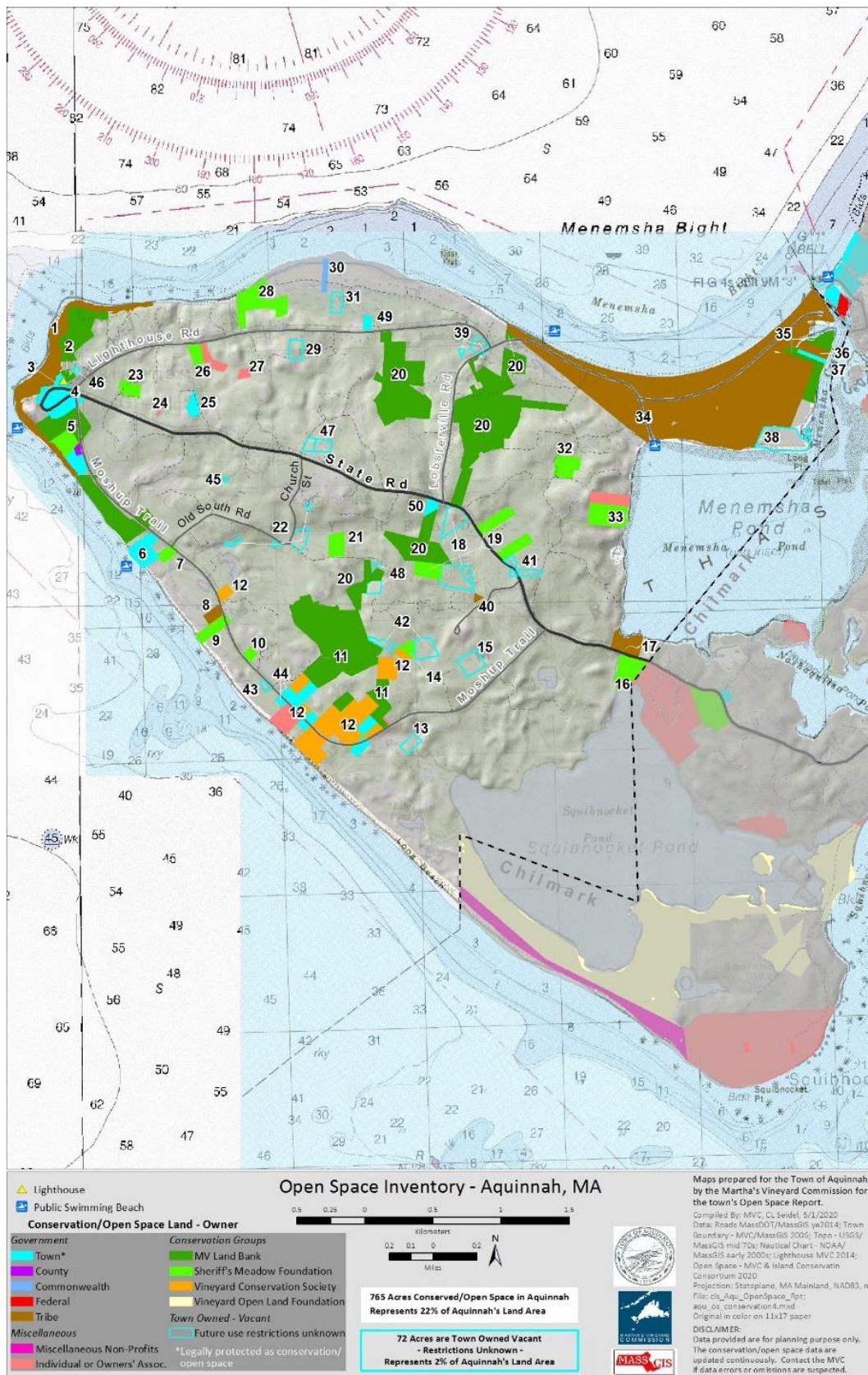
Neither of these issues above are terribly relevant to the town of Aquinnah; no hazardous waste sites or landfills exist in town, and there is a contract to ship solid waste off island.

Section 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The following map and table identify the various open space resources in Aquinnah. They detail the various permanently controlled open space from both local government and non-profit organizations.

The Vineyard is graced with private conservation organizations, both local (Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Vineyard Conservation Society, Vineyard Open Land Foundation) and mainland-based (Trustees of Reservations and The Nature Conservancy). Over the decades, the vision and dedication of these organizations has resulted in the successful protection of especially choice parts of the Island.

The continued implementation of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission illustrates the breadth of this appreciation among Islander's and citizens of each town. Established by the Commonwealth in 1986, the Land Bank uses a surcharge on most transfers of real estate for the purpose of acquiring, holding and managing land and interests in land, such as (a) land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas; (b) agricultural land; (c) forest land; (d) fresh and salt water marshes and other wetlands; (e) ocean and pond frontage; beaches, dunes, and adjoining backlands, to protect their natural and scenic resources; (f) land to protect scenic vistas; (g) land for nature or wildlife preserves; (h) easements for trails and for publicly owned lands; and (i) land for passive recreational use. The Land Bank has preserved over 3,500 acres, island-wide, complementing the efforts of the other conservation groups. The Land Bank is an effective tool for towns to target and realize their open space objectives.



The following are the main publicly owned open spaces in Aquinnah:

- Lobsterville Beach – 18 acres (two linear miles) of beachfront owned by the Town and open to the public.
- West Basin Town Landings – Moorings for about two dozen boats with direct access to Menemsha Pond and its prime shellfish beds. A smaller access point is available at the end of Lobsterville Road.
- Philbin Beach – A six-acre south shore beach.
- Aquinnah Library Playground.
- Aquinnah Recreation Area – A small recreation site with one basketball court behind the fire station. The basketball facility was recently improved.
- The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank – This public land trust holds four properties in Aquinnah:
 - 1) Aquinnah Headlands Preserve (50.8 acres),
 - 2) Gay Head Moraine (147.4 acres),
 - 3) Toad Rock Preserve (70.9 acres),
 - 4) Menemsha Rock Preserve (12.8 acres),
- Sheriff's Meadow Foundation – This private conservation organization owns almost 88 acres in Aquinnah:
 - Leonard Estate, Lighthouse Road (13.3 acres),
 - Eastman property open to the public, Menemsha Pond (7.2 acres),
 - Various other smaller and unconnected parcels.
- Vineyard Conservation Society – This non-profit conservation organization has conserved 65.7 acres in Aquinnah, including the Moshup Trail Sanctuary
- Tribal Lands – The following are held by the Town as common lands and deeded to the Wampanoag Tribe as open space and conservation lands (excludes 190 acres of Tribal land used for community development):
 - Cranberry Lands, Menemsha Neck (228 acres),
 - Clay Cliffs (32.8 acres),
 - Herring Creek, between Squibnocket and Menemsha Ponds.
- Aquinnah Lighthouse, United States of America – (1.1 acre)
- Aquinnah former Town Landfill – (4 acres)
- Other permanently protected Sanctuary lands were transferred to the Town as part of the EOEEA

The following are the main privately held properties:

- Agricultural Lands – two parcels totaling 12 acres under Chapter 61 protection in Aquinnah.
- Kennedy Estate – approximately 340 acres, the largest singly owned piece of land in Aquinnah other than Wampanoag Tribal lands; it is completely private but its location and quality make it geographically and ecologically an important open space resource to the town.*

*It is important to note that the MV Land Bank and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation have signed a contract to purchase 304 acres of undeveloped lands from the Kennedy Estate, otherwise known as Red Gate Farm. Closing for the property is slated for December 2020.

Please see the Appendix for a detailed look at the **Plan's Land Conservation Matrix**. The matrix contains acreage, owner name(s), management agency, conservation status, physical description, purpose, public access status, infrastructure, site condition, recreational opportunities, acquisition method, physical restriction, and deed restriction information for each of the sites.

Section 6 – Community Vision

Description of Process

The Town conducted several public meetings on Open Space. The initial meetings were organizational to determine how a plan might be compiled and completed. It was determined that a survey would be useful to determine resident opinions on open space issues.

In June 2018, the Town produced a survey of residents regarding Town Open Space and Recreational Facilities. 65 persons responded, for a response rate over 10% of the Town's permanent population. If only the permanent residents are counted, the survey still exceeded 5% of the total population. Results and commentary are discussed in the Analysis of Needs section, below.

Following the completion of the survey, a public meeting was held on June 13, 2018 to discuss the results and determine a vision moving forward. The attendees discussed the survey results and identified several additional priorities – again, included in the next section.

1. Increased walking trails
2. Improving under-utilized resources
 - a. Kettle Pond
 - b. Ramp at Red Beach
 - c. Herring Creek facility
3. Improved ADA Accessibility

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

In sum, open space and recreation is seminally important to the community. Preservation in the name of scenic land, water resource protection, trail usage, fields, farmland, swimming, shellfishing and other forms of active recreation all generate significant support from residents. That being said, there are inherent tradeoffs to promoting some of these elements and the Town recognizes the importance of striking a balance across these pursuits.

If the survey is any indication, Aquinnah residents are fairly united in their desire to preserve and enhance the Aquinnah Circle – from its scenic viewsheds and passive & active recreational space to its overall functionality as a hub and destination.

The Town is also keenly aware of their bounty of natural resources – both in their diversity and ubiquity. They are formative to the town’s identity, and a source of great pride to its residents and even islanders at large. These natural resources will be critical in adapting more readily to Climate Disruption and minimizing the risk to both existing and future development.

These lands and water resources can be preserved through an unabiding vigilance as they represent fragile ecosystems, many of which are rare to the region. Community members are committed to this. To better showcase these conservation lands and nearby environs, residents would like added focus placed on using them for either passive or active recreation, while connecting them when possible. If carefully implemented, greater access can be enjoyed without compromising the integrity of wildlife habitat and seaside buffer zones. Even better, additional use can engender yet greater appreciation of their very existence, along with future protection and open space acquisition efforts.

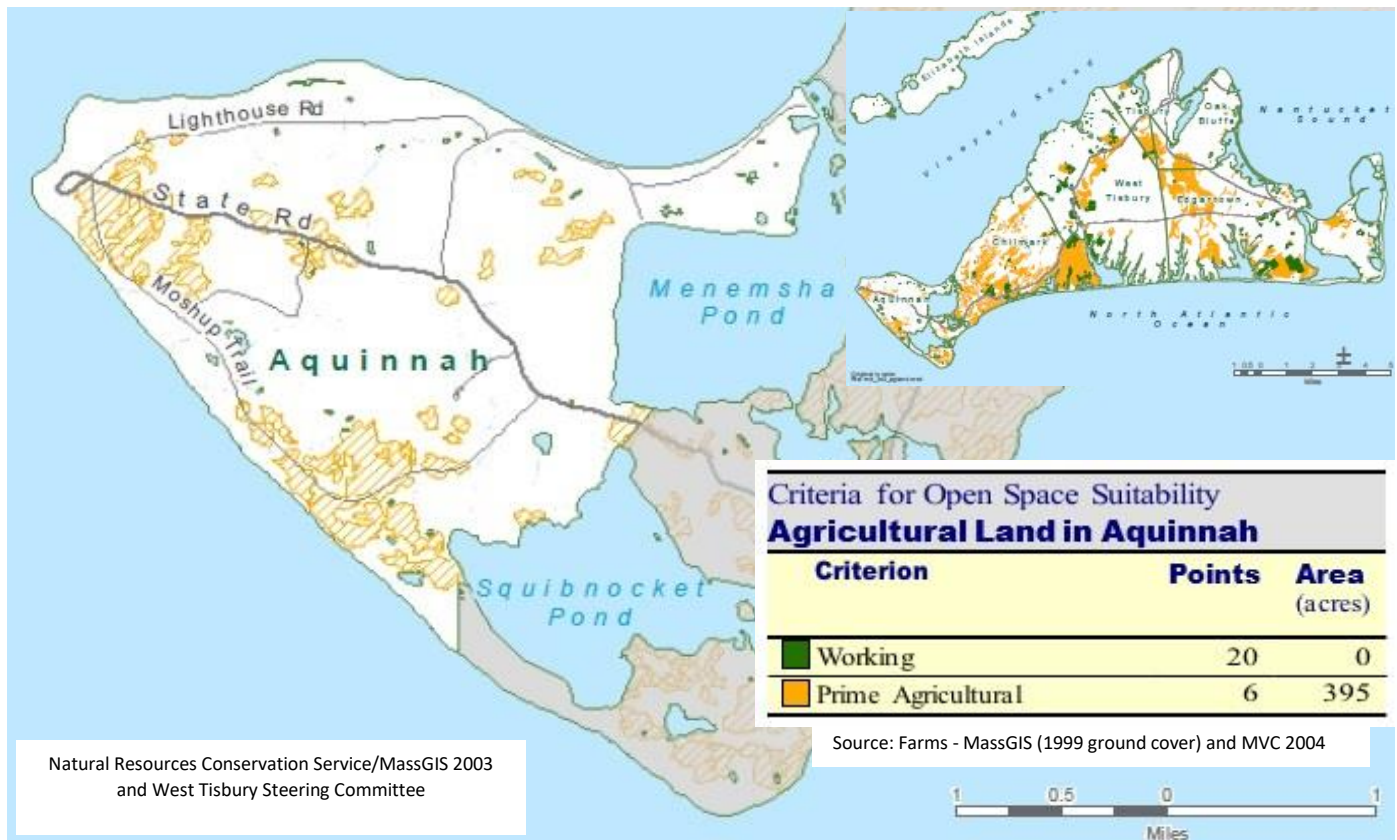
Section 7 – Analysis of Needs

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Natural resources are a leading factor in the Martha’s Vineyard Commission’s rating system for Open Space Suitability. The Town clearly supports this premium placed on Open Space as demonstrated through designating their entire town a District of Critical Planning Concern, owing in large part to its treasured natural resources. When applied to the lands of Aquinnah, the Open Space Suitability scoring plays out in the final map of this report: Open Space Preservation Suitability. Before reviewing it is worth first understanding how a number of the individual variables impacted a given area’s suitability.

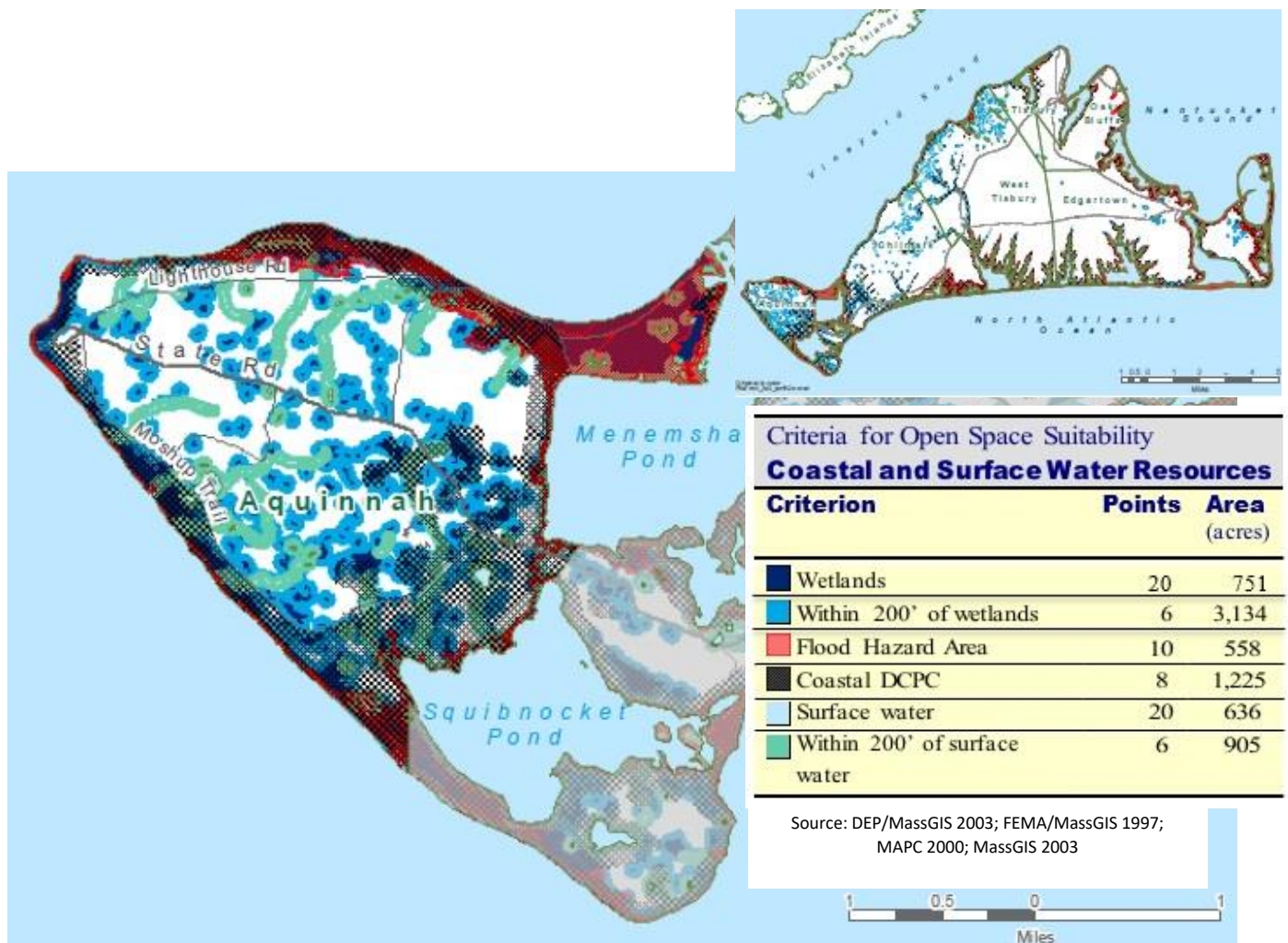
Agricultural Land

Although representing just a fraction of the land from previous generations, many areas of the Vineyard are still strongly associated with farming. Farming represents scenic, economic, and cultural sensibilities. The selection of these criteria reflects the desire to preserve the remaining working farms and to provide for the possibility for prime agricultural land to be returned to farming. Support for this is evidenced in the survey results, at the end of this section



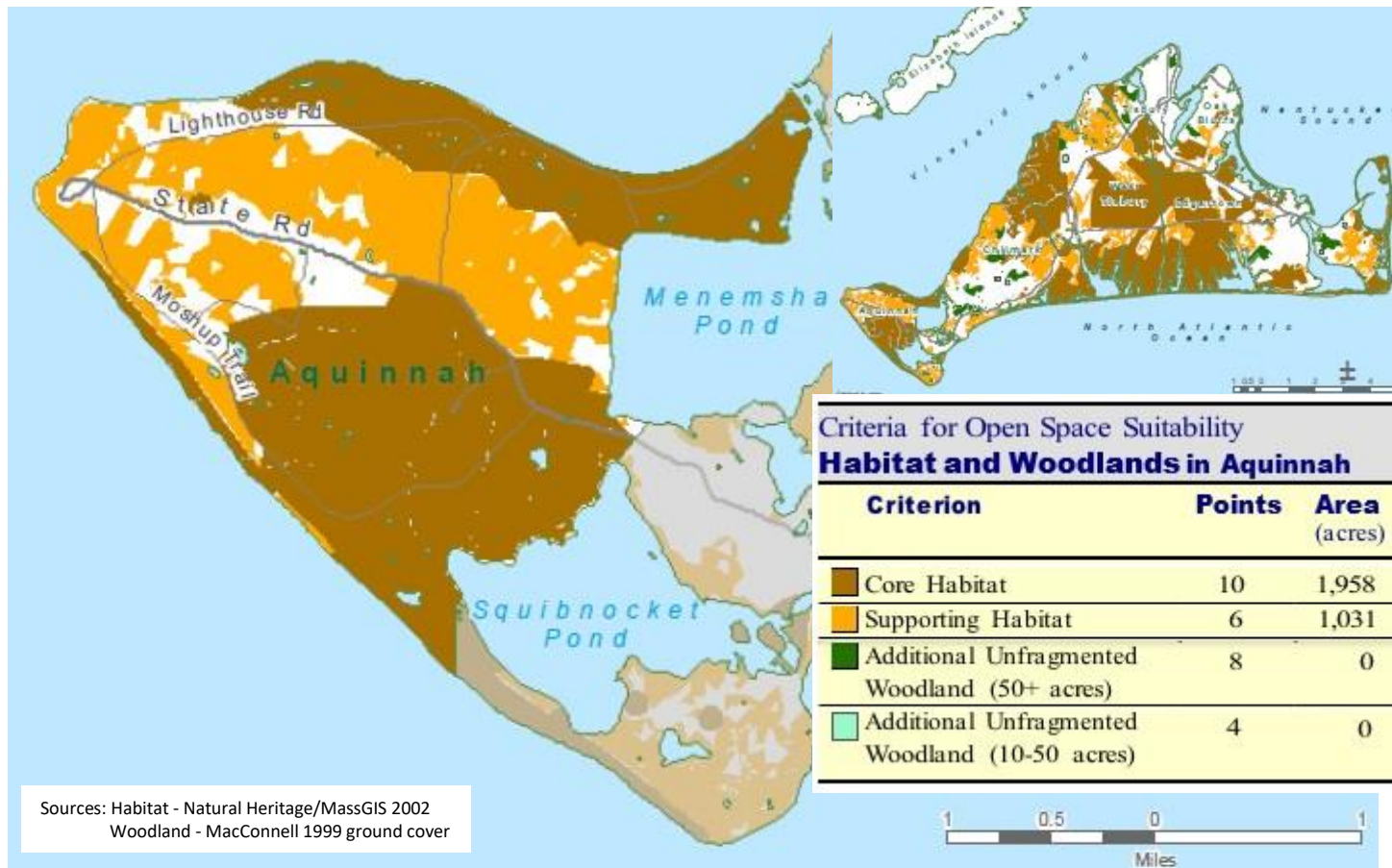
Coastal and Surface Water

The presence of the ocean, ponds or streams makes land more desirable for preservation as open space, both from ecological (water quality, habitat) and cultural (scenic, recreational) perspectives. Wetlands may not be built on, but they and the adjacent areas also offer resources of interest for preservation of open space and natural resources. Similar considerations apply to ponds and streams, and their adjacent areas. The Coastal District of Critical Planning Concern identifies the natural areas along the sea's edge, great ponds and their tributaries. Higher weighting was given to the criteria that were most restrictive to development.



Habitat and Woodlands

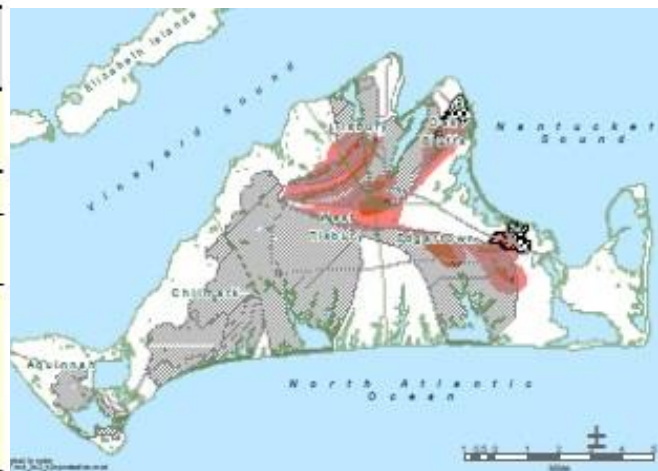
Aquinnah is site of some globally important habitats, such as the distinctive sandplains. This is evident from the extent of significant “core” and supporting habitat. In addition, large unfragmented woodlands not already included in the habitat criteria are identified because they may still be potentially important open spaces from a scenic or recreational standpoint. Supporting Habitat are areas identified by the Commonwealth that provide habitat for several species that are Endangered, Threatened, or are of Special Concern, including the Harrier Hawk and various types of moths. These habitats are prevalent across Aquinnah.



Water Resources - Areas of Protection

Development places stress on groundwater resources and, ideally, would be located outside of areas highly sensitive to groundwater contamination. Preserving lands within the areas of protection of public wells - Zone I, operational zone of influence, and Zone II - protects the public health, as well as public investment in infrastructure. The operational zones of influence were determined by the MVC as areas more likely to infiltrate to groundwater than the rest of Zone II. The vitality of the Island's great ponds also affects human health, but also involves habitat, cultural, scenic and recreational values. Identified are the pond watershed that are already at or beyond nitrogen limits, or are projected to reach those limits.

Criteria for Open Space Suitability Groundwater Resource Protection		
Criterion	Points	Area (acres)
Public well – Zone	20	0
Public well – operational zone of influence	6	0
Public well – Zone II	4	0
Pond watershed at or beyond nitrogen limit	6	811
Pond watershed projected to reach nitrogen limit	4	0



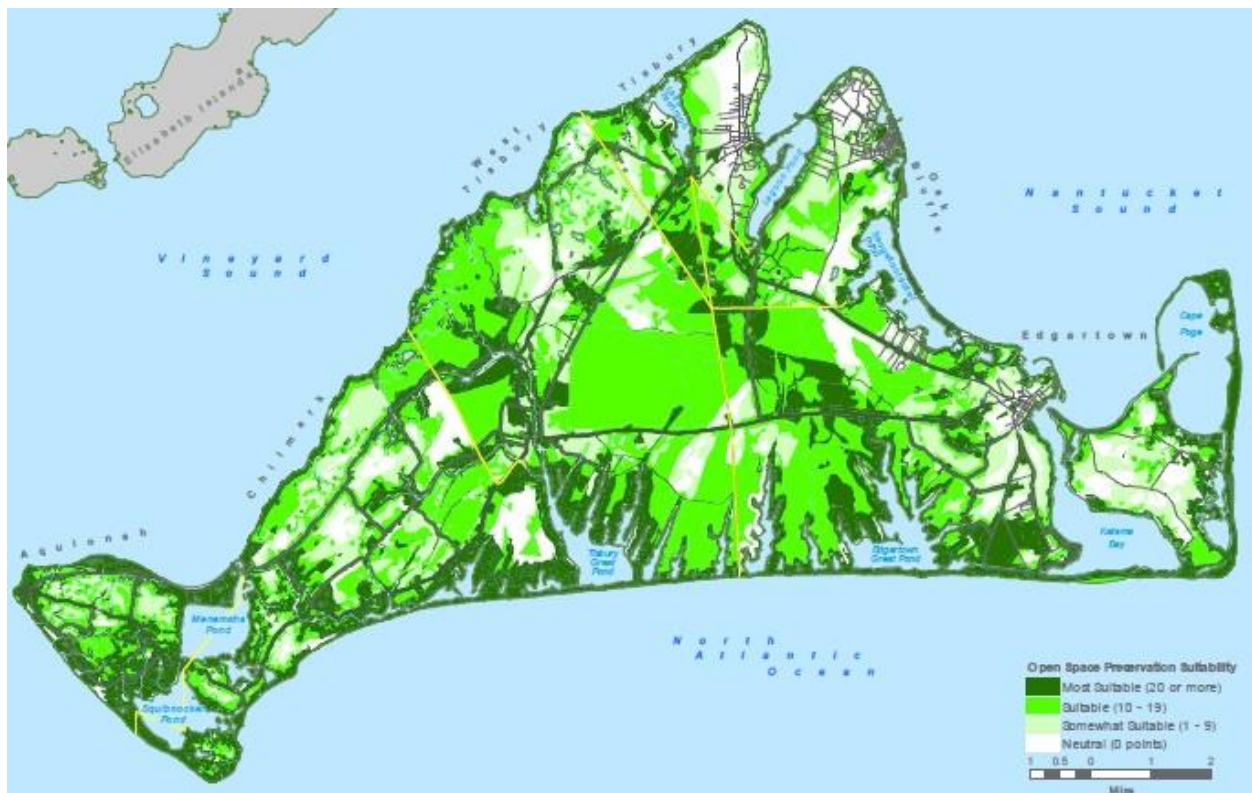
Source: DEP/MassGIS 2003: MVC 2003

Open Space and Natural Resources Suitability Map

The map below shows the overall suitability of land for preservation of open space and natural resources based on a combination of the criteria described in this section. Land across the Island was divided into four categories based on the total 'points' accumulated from all the mapped features. The higher intensity of color or shading reflects a higher degree of suitability, according to the criteria measured and the weighting of values.

On Martha's Vineyard as a whole, the map indicates that lands close to the ocean are particularly important to preserve as open space. In general, there is a narrow beach or bluff that serves as storm damage prevention for the interior wetlands and built areas, but also as recreation, scenic

vistas, and in some cases, habitat. Serving a variety of functions, these areas tend to score highly when points are summed. On the map below, these areas tend to appear as colored the darkest green, the equivalent of a high score. These shore areas form a relatively narrow fringe, extensive



in total area only because they surround the entire Island.

The scenic vistas afforded by the rural roads constitute another narrowly focused resource, extensive in total area only because of the extensive length of this grid network. Working farms and prime agricultural soils constitute very little of the total area of the Island. Much more extensive in area are the habitat and water resource areas. Core habitat, primarily in the form of the globally rare sandplain grassland, covers much of the total area of the Island.

The watersheds of the great ponds cover large land areas. Many of the great ponds are at or near their nitrogen loading limits, and lands within those watersheds are targeted for open space protection. Zones of contribution for public water supplies cover large areas of lands in the down-Island towns and in West Tisbury, although that town does not pump for its own municipal service.

Within Aquinnah, the lands that emerge as having the highest suitability for open space preservation appear as thin ribbons of beach; for scenic values, recreation and flood protection;

and as thin ribbons of road, for the scenic vistas afforded by those rural ways. One larger area is the watershed of Squibnocket Pond, a restricted waterway with limited flushing. There is no public water supply for Aquinnah, and therefore no accommodation for zones of influence.

Open Space and Natural Resource Protection Suitability

	Martha's Vineyard (% of Island)	Aquinnah (% of Town)
Most Suitable	23,722 acres (40.4%)	2,359 acres (67.4%)
Suitable	20,267 acres (34.5%)	732 acres (20.9%)
Somewhat Suitable	9,500 acres (16.2%)	302 acres (8.7%)
Neutral	5,205 acres (8.9%)	102 acres (2.9%)

It bears repeating that in Aquinnah, as on all of Martha's Vineyard, virtually all land has some degree of suitability for open space preservation - whether for environmental, health, economic or cultural reasons. Due to the scarcity and extraordinary cost of land on the island, the decision to preserve a piece of land will likely be based far more on opportunity than on suitability; in other words, if a parcel of land becomes available, it might well be worth preserving as open space, even if it has not rated highly in this suitability analysis.

Summary of Community's Needs

The MA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recognizes the benefits of outdoor recreation and it also cites a key element of community-wide Open Space pursuits. With accessible opportunities, comes an increased appreciation and desire from residents to invest in these areas. It is unreasonable to expect community members to have an inherent appreciation of conservation land. As with many values, it must first be cultivated through exposure and access. Town leadership is necessary on this count.

Fortunately, Aquinnah has a vast network of Open Space opportunities. Thanks in part to this, most of its residents are already well versed in the virtue of stewardship and there is widespread support for protecting and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities – along its majestic shoreline and its interior trails, to name a couple. This seems to be a trend across much of the Commonwealth as survey respondents expressed they greatly valued the natural resources available to them in their communities.

Just as additional bike trails and playgrounds ranked high priority for Recreation User survey respondents, Aquinnah's survey also demonstrated a decisive desire for the same. Bike trails and play spaces were the leading interests for local recreation resources needed.

As far as Goals and Objectives are concerned, the Commonwealth and Aquinnah have a kindred interest in investing in trails in a holistic approach, with a focus on linkages and networks. Likewise, both reports note the intention to make existing resources more accessible to segments who have been historically overlooked in planning efforts, namely senior and disabled populations.

Aquinnah may be somewhat of an exception to the SCORP findings that revealed survey respondents do not visit outdoor recreation facilities as often as they would like. Local residents here live in such close proximity to these opportunities that nearly all of them can be reached within a five-minute drive; indeed the town does not sprawl very far in any direction before reaching its sandy shores.

The Town is also looking to strike a balance for a wide generational range through development of a 5 acre parcel behind Town Hall. There will be dedicated on site renewable energy generation, along with a new dreamscape. Both of these investments stand to benefit their youth. By that same token, another driving force of the site plan is the community's aging population in mind, who are accounted for through a deliberate choice to site the playground (for grandchildren) and food forest well within a short walk from the parking lot. Likewise, the burgeoning food forest will be within short reach, and accessible to nearly all ages.

Aquinnah is well attuned to the rising share of seniors who reside in town. Just three years ago, they completed an extended boardwalk to make the lone town beach on the south shore once again accessible to a large segment who often struggled to traverse a steep sand dune. The incline coupled with shifting sands were simply too much for many people to surmount. The Boardwalk is a new and far gentler approach - one that's received great acclaim from the thousands who use it each year.

For those who need an even greater accommodation, a wheelchair that can travel across sand was purchased. It's most often used at the gentle sloping shore of the town-owned Red Sand Beach. The Town's commitment to access was evident through their commitment

In articulating the community's needs there are additional Open Space variables that were considered; fortunately, they have crossover appeal to both year-round and seasonal residents. While the survey distributed across the community allowed the desire for certain capacities to be quantified, the Open

Space Suitability scoring scheme enabled these interests to be unfurled as overlays across the town's varied terrain. The tables, maps, and survey results, below, further exhibit the findings.

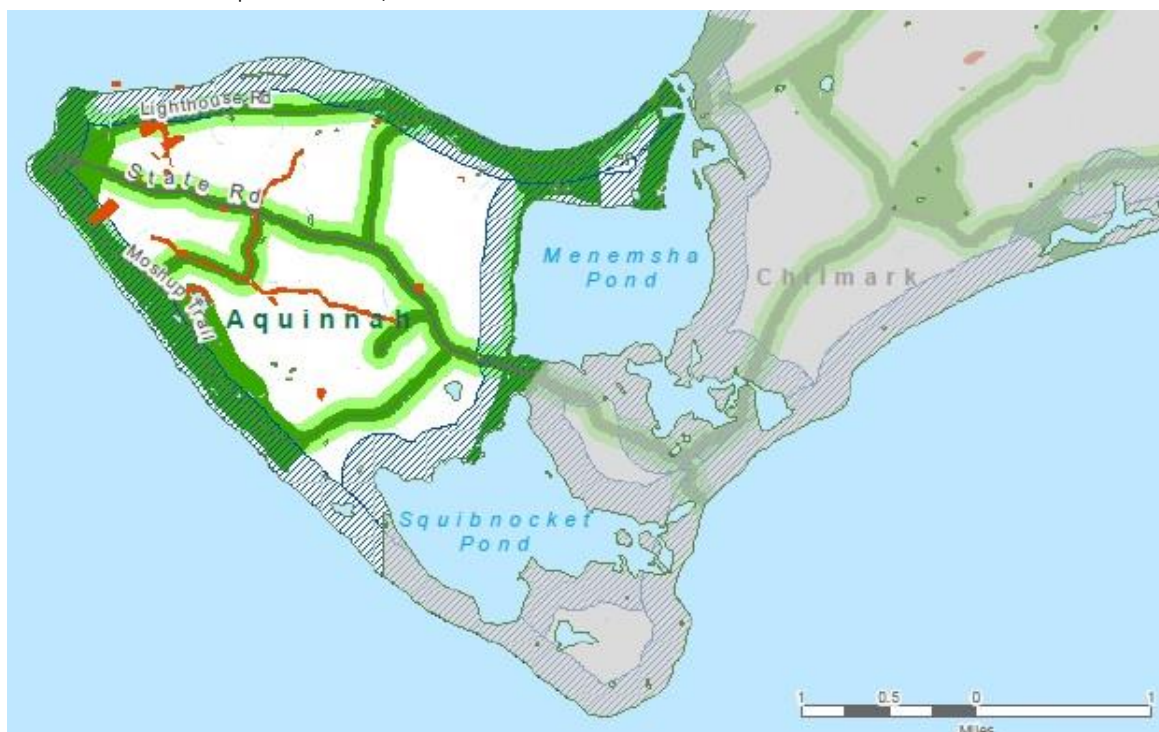
Resource protection and more primal desires inherent to human habitation were forged in crafting a community-wide vision for Open Space & Recreation.

Scenic/Cultural

The character of the Island is derived by how it looks from public spaces, including major roads and the water. A preliminary identification of views from the main Island roads includes:

Criteria for Open Space Suitability Scenic/Cultural in Aquinnah		
Criterion	Points	Area (acres)
Primary Vista/Viewshed	20	1,098
Secondary Vista/Viewshed	4	585
Cultural Landscape	20	88
1000' from Coast/Great Pond	6	1,287

Sources: Viewsheds- MVC/Steering Committees 2004
Cultural Landscapes - Town DCPCs/MVC 2004

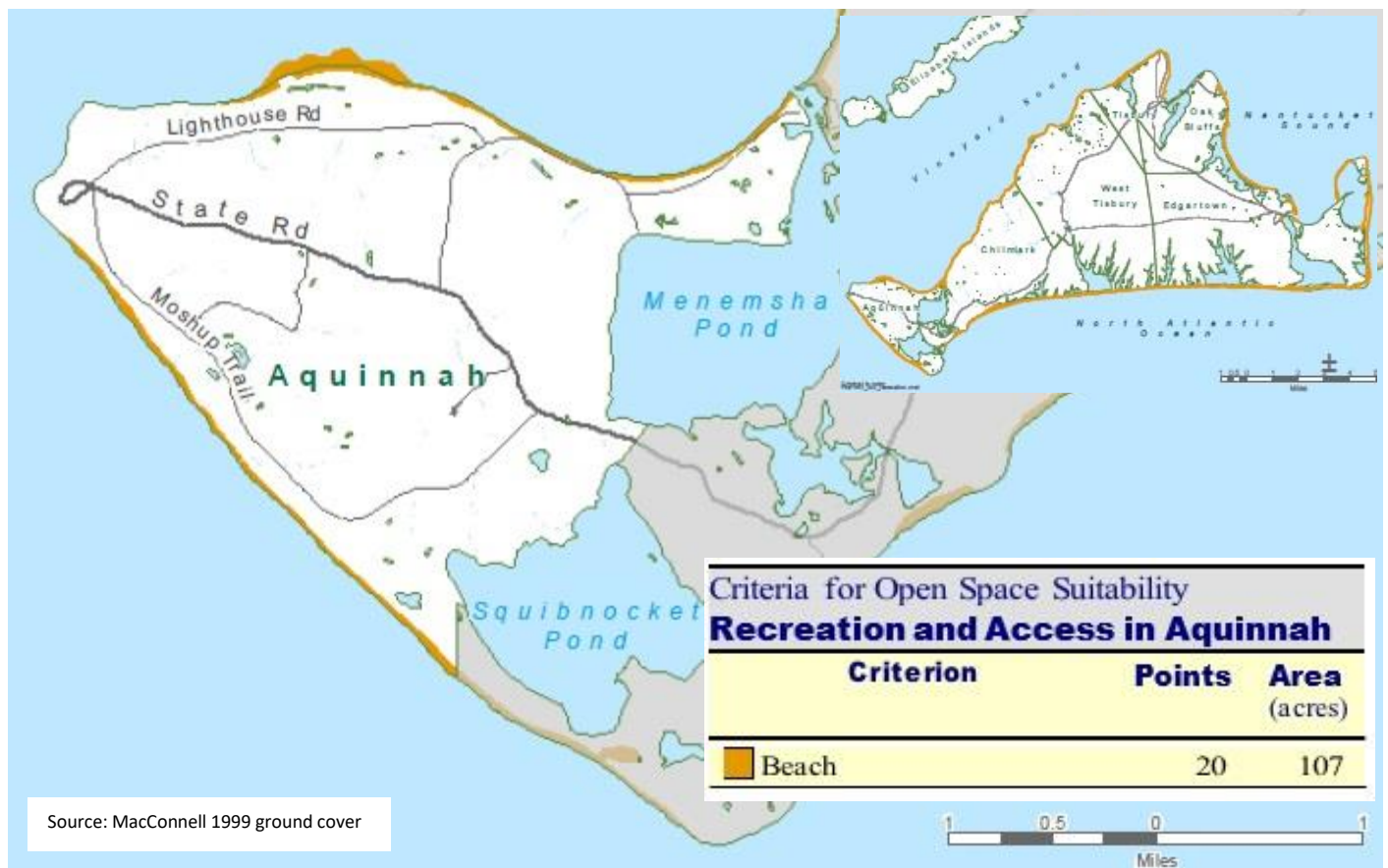


- Wooded areas within 200' from roads as well as adjacent fields and ponds;
- Larger vistas from public overlooks and particularly scenic roads and,
- The axis of view corridors at the ends of certain roads.

A secondary buffer area, generally an additional 300' from roads, was also identified as was the coastal viewshed made up of land within 1,000' from the coast and other navigable waters. Also included are cultural landscapes that Towns have previously designated as Special Places. This analysis will likely be subject to future refinement by the Towns and the MVC. Another issue facing the Town is the preservation of viewsheds due to vegetation growth, especially from trees that are not regularly maintained.

Recreation and Access

In addition to their indispensable role of buffering the Island (and Great Ponds) from the sea, beaches are, understandably, the most used recreational spaces on the Vineyard. Public access to beaches varies greatly among towns but is generally less available to the public Up-Island (where



there are also fewer people). Other existing recreational areas, such as golf courses and ball fields should be mapped in the future. Mapping the bike paths and walking trails has helped identify gaps in the town and Island-wide network of trails and paths.

For a detailed look and highlights of each survey question, please see below:

1. Survey respondents were mostly of working age. 66% of the respondents were between the ages of 25 and 64. 33% were 65 and over. There was only 1 respondent under 25.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
12 or younger	0.00%	0
13 to 18	0.00%	0
19 to 25	1.54%	1
26 to 39	10.77%	7
40 to 54	24.62%	16
55 to 65	29.23%	19
66 to 80	33.85%	22
over 80	0.00%	0
TOTAL		65

2. Over half (55%) of the respondents were female.
3. Half of the responses were year-round residents of Aquinnah. Over 66% of the respondents were year-round residents of Martha's Vineyard.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Year-round Aquinnah resident	50.77%	33
Seasonal Aquinnah resident	24.62%	16
Year-round Island resident	13.85%	9
Seasonal Island visitor or resident	10.77%	7
TOTAL		65

4. 2/3 of the respondents have children or grandchildren who use parks.
5. Respondents were asked how important it was to preserve open space, specifically about five types of categories. Respondents found it was important or very important to save each. The categories were:

Walking trails, Places of historic or cultural value, Farms and farmland, Open space that meets water and conservation needs, Scenic views, Active recreational sites, and Water access.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	OF NO IMPORTANCE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Walking trails	87.30% 55	9.52% 6	3.17% 2	63
Places of historical and and cultural value	81.54% 53	18.46% 12	0.00% 0	65
Fields and farmland	67.74% 42	32.26% 20	1.61% 1	62
Open space that meets water and conservation needs	71.88% 46	23.44% 15	4.69% 3	64
Scenic views	79.69% 51	18.75% 12	1.56% 1	64
Active recreational sites	64.06% 41	31.25% 20	4.69% 3	64
Access to water for swimming; for fishing/shellfishing; for boating; for sunbathing	89.23% 58	7.69% 5	3.08% 2	65

6. Respondents were asked how often that they used facilities. Two facilities were rated as never or rarely being used. Over 80% stated that they rarely or never used the Town center playground and basketball court. Over 80% also rarely or never used the North Bluff Trail. Conversely, respondents indicated that they used the Aquinnah Circle often (90% used it monthly or more). The West Basin also gathered responses indicating it is also used extensively.

	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL
Cliffs overlook area	10.94% 7	46.88% 30	29.69% 19	12.50% 8	0.00% 0	64
Town center playground and basketball court	0.00% 0	10.77% 7	9.23% 6	41.54% 27	38.46% 25	65
Aquinnah Circle	18.46% 12	47.69% 31	24.62% 16	6.15% 4	3.08% 2	65
Lighthouse Park	6.25% 4	18.75% 12	39.06% 25	32.81% 21	3.13% 2	64
Gay Head Moraine Trail	4.84% 3	27.42% 17	30.65% 19	24.19% 15	12.90% 8	62
North Bluffs Trail	0.00% 0	13.11% 8	31.15% 19	32.79% 20	22.95% 14	61
Toad Rock Trail	7.94% 5	20.63% 13	25.40% 16	31.75% 20	14.29% 9	63
West Basin	23.08% 15	36.92% 24	20.00% 13	20.00% 13	0.00% 0	65
Aquinnah Cultural Center	1.54% 1	12.31% 8	26.15% 17	41.54% 27	18.46% 12	65
Moshup Beach Trail	0.00% 0	25.00% 6	45.83% 11	25.00% 6	4.17% 1	24

7. Among beach areas used by residents each year, Lobsterville Beach scored highest. Lobsterville beach is used by residents often (50% at least once monthly). Philbin Beach also scored highly.

	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	NEVER	TOTAL
Philbin Beach	21.88% 14	28.13% 18	10.94% 7	25.00% 16	14.06% 9	64
Herring Creek	3.17% 2	25.40% 16	17.46% 11	33.33% 21	20.63% 13	63
Red Beach	17.19% 11	32.81% 21	10.94% 7	23.44% 15	15.63% 10	64
Lobsterville Beach	20.00% 13	41.54% 27	10.77% 7	23.08% 15	4.62% 3	65
Moshup Beach (Land Bank)	0.00% 0	21.74% 5	30.43% 7	39.13% 9	8.70% 2	23

8. Residents are generally satisfied, but not very satisfied, with Town recreational facilities; however, residents are not satisfied with recreation opportunities for young adults and seniors.

	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED	TOTAL
The overall cleanliness of Town parks and recreational facilities	27.69% 18	55.38% 36	16.92% 11	65
Parking access at Town parks and recreational facilities	26.56% 17	43.75% 28	29.69% 19	64
Play areas for small children to play in Town	9.52% 6	38.10% 24	52.38% 33	63
Recreation facilities for Young Adults	9.68% 6	25.81% 16	64.52% 40	62
Recreation facilities for Seniors	10.94% 7	31.25% 20	57.81% 37	64
Mooring facilities for Boaters	16.67% 10	56.67% 34	26.67% 16	60

9. Residents felt that increased awareness, improved accessibility, safer bicycle and increased accessibility would results in increased use of Town facilities.

	INCREASE YOUR USE	NO DIFFERENCE	TOTAL
Improved dockage for boaters	29.69% 19	70.31% 45	64
Increased awareness of resources	69.23% 45	30.77% 20	65
Improved accessibility at facilities	58.46% 38	41.54% 27	65
Safer bicycle connections	57.81% 37	42.19% 27	64
Transit Bus Access	43.55% 27	56.45% 35	62
Improved vehicular access and parking	56.92% 37	43.08% 28	65

10. Respondents were asked to rate the top five recreation resources needed. Bike trails was the top selection as 59.38% of the respondents indicated their support for more bike trails. Other highly rated facilities included children's play areas, interconnected walking trails and hiking trails. Respondents were not interested in active recreational facilities and indicated their indifference to improvement of these facilities. Improvements to volleyball courts, softball fields, soccer fields and baseball fields scored the lowest among resources needed.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Basketball courts	28.13%	18
Baseball fields	14.06%	9
Bike trails	59.38%	38
Children's play areas	56.25%	36
Family picnic areas	39.06%	25
Fitness trails	20.31%	13
Hiking trails	42.19%	27
Interconnected walking trails	53.13%	34
Local neighborhood parks	21.88%	14
Swimming beach	39.06%	25
Small boat access	28.13%	18
Small boat/dinghy storage	20.31%	13
Soccer fields	9.38%	6
Softball fields	10.94%	7
Tennis courts	21.88%	14
Volleyball courts	6.25%	4
Total Respondents: 64		

11. Respondents were asked to rate their Top 3 improvement scenarios to enhance passive recreation opportunities in the Town. Events at the circle was the dominant choice as more than 75% indicated their support for improvement in this area. When combined with support for additional seating areas in the Circle, residents value this location. Respondent also recognized that the Tribe and town need to work together to preserve and utilize open space. Finally, respondents also desired additional Community events such as annual picnic, summer camp, boating and swimming programs.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bathroom access in the Circle	37.50%	24
Seating areas in the Circle	42.19%	27
Bathroom access on the beaches	23.44%	15
Seating areas on the beaches	4.69%	3
Shade/rain shelters	32.81%	21
Directions/informational signs/kiosks	23.44%	15
More picnic facilities	12.50%	8
Improved ADA access	12.50%	8
Working relationship with the Tribe and Natural Resources Department	46.88%	30
Events at the Circle	50.00%	32
Community events: such as an annual picnic, summer camp, boating and swimming programs, social events and/or trail walks	45.31%	29
Total Respondents: 64		

12. Respondents desired focus on the improvement of existing properties and capital improvement planning to enhance the towns ability to maintain and steward open space

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Capital improvement planning	49.21%	31
Prepare an inventory, and develop plans for individual parks	41.27%	26
Focus on existing properties, rather than adding additional lands and facilities	61.90%	39
Volunteer opportunities	26.98%	17
Total Respondents: 63		

13. Finally, residents Support the continued use of CPA to improve open space and recreation facilities.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Participate in open space, parks, and recreation planning	50.00%	29
Volunteer to work on a specific project at one of the Town parks	43.10%	25
Volunteer to participate in a park clean-up day	46.55%	27
Support the continued use of Community Preservation Funds for improvements	60.34%	35
Total Respondents: 58		

The following comments were also received:

6	Much needed improvements to the cliff shop area including cleaning and ridding area of poison ivy. Brush cutting to enhance views of the sound. Improved seating areas for comfort and convenience of visitors and local residents. Covered areas for inclement weather. Ensuring that shops are open and operating to contribute to the vitality of the purpose. (When shops are closed visitors stop coming)
7	New restrooms are desperately needed
8	I'm not really sure what question 12 was looking for. thanks for taking time to get input on this survey.
9	Shade for the shop patrons on the circle
10	I appreciate Aquinnah!
11	This survey illustrates how little you understand about our town.
12	Resident category-- island home owner coming in throughout the year more than seasonal but not official resident
13	You did not include the West Basin Beach in your list of beaches, nor did you mention the Gay Head Moraine in your list of "walks." It might have been helpful to describe the location of the various walks that were mentioned - they don't match the description of walks in "Walking Trails of Martha's Vineyard," so I wasn't sure which ones they were.
14	I am very much against any development of the circle that would bring concerts with loud amplified music.
15	Zoning should be more business friendly to allow a small convenience store/farmers market
16	Aquinnah' natural beauty should be maintained/ enhanced
17	I think the town needs a modest facility for lodging of guests and tourists. The town needs to develop cultural programming that will bring tourists to town. ie. yoga retreats on the beach infused with Native American spirituality, Hiking trails with Native American guides and storytellers, children's programming (weekly summer camps) that will introduce tourists to the Native American culture, history and language
18	I believe expanded dockage at West Basin would be beneficial to Aquinnah residents
19	Thanks

#	RESPONSES
1	Yes, I am extremely disappointed in the fact that the town offers NOTHING for children- in the summer as well as year-round. There are no classes, no events, no facilities, nothing. The town hall should be open as a play-space for children to have classes/homework clubs/or just a hang out place. The basketball courts are a mess. The town of Edgartown just sent out a flyer with all of their parks and rec opportunities for the summer. They have swim lessons, basketball clinics, tennis lessons, etc. They also have a REC CENTER. Aquinnah kids should NOT have to ride a bus for an hour to get to the boys and girls club...especially in the winter when they can't even get home because the VTA doesn't run. Investing resources to help children survive and develop to their full potential is, first and foremost, a moral imperative. But investing in children is also important on practical grounds. It yields positive benefits to economies and societies. Since the foundation of an individual's health and well-being is laid in early childhood, the most opportune time to break the cycle of poverty, or prevent it from beginning, is during that time. Investments in children are increasingly seen as one of best and most valuable long-term investments we can make. You could have volunteers hold classes in painting, weaving, sports, reading, writing, etc. It is a shame that this has gone on so long.
2	Promoting Rare species surveys conducted with volunteers & con corn - emphasize wild nature- passive recreation- community efforts to assess invasive species- dogfish bar barrier beach wetland area in oxcart rd could be reduced by members of rd association & other volunteers- Tribe does this w planting along lobsterville. WQ & shellfish education they pamphlets and low key signs. More engagement with community to promotes land conservation. We rarely talk about this at ATM.
3	I would give first priority to improvement of the Circle.
4	Aquinnah has made great steps with land conservation, but still more to do with our historic, recreational and cultural resources. Enhancing Aquinnah Circle and Aquinnah's Town Hall campus would focus these efforts on our two main gathering places. To make these efforts in partnership with the Tribe whenever possible will generate the most significant results, as well as to strengthen our resolve, our community bonds, and our unique history and trajectory.
5	I work at the parking lots in the summer -- do not have a "vested interest" in the parks & recreation aspect particularly. But, I do love Aquinnah & consider it a special place and a special resource. There is a lack of connection between "no dogs at Philbin" and the fact that people still sneak them on. People in AQ do not really take to "rules". However, you did not mention dogs in the survey and LOTS of people like to bring their dog with them on all recreational activities. Also, people totally disregard the "no climbing on the dunes" policy -- which I thought was just common courtesy in this day & age. It is primarily YEAR-ROUNDERS who climb & slide on the dunes. :(A major Active recreational activity is surfing -- you didn't mention that either. I believe there are people who would like to access the shore for that purpose. There is some "tension" between the desire to raise funds via the parking lot and even some of the questions in this survey. The idea of expanding public use at the circle means that people will need to park. A thorough discussion of the fee structure and the ebb & flow of the season might be useful. Also, the fact that it is HARD to find (good, honest) people to work -- that will continue to be a concern in years to come. So, be careful about expanding services . . . which I am going to suggest in my next paragraph anyway! I would like to see a jitney service developed for the summer -- perhaps utilizing just a couple of electric golf carts or something. It could be used to transport people & beach gear from the parking lot to the Moshup Beach entrance -- which is a longer walk than you might think. It might also be useful to develop a pick-up route for those going to Philbin -- perhaps cut down on the # of cars who park. How much to charge for this would need consideration -- as well as finding people to drive. Finally -- as already mentioned, the restrooms need to be blown up and built new. Get a waiver so low-flow toilets aren't installed -- each toilet requires a minimum of 3 flushes at the moment. I believe this is top on the priority list. The location is tricky -- keep it where the current building is or have two buildings? One set near the shops, another near the beach. I don't know, but this issue should not be allowed to go unaddressed for another year . . . I hope you dont regret asking if there was anything else I wanted to add . . .

Following the completion of the survey, a public meeting was held on June 13, 2018 to discuss the results and determine a vision moving forward. The attendees discussed the survey results and identified several additional priorities, including:

1. Increased walking trails
2. Improving under-utilized resources
 - a. Kettle Pond
 - b. Ramp at Red Beach
 - c. Herring Creek facility
3. Improved ADA Accessibility

Section 8 – Goals & Objectives

The aforementioned analysis, community forum and survey findings served to inform the goals and objectives, below.

Goal 1. Enhance Trails – The Town and other entities seek to provide additional walking and other trails. Focus will be on the connection between other trails and large areas of land. Attention will be paid to develop existing trails for bicycle access.

- Plan and develop a cross town coast to coast pedestrian trail. Other trails may connect to this primary route.

Goal 2. The Circle is an important feature to both the Town and Tribe and should be focused on and enhanced.

Objectives

- The Town shall seek to improve the overlook, shop and circle features to include bathrooms and to improve the accessibility for disabled visitors and residents.
- There should be enhanced connection to the Circle from paths and trails.

Goal 3. Support active recreational pursuits for Aquinnah residents.

Objectives:

- Locate and work to purchase additional land for active recreation in the Town. Existing playground and active recreational facilities should be improved. Elderly and young adults are not utilizing such facilities because they are in disrepair and have not been upgraded.
- Increase accessibility and make sites more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Utilize ramps and other mechanisms to provide beach access.
- Retrofit select existing trails to promote bicycle use.

Goal 4. Provide adequate land permanently dedicated for conservation, recreation & educational use for present and future residents and visitors of Aquinnah. Identify and protect rare wildlife habitats.

Objectives:

- Promote permanent conservation restrictions, easements or gifts of important ecological resources within the town.
- Review the building permit allocation system, and determine its effectiveness.
- Where necessary, purchase open space with town appropriations or other funds.

Goal 5. Protect the abundant & pristine ponds, stream, fresh and salt marshes, bogs & other wetlands and water resources within the town that sustain the shellfish industry, provide wildlife habitat and a base for the recreational tourist industry in the town.

Objectives:

- Work closely with the Tribe, island non-profit groups & private landowners to achieve maximum protection of key wetland resource areas and habitats through acquisition and appropriate regulations.
- Provide vigorous enforcement of the Wetland Protection Act (Ch. 131:40) & the Coastal Wetland Restriction Act (Ch. 130:105) and the local wetlands bylaw.
- Work with various public and private parties to decrease the levels of nitrogen reaching Aquinnah estuaries.

Goal 6: Protect the magnificent vistas and extraordinary ecological diversity of the Moshup Trail area.

Objective:

- Town Boards will work cooperatively among themselves and with Tribal Council, Island non-profit conservation groups, State agencies, Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, and the Martha's Vineyard Commission to assure maximum protection of this vital economic, recreational and ecological resource.
- The Town shall develop a cooperative public private program to preserve viewshed by regularly maintaining/pruning back vegetation that blocks views.

Goal 7: Balance the use of land especially suited for agriculture and forestry with the objectives of protecting groundwater and scenic values.

Objectives:

- Identify appropriate land for agriculture in consideration of the objective of protecting groundwater quality. Where appropriate, promote the use of incentives such as Chapter 61A tax abatement.
- Promote selective cutting for woodland management.

Goal 8: Encourage landowners and visitors to assist Town in its preservation efforts through CPA funding and philanthropy.

Objective:

- Establish a mechanism whereby monetary donations can be collected for the express purpose of land purchase similar to the establishment of the Permanent Endowment of the Martha's Vineyard fund and the Chappaquiddick Open Space Fund.
- Continue to focus on CPA funding for active and passive recreation uses

Management Needs

As noted earlier, Aquinnah has a very active year round population that supplement the modest sized cadre of staff on formal payroll. This belies an overall engaged citizenry, one that takes notable advantage of attending public meetings or ensuring their input is considered in community prioritization and board rulings.

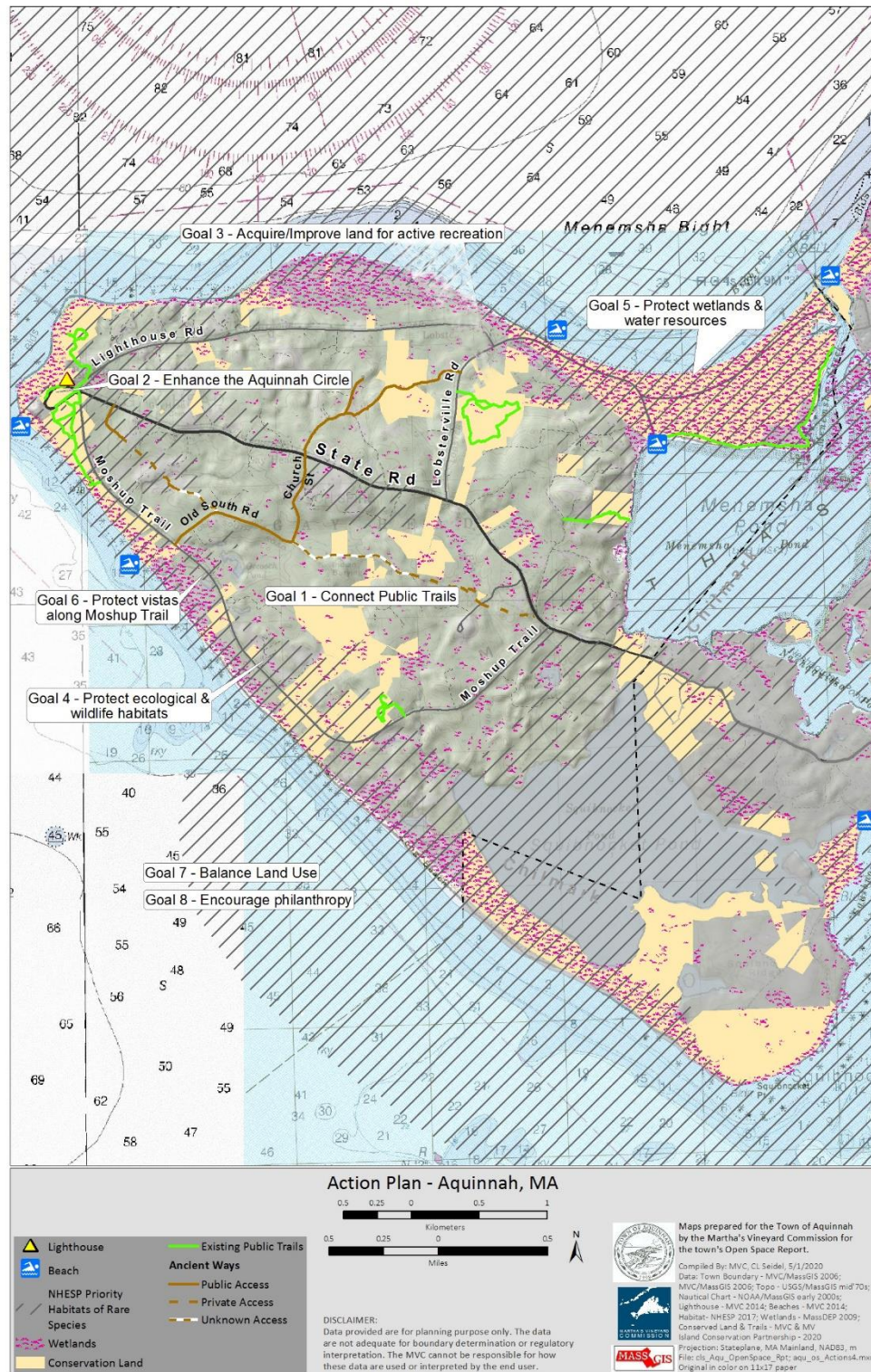
For sure, there are some individuals with exemplary dedication to public service, who serve on a number of different boards and committees. This affords a model that benefits information sharing and awareness across the town's apparatus of decision-making bodies. There is a less of an acute need for formal joint meetings between boards when members straddle a number of these entities, or even wear municipal employment hats in addition to their volunteer work. Yet this also prompts a keen need for all involved to understand potential conflicts of interest.

For all the volunteering that strengthens the town, there are also some areas where the Town has recently committed funds for capacity critical to town initiatives. The Town Clerk recently ramped up her hours and has taken on a more expansive scope of responsibilities. A part-time grant writer was also hired in recent years, a position which has already paid for itself given the number of grant awards she has secured. This position is especially valuable for Aquinnah taxpayers, given capital projects are significantly more costly owing to shipping and mobilization costs inherent to bringing materials and labor to the island.

The Town is uniquely positioned in that significant swaths of conservation land – as shown in the Open Space Inventory map in Section 5 - are found across town, but taxpayers are not burdened with the overhead costs to maintain these properties. Rather, numerous conservation groups hold title to these lands and are well positioned to acquire additional key properties –a number of which will help advance the town's Open Space goals. The MV Land Bank, for one, receives a transfer fee of 2% on most real estate transactions on the Vineyard. This funding mechanism is structured in perpetuity, and omens well for continued natural resource protection and open space recreation.

Section 9 – Seven Year Action Plan

The following represents the communities seven year plan:



Aquinnah OSR 7 Year Action Plan

Goal / Priority	Objective	Tasks / Actions	Time Horizon	Responsible Party(ies) for implementation	Funding Source (grant, staff time, town budget, etc.)
Goal 1. Walking Trails – The Town and other entities seek to provide additional walking and other trails. Focus will be on the connection between other trails and large areas of land. Attention will also be paid to develop existing trails for bicycle access.	Plan and develop a cross town coast to coast pedestrian trail. Other trails may connect to this primary route.	compile list of properties and respective owners that represent critical gaps for ped trail(s); identify path of least resistance; identify individuals who should be contacted regarding the privately owned properties to gauge potential interest in granting an easement & identify appropriate individual for outreach	ongoing; begin in 1st year	MV Land Bank	costs assumed by MVLB
Goal 2. The Circle is an important feature to both the Town and Tribe and should be focused on and enhanced.	The Town shall seek to improve the overlook, shop and circle features to include bathrooms and to improve the accessibility for disabled visitors and residents.	regrade path from parking spaces along top of the the circle to ensure ADA compliance; add stone dust; identify feasible options for siting of bathrooms; secure funds for services to design ADA compliant bathroom; hold public hearing for bathroom designs; seek external funding to cover portion of bathroom construction; put project up for bid	1-3 years	Aquinnah Circle Committee & Town at large	grant opportunities - both federal and state, town budget, DCR grants and/or CPA funds
Goal 2. The Circle is an important feature to both the Town and Tribe and should be focused on and enhanced.	There should be enhanced connection to the Circle from paths and trails.	solicity property owners for easements if necessary; establish wayfinding at key nodes proximal to the circle that spotlight connectivity of nearby trails to circle amenities; craft maps, visuals, and companion text that will comprise wayfinding stations	12-18 months	Aquinnah Circle Committee, Town Administrator	general budget, CPA, DCR grants
Goal 3. Support active recreational pursuits for Aquinnah residents.	Locate and work to purchase additional land for active recreation in the Town. Existing playground and active recreational facilities should be improved. Elderly and young adults are not utilizing such facilities are because they are in disrepair and have not been upgraded.	1. identify key potential sites/properties; conduct preliminary feasibility analysis for each site to determine acquisitions & access where least resistance is expected; solicit property owners to assess willingness to provide easements; research external funding sources to defray cost of acquisition/craft warrant article language to use CPA funds towards such a purchase 2. improve mooring facilities at West Basin	1. up to 5 years / 2. 2-4 years	Town	MassHousing, DCR, CPA, general budget
Goal 3. Support active recreational pursuits for Aquinnah residents.	Increase accessibility and make sites more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Utilize ramps and other mechanisms to provide beach access	secure funding to implement accessibility recommendations issued by Howard Stein Hudson in July 2019 Technical Memo for Red Beach access; producure floating wheelchair and site the construction of a shed to store chair at the beach; for Lookout at Cliffs, construct ramps; for Town Hall, implement ADA compliant upgrades	1-5 years	Town	EOEA grants, CPA funds, general budget
Goal 3. Support active recreational pursuits for Aquinnah residents.	Retrofit select existing trails to promote bicycle use.	meet with owners of conservation lands to identify trails already well suited for bicyle use; discuss maps and distribution materials that can be used to promote bicycle use on newly identified trails; explore prospects of modifying existing trails for bicycle use through meetings with conservation land groups; identify where a sweat equity commitment would facilitate trail work	ongoing (all 7 years)	OSR C'tee	conservation groups, Mass Trails grants
Goal 4. Provide adequate land permanently dedicated for conservation, recreation & educational use for present and future residents and visitors of Aquinnah. Identify and protect rare wildlife habitats.	Promote permanent conservation restrictions, easements or gifts of important ecological resources within the town.	identify CRs, easements, or gifts through mapping exercise; identify distribution channels for said maps and discuss with property owners if there is an interest in establishing signage for these resources on their properties	6-18 months	MV Land Bank	conservation groups
Goal 4. Provide adequate land permanently dedicated for conservation, recreation & educational use for present and future residents and visitors of Aquinnah. Identify and protect rare wildlife habitats.	Review the building permit allocation system, and determine its effectiveness.	Assess whether a nexus exists between building permit allocation and siting manmade development in areas most suitable for development using Open Space & Natural Resource Protection suitability map	6-12 months	Planning Board & Building Department	no significant funding needed; analysis can be done by Planning Board & RPA
Goal 4. Provide adequate land permanently dedicated for conservation, recreation & educational use for present and future residents and visitors of Aquinnah. Identify and protect rare wildlife habitats.	Where necessary, purchase open space with town appropriations or other funds	Use Open Space & Natural Resource Protection suitability map to prioritize properties of interest; identify properties where owners may be amenable to placing a CR on land; approach property owners	3-6 months; ongoing	OSR C'tee, Town Adminstator	conservation groups, CPA funds

Aquinnah OSR 7 Year Action Plan

Goal / Priority	Objective	Tasks / Actions	Time Horizon	Responsible Party(ies) for implementation	Funding Source (grant, staff time, town budget, etc.)
Goal 5. Protect the abundant & pristine ponds, stream, fresh and salt marshes, bogs & other wetlands and water resources within the town that sustain the shellfish industry, provide wildlife habitat and a base for the recreational tourist industry in the town	Work closely with the Tribe, island non-profit groups & private landowners to achieve maximum protection of key wetland resource areas and habitats through acquisition and appropriate regulations.	In short, review zoning & implement ordinance. In more detail: identify wetland advancement zones owing to Sea Level Rise using CZM SLAMM model; modify overlay district boundaries to reflect projected advancement; pursue change in overlay district language through Town Meeting and MVC DCPC modification channels	2-4 years	ConCom, MVC	conservation groups, CPA funds, DCR grants
Goal 5. Protect the abundant & pristine ponds, stream, fresh and salt marshes, bogs & other wetlands and water resources within the town that sustain the shellfish industry, provide wildlife habitat and a base for the recreational tourist industry in the town	Provide vigorous enforcement of the Wetland Protection Act (Ch. 131:40) & the Coastal Wetland Restriction Act (Ch. 130:105) and the local wetlands bylaw	secure additional funding to increase number of hours allocated for Town Building Inspector: actively recruit Associate Members to apply for local Conservation Commission; enlist additional technical assistance	2-4 years	ConCom, Town Administrator	general budget
Goal 5. Protect the abundant & pristine ponds, stream, fresh and salt marshes, bogs & other wetlands and water resources within the town that sustain the shellfish industry, provide wildlife habitat and a base for the recreational tourist industry in the town	Work with various public and private parties to decrease the levels of nitrogen reaching Aquinnah estuaries	In short, review zoning & implement ordinance. In more detail: work with Board of Health, BOS, & Planning Board to craft language for warrant article (perhaps a vote is unnecessary) that compels property owners to upgrade Title 5 Septic systems to Innovative Alternatives for all properties in an impaired watershed once a Title 5 system repair / upgrade is needed or proposed; work with MVC to identify properties in town found in impaired watershed	2-4 years	Planning Board, Health Agent	DEP grants; private landowners
Goal 6: Protect the magnificent vistas and extraordinary ecological diversity of the Moshup Trail area.	Town Boards will work cooperatively among themselves and with Tribal Council, Island non-profit conservation groups, State agencies, Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank, and the Martha’s Vineyard Commission to assure maximum protection of this vital economic, recreational and ecological resource.	Review zoning ordinance. Also, identify diffirent financing options to bury the utility lines along Moshup Trails; review Moshup Trail DCPC to determine if revisions need to be considered to account for erosion and SLR	2-4 years	MVLB with relevant stakeholders	conservation groups
Goal 6: Protect the magnificent vistas and extraordinary ecological diversity of the Moshup Trail area.	The Town shall develop a cooperative public private program to preserve viewshed by regularly maintaining/pruning back vegetation that blocks views	Review zoning ordinance. Also, provide private property owners access to town owned manual pruning tools that can be borrowed via a Loan program; develop pruning guidance for homeowners who would like to maintain these views by pruning vegetation on their respective properties	6-18 months	Town Administrator; Parks & Rec C'tee; DPW?	general budget
Goal 7: Balance the use of land especially suited for agriculture and forestry with the objectives of protecting groundwater and scenic values	Identify appropriate land for agriculture in consideration of the objective of protecting groundwater quality. Where appropriate, promote the use of incentives such as Chapter 61A tax abatement.	Review zoning ordinance. Also, based on soils and slopes, find optimal town-owned sites and privately owned best suited for agriculture; solicit private property owners to assess whether there are opportunities for apportionment dedicated to agricultural use	6 months, ongoing	Planning Board, BOS	no significant funding needed; analysis can be done by Planning Board & RPA
Goal 7: Balance the use of land especially suited for agriculture and forestry with the objectives of protecting groundwater and scenic values	Promote selective cutting for woodland management	Conduct a vegetation, topography, and viewshed (using topography map) analysis to determine appropriate pockets of woodlands that would produce valuable yields; generate list of property owners with intersecting land, and determine which of the properties are accessible by large trucks needed to haul timber	1 year, ongoing	Planning Board, BOS	no significant funding needed; analysis can be done by Planning Board & RPA
Goal 8: Encourage landowners and visitors to assist Town in its preservation efforts through CPA funding and philanthropy	Establish a mechanism whereby monetary donations can be collected for the express purpose of land purchase similar to the establishment of the Permanent Endowment of the Martha’s Vineyard fund.	Research administrative model that serves as fiscal model to receive, manage, and assign donations; assign purview to prioritize land to an existing committee or establish a new one with this explicit charge; consult with town attorney to ensure legality. Also, ensure there is signage for donation channel so that visitors to beaches are made aware of opportunity to donate	1-3 years	Town Administrator	CPA funding & philanthropy
Goal 8: Encourage landowners and visitors to assist Town in its preservation efforts through CPA funding and philanthropy	Continue to focus on CPA funding for active and passive recreation uses	identify key properties that can be potentially acquired; create maps showing the value of these properties for which CPA funds will be earmarked and voted upon	3 months; ongoing	Planning Board & Parks / Rec C'tee	CPA funding & philanthropy

Appendix A

Town of Aquinnah
Personnel Board / Personnel Director

ADA Coordinator: Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator)
Discrimination Prevention Policy

The following policy and grievance procedure will be posted on the Town website and at the Town hall.

A. The Town recognizes the right of individuals to work and advance on the basis of merit, ability and potential without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, handicap (disability), participation in discrimination complaint-related activities, sexual orientation, genetics, or active military or veteran status or any basis prohibited under applicable law. Non-discrimination and equal opportunity will be the policy of the Town in all of its employment programs and activities.

B. The policy of the town is to:

Recruit, hire and promote in all job classifications without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, handicap (disability), participation in discrimination complaint-related activities, sexual orientation, genetics, or active military or veteran status or any other basis prohibited under applicable law.

Make decisions about employment so as to encourage the development of a diverse workforce.

Ensure that employment and promotion decisions are made in accordance with the principles of equal employment opportunity, by imposing only valid, job-related requirements for employment and promotional opportunities.

Ensure that all other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoff, recall, training, tuition assistances, and social and recreational programs will be administered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, handicap (disability), participation in discrimination complaint-related activities, sexual orientation, genetics, or active military or veteran status or any other basis prohibited under applicable law.

Prohibit any kind of harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, handicap (disability), participation in discrimination complaint-related activities, sexual orientation, genetics, or active military or veteran status or any other basis prohibited under applicable law.

DISABILITY Discrimination

A. The Town will not discriminate against people with disabilities in any employment practices or in any terms, conditions or privileges or employment, including, but not limited to: application, testing, hiring, assignment, evaluation, disciplinary action, training, promotion, medical examination, layoff/recall,

termination, compensation, unless such accommodation would cause an undue hardship to the Town or cause a direct threat to workplace safety.

B. The Town will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities who are employees or applicants for employment unless such accommodation would cause an undue hardship to the Town or cause a direct threat to workplace safety.

C. Procedures for Establishing Standards

The Town has and will continue to establish bona fide occupational qualifications for each position, including the education, skills, and work experience required, and the physical, mental and environmental standards necessary for job performance, health, and safety. Such standards are job-related and consistent with business necessity.

D. Reasonable Accommodation Procedures

1. The Town will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities who are employees or applicants for employment unless such accommodation would cause an undue hardship to the Town or cause a direct threat to workplace safety.
2. The Town will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal employment opportunity in the application process; to enable a qualified individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of the job; and to enable an employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment.
3. The Town need not provide reasonable accommodation for an individual who is otherwise not qualified for a position.
4. The duty to provide reasonable accommodation is ongoing and may arise any time that an employee's job changes

It is the obligation of the individual with the disability to request the accommodation.

E. Non-Discrimination in the Hiring Process

1. Job Advertisements and Notices: Recruitment information should highlight the essential functions of the job.
2. Accessibility of Job Information: Information about job openings should be accessible to people with different types of disabilities. The Town is not obligated to provide written information in alternative formats in advance, but shall make such available upon request.
3. Recruitment: Consistent with the purpose of the ADA, the Town will continue to extend its outreach to include sources of candidates with disabilities.

F. Pre-employment inquiries

The ADA prohibits any pre-employment inquiries about an applicant's disability. This prohibition does not prevent an employer from obtaining necessary information regarding an applicant's qualifications including medical information necessary to assess such qualifications and to ensure health and safety on the job.

Before making a job offer, the Town may ask questions about an applicant's ability to perform specific job functions and may make a job offer that is conditioned on satisfactory results of a post-offer medical examination or inquiry. The Town may not make inquiries about specific disabilities.

G. Health and Safety Considerations

Even if the applicant is qualified to perform the job, the Town may deny employment if such employment would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the individual or others if such threat cannot be eliminated through reasonable accommodation. Such determination must be made by the Town Administrator or his/her designee after careful review of the circumstances.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. The purpose of this procedure is to encourage local resolution of grievances concerning employment. It is important to note that grievants are not required to exhaust the Town's procedures prior to filing a state or federal complaint or taking court action.

B. Anyone who feels that he or she has been discriminated against by the Town on the basis of their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, handicap (disability), participation in discrimination complaint-related activities, sexual orientation, genetics, or active military or veteran status or any other basis prohibited under applicable law in employment practices may file a grievance.

C. The grievance should be in writing and should contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of grievant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

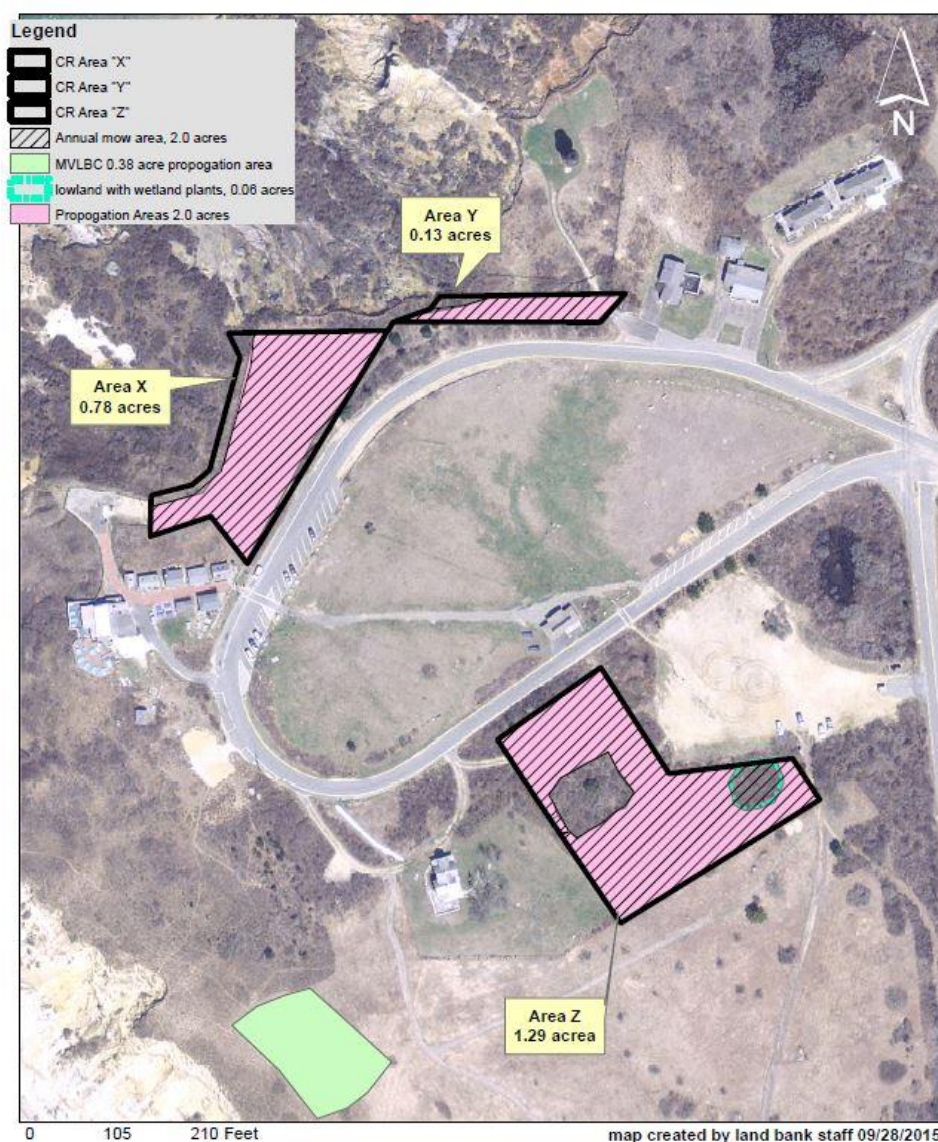
D. The grievant should first attempt to resolve the grievance at the level of the department head. The department head through the Human Resource Manager will notify the Personnel Director if such a grievance is submitted. The employee or department head may request mediation by Human Resources Manager following a good faith effort to resolve the dispute with the consent of the employee, department head and the Personnel Director.

E. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, or if the department head lacks authority or jurisdiction to correct the problem, the grievance should be submitted by the grievant and or/his designee as soon as possible to the Personnel Director. The Personnel Director shall conduct a complete investigation of the allegations raised in the grievance and shall respond in writing to such grievance within twenty one work days after receipt of such grievance. The Personnel Director shall notify the Board of Selectmen of the submission and results of any grievances filed pursuant to this policy.

ADA Self Evaluation

There are three sites in town managed and under the jurisdiction of the the Conservation Commission (ConCom) - see map below. Two of the three sites – Area X and Area Z – have walking paths traversing them. These paths pre-dated the ConCom’s involvement with the sites, and represent the only paths permitted on the sites. The third site – Area Y – is nearly entirely dedicated to propagation of the Broad Tinker’s Weed, an endangered plant species. Consequently, the Facilities Inventory sheet has only been documented for Areas X and Z. Within each of them, only the sections that apply have been addressed. Those sections that do not apply are either left unpopulated or notated as Non-Applicable. Please see the following page for Facilities Inventory.

Propogation Recommendation for Broad Tinker's Weed Town of Aquinnah, Massachusetts, Conservation Restriction Areas



Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS) Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Ortho Color Aerial 2014 Note: Map prepared by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank for planning purposes only. The Land Bank is not responsible for end-users interpretation of the map.

Facility Inventory
LOCATION:

Area X (on Propagation Recommendation Map)

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
Trails	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Swimming Facilities	Picnic Shelters	Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
		Entrance
Play Areas (tot lots)	Pools	Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
		Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Beaches	Shade provided
		All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides
		Same experience provided to all
		Access Routes
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
		Height
		Dimensions
Fishing Facilities	Equipment	Spectator Seating
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
		Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
Programming	Fish Cleaning Tables	Handrails
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
		Are special programs at your facilities accessible?
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings

LOCATION

Area X

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			No parking on the site itself
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			↓
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			↓
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	✓		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	✓		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			No parking on the site itself
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			↓
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

Area X

LOCATION

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	✓		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	✓		
No ponding of water	✓		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	✓		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	✓		
3 ft wide minimum	✓		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		✓	there is some trenching evident on the path
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		✓	trenching precludes this
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	✓		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			No wall
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			No curb
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	✓		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	✓		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	✓		
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

NOTES

this site consists of a walking path that includes a short span of boardwalk, and is otherwise dedicated to propagation of the Tinker Weed, an endangered plant species

Area X

LOCATION

STAIRS and DOORS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			

NOTES

Area X

LOCATION

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES

Area X

LOCATION

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

NOTES

Area X

LOCATION

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

LOCATION

PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Facility Inventory
LOCATION: Area Z (on Propagation Recommendation map)

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
Trails		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Signage (for visually impaired)
		Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
	Beaches	Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
		Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Location from accessible parking
	Access Routes	Shade provided
		Same experience provided to all
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
	Equipment	Berm cuts onto courts
		Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

LOCATION

Area Z

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

Area Z

LOCATION

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	✓		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	✓	✓	
No ponding of water	✓		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	✓		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	✓	✓	
3 ft wide minimum	✓		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	✓		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	✓		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	✓		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	✓	✓	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress -- alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

NOTES

other than a foot path, the site is dedicated to propagation of the Broad Tinker Weed. Those elements that do not apply to the site are either left blank or populated with "N/A"

Area Z

LOCATION

STAIRS and DOORS

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			

NOTES

LOCATION

Area Z

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1 1/4" diameter			
1 1/2" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES

Area 2

LOCATION

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

NOTES

Area 2

LOCATION

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

LOCATION

PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Appendix B						
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix						
Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Management Agency	Conservation Status Note	Acquisition Method/EEA Involvement
1	Gay Head Cliffs	35.13	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
2	Aquinnah Headlands Preserve North	19.26	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (MVLB)	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (MVLB)	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
3	Gay Head Lighthouse	1.84	USA & Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	USA Land - perpetuity; Town Land - Limited*	No EEA Involvement
4	Aquinnah Circle Area	10.26	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Limited*	No EEA Involvement
5	Aquinnah Headlands Preserve South	44.21	Town of Aquinnah, Dukes County, MVLB, & Sheriff's Meadow Foundation (SMF)	The various owners	Perpetuity	Parcel w/ Cultural Center was EEA Administered (no funding); Town parcel received EEA Funding
6	Philbin Beach	8.44	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Some parcels in Perpetuity & one parcel is Limited*	No EEA Involvement
7	SMF Nuovo	2.50	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
8	Tribe 9-184	2.66	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Unknown	No EEA Involvement
9	SMF Moshup Trail	5.04	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
10	SMF 12-19	1.73	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
11	Toad Rock Preserve	73.86	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (Fee-simple & Conservation Restriction)	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (MVLB)	Perpetuity; 1 parcel w/CR held by MVLB	Private parcel is EEA administered (no funding)
12	Moshup Trail	65.59	Town of Aquinnah, Private (w/CR held by VCS), Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS)	Town of Aquinnah & Vineyard Conservation Society	Perpetuity	Partially EEA Funded (Self-Help); Some parcels EEA Administered (no funding)
13	Town 12-73	2.84	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
14	SMF Nuovo	2.38	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
15	Town 11-22	5.76	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
16	SMF Squibnocket Pond	8.30	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	parcel 11-48 is EEA Administered (no funding)

Appendix B						
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix						
Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Management Agency	Conservation Status Note	Acquisition Method/EEA Involvement
17	Cook Lands	6.84	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Limited	No EEA Involvement
18	Town 8-26 & 8-31	15.63	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown	No EEA Involvement
19	SMF Nuovo	16.36	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
20	Gay Head Moraine	140.90	Town (w/CR held by MVLB) & Martha's Vineyard Land Bank	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (MVLB)	Perpetuity	Town parcels & 4-15.7 EEA administered (no funding)
21	SMF Wisniewski	5.14	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	SMF - perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
22	Town 9-24, 66, 103, & 113	5.44	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
23	SMF Egger	3.90	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
24	Indian Burial Ground	0.16	Gross	Private Owner - Adam & Neil Gross	Limited	No EEA Involvement
25	Gay Head Cemetery	2.96	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Limited*	No EEA Involvement
26	SMF Lighthouse Rd	6.58	Private (2 parcels w/CR held by SMF) & SMF owns 1 parcel	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	1 Private parcel is EEA administered (no funding)
27	SMF Lehman CR	1.32	Lehman w/CR held by SMF	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
28	SMF Leonard Preserve	15.06	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
29	Town 5-59	3.57	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
30	Dogfish Bar Beach Access	2.46	Department of Fish and Game	Department of Fish and Game	Perpetuity	EEA Funded
31	Town 5-88	2.87	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
32	Knapp Preserve	6.78	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
33	SMF Eastman	16.89	Eastman (w/CR held by SMF) & Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	Perpetuity	Private parcel is EEA administered (no funding)
34	Cranberry Lands	227.22	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Perpetuity (both parcels?)	No EEA Involvement
35	Menemsha Neck Preserve	12.80	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
36	Menemsha Neck	4.01	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Limited Protection*	No EEA Involvement

Appendix B

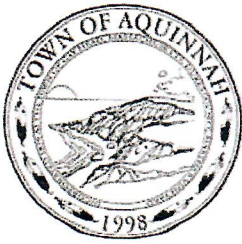
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix

Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Management Agency	Conservation Status Note	Acquisition Method/EEA Involvement
37	Town 3-5	1.73	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
38	Town 3-33	13.65	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
39	Town 4-21, 30, & 54	2.88	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
40	Tribe 8-9	0.69	Wampanoag Tribe	Wampanoag Tribe	Unknown	No EEA Involvement
41	Town 8-136, 137, & 141	3.32	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
42	Town 12-44 & 12-52	7.41	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
43	Town 12-147	0.86	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
44	Town 12-138 & 139	2.48	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Final Legalization Pending: These 2 parcels are in the process of being 'taken' by the Town. VCS is approved to hold the CR on these properties.	No EEA Involvement
45	Town 9-52.1	0.20	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
46	Town 6-33	0.46	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
47	Town 5-170.1 & 170.2	4.31	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
48	Town 9-173 & 9-184	3.20	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Unknown (is vacant town land)	No EEA Involvement
49	Town 5-100	1.74	Town of Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement
50	Town 9-153	2.10	Town of Aquinnah	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank	Perpetuity	No EEA Involvement

Appendix B								
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix								
Site Number	Name	Physical Description	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition (for those owned by the Town)	Recreation Potential	Deed Restriction (if applicable)
1	Gay Head Cliffs	Clay cliffs	Conservation	Limited	Beach access at base of cliff; On public bus route	Eroding clay cliff	Beach walk, Ocean swim	
2	Aquinnah Headlands Preserve North	Moraine	Conservation	Full Access on 17.8ac; No Access on 1.4ac	Trails; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	Hiking	
3	Gay Head Lighthouse	Lighthouse grounds	Historic	Limited	Lighthouse, walking path, overlook visitors' site; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	Lighthouse Tours	
4	Aquinnah Circle Area	Bluff with shops	Historic & Recreation	Full Access	Cultural Center, Restrooms, Public Parking; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance & Town considering upgrading public bathroom facilities	Museum Tour	
5	Aquinnah Headlands Preserve South	Beach with walking path to/from parking lot; Also contains the Aquinnah Cultural Center	Conservation	Full Access	Cultural Center; Walking path; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	Beach walk, Ocean swim	
6	Philbin Beach	Beach	Recreation	Limited	none	Receives ongoing maintenance	Beach walk, Ocean swim	
7	SMF Nuovo	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
8	Tribe 9-184	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Unknown	Limited	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
9	SMF Moshup Trail	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	1 parcels yes; 2 parcels no	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	Future trails	
10	SMF 12-19	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	Full Access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
11	Toad Rock Preserve	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	8.2ac Full Access; 65.6ac Full Access	Trails	Receives ongoing maintenance	Hiking	Conservation Restriction (CR)
12	Moshup Trail	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	Conservation Restriction (CR)
13	Town 12-73	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
14	SMF Nuovo	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Conservation	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
15	Town 11-22	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
16	SMF Squibnocket Pond	Herring creek & abuts pond - Squibnocket	Conservation	No public access except to town residents (on 0.45ac right of way) for fishing access to pond	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	Hiking	

Appendix B								
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix								
Site Number	Name	Physical Description	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition (for those owned by the Town)	Recreation Potential	Deed Restriction (if applicable)
17	Cook Lands	Herring creek & abuts pond - Menemsha	Conservation	Limited	Shellfish Hatchery; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	no recreation plan	
18	Town 8-26 & 8-31	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Unknown	Unknown	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
19	SMF Nuovo	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Conservation	Full Access	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
20	Gay Head Moraine	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Conservation	About 60% of the property is fully accessible; about 40% is not publicly accessible	Trails; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	Hiking	Conservation Restriction (CR)
21	SMF Wisniewski	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Recreation & Conservation and	No Public Access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
22	Town 9-24, 66, 103, & 113	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
23	SMF Egger	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	Full Access	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
24	Indian Burial Ground	Inland Morain Area	Other	No public access	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
25	Gay Head Cemetery	Inland Morain Area	Historic	Full Access	Cemetery; On public bus route	Receives ongoing maintenance	quiet park-like space	
26	SMF Lighthouse Rd	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	SMF Parcel - Full Access; Other - no access	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	Conservation Restriction (CR)
27	SMF Lehman CR	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	Conservation Restriction (CR)
28	SMF Leonard Preserve	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	Full Access	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no trails planned	
29	Town 5-59	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
30	Dogfish Bar Beach Access	Shoreline accretion area	Recreation & Conservation	Full Access	Fishing pier	Receives ongoing maintenance	Fishing	
31	Town 5-88	Wetland area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
32	Knapp Preserve	Woodland area	Conservation	Full Access	none	Receives ongoing maintenance	nature study area	
33	SMF Eastman	Pond shoreline - low vegetation	Conservation	Private parcel -no access; SMF parcels - full access	Trails	Receives ongoing maintenance	Hiking	Conservation Restriction (CR)
34	Cranberry Lands	Cranberry bogs	Conservation	Limited	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
35	Menemsha Neck Preserve	Pond shoreline	Conservation	Full Access	none	Receives ongoing maintenance	Hiking	
36	Menemsha Neck	Pond shoreline	Conservation	Limited	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	Hiking along coastline	

Appendix B								
Aquinnah Open Space/Conservation Land Matrix								
Site Number	Name	Physical Description	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition (for those owned by the Town)	Recreation Potential	Deed Restriction (if applicable)
37	Town 3-5	Pond shoreline	Conservation	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
38	Town 3-33	Pond shoreline	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
39	Town 4-21, 30, & 54	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Unknown	Unknown	On public bus route	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
40	Tribe 8-9	Woodland north of Moshup Trail	Unknown	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
41	Town 8-136, 137, & 141	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
42	Town 12-44 & 12-52	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
43	Town 12-147	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
44	Town 12-138 & 139	Heathland Area along Moshup Trail	Conservation	No public access	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	Final Legalization Pending: CR is Approved
45	Town 9-52.1	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
46	Town 6-33	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
47	Town 5-170.1 & 170.2	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
48	Town 9-173 & 9-184	Inland Morain Area	Unknown	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
49	Town 5-100	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	Unknown	none	Natural (non-manicured) growth	no recreation plan	
50	Town 9-153	Inland Morain Area	Conservation	Unknown	none			
		Total Acres Conserved:		831.70				
		Percentage within Town:		24.35%				
		Total Acres of Vacant Unknown Protection Town Land:			72.4	2.1%		
		Total Acres Open Space/Conserved:		831.70	765	NOT including Vacant Unknown Protection Town Land		
		Percentage within Town:		24.35%	22%	NOT including Vacant Unknown Protection Town Land		



TOWN OF AQUINNAH

955 State Road, Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
Tel. (508) 645-2300 - Fax (508) 645-7884
www.aquinnah-ma.gov

August 10, 2020

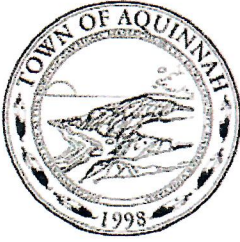
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Saltonstall Building – No. 900
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

The Board of Selectmen reconfirm their endorsement of the Aquinnah Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within. We are excited to see our community's vision of protected open space and public access come to fruition.

Sincerely,

James Newman

Chair
Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF AQUINNAH

955 State Road, Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
Tel. (508) 645-2300 - Fax (508) 645-7884
www.aquinnah-ma.gov

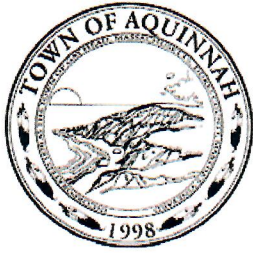
September 3, 2020

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Saltonstall Building – No. 900
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

The Aquinnah Park & Recreation Committee hereby confirms their endorsement of the Aquinnah Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within. We are excited to see our community's vision of protected open space and public access come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Chair
Aquinnah Park & Recreation Committee



TOWN OF AQUINNAH

955 State Road, Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
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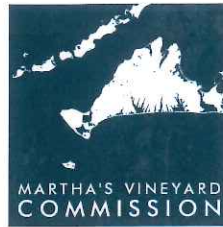
September 15, 2020

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Saltonstall Building – No. 900
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

The Aquinnah Planning Board reconfirms their endorsement of the Aquinnah Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within. We are excited to see our community's vision of protected open space and public access come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Chair
Aquinnah Planning Board



August 10, 2020

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Saltonstall Building – No. 900
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

The Martha's Vineyard Commission fully endorses this Aquinnah Open Space and Recreation Plan and supports all the goals and policies contained within. We are honored to work with the community of Aquinnah as their Regional Planning Agency and to help them achieve their vision of greater protected open space and public access.

Sincerely,

Adam Turner
Executive Director
Martha's Vineyard Commission

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