

OAK BLUFF'S HOUSING FUTURE

Oak Bluffs community members envision that in 2027 the community will continue to value its diversity, safe and historic neighborhoods, rich recreational assets, waterfront views, vibrancy as a tourist destination, and highly-engaged year-round population. Recognized as the Island's hub, this walkable and bikeable community will make great strides in creating greater housing options that balance the needs of all year-round residents more equitably, including low/moderate-income households. The Oak Bluffs community hopes that all Island towns will work together to help create affordable workforce housing in Oak Bluffs, which is critical to supporting the regional resources, such as the hospital, regional high school, Community Services, and the YMCA.



Through thoughtful, sustainable housing development, resource allocation, and expanded infrastructure capacity, including public sewer, the town will carefully managed its growth as one of the largest and most vibrant of the Island's towns. Community members envision that Oak Bluffs will increase the diversity of housing choice in the community with the creation of intergenerational apartment complexes in key areas of town; in-law apartments; year-round affordable rental units; townhouses; condominiums; and mixed-use "top-of-the-shop" buildings in commercial areas.

Community members hope that the town will support and encourage affordable housing by creating new tax incentives, updating zoning, and working collaboratively to lobby for a new Vineyard Housing Bank, modeled after the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank. Community members envision conversions of larger homes to multi-family units; the building of smaller homes, including micro houses; development of cluster housing and cohousing on larger properties; and that older homes will be kept-up through a well-funded housing rehab program for low/moderate-income homeowners.

The purpose of these efforts to expand housing options will be to support and enhance the community's diversity and provide more affordable year-round housing options for community members including adult children who couldn't otherwise afford to live in the community where they were raised.