



Final Accepted
Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Gosnold

Prepared by the Martha's Vineyard Commission

May 20, 2020



Section 1: Plan Summary	1
Section 2: Introduction	1
A.- Statement of purpose	1
B.- Planning Process and Public Participation	2
Section 3: Community Setting	3
A.- Regional Context	3
B.- History of the Cuttyhunk Community	7
C.- Population Characteristics	10
D.- Growth and development patterns	16
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis	23
A.- Geology, Soils and Topography	23
B.- Landscape Character	28
C.- Water Resources	30
D.- Vegetation	37
E.- Fisheries and Wildlife	45
F.- Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	49
G.- Environmental Challenges	52
Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	55
A.- Private Parcels	59
B.- Public & Nonprofit Parcels	59
Section 6: Community Vision	61
A.- Description of Process	61
B.- Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals	62
Section 7: Analysis of Needs	62
A.- Summary of Resource Protection Needs	62
B.- Summary of Community's Needs	62
C.- Management Needs, Potential Change of Use	64
Section 8: Goals and Objectives	65
Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan	66
Section 10: Public Comments	71
A.- Local Review	71
B.- Division of Conservation Services Approval	71
Section 11: References	71
Appendix A: ADA Evaluation & Facility Inventory	74
Appendix B: Tables	74
Appendix C: Supporting Documents	74

Appendix D: Survey Results

74

Appendix E: Acknowledgements

74

Map 1: Overview.....5

Map 2: Zoning6

Map 3: Population - Cuttyhunk..... 14

Map 3b: Population..... 15

Map 4: Zoning - Cuttyhunk 19

Map 4b: Zoning.....20

Map 5: Development Over Time21

Map 6: Infrastructure22

Map 7: Surficial Geology - Cuttyhunk.....24

Map 7b: Surficial Geology.....25

Map 8: Soils - Cuttyhunk.....26

Map 8b: Soils.....27

Map 9: Unique Features - Cuttyhunk29

Map 10: Water Resources32

Map 11: Flood Zones - Cuttyhunk.....33

Map 11b – Flood Zones.....34

Map 12: Critical Facilities - Cuttyhunk.....35

Map 12b: Critical Facilities - Naushon.....36

Map 13: Vegetation - Cuttyhunk39

Map 13b: Vegetation40

Map 14: Land Use/Land Cover - Cuttyhunk.....41

Map 14b: Land Use /Land Cover42

Map 15: NHESP & BioMap2 Habitats - Cuttyhunk.....43

Map 15b: NHESP & BioMap2 Habitats44

Map 16: Shellfish Suitability Areas.....47

Map 17: Avian Areas48

Map 18: Unique Features - Cuttyhunk50

Map 18b: Unique Features51

Map 19: Environmental Challenges54

Map 20: Conservation Land - Cuttyhunk.....56

Map 20b: Conservation Land.....57

Map 21: Anticipated Future Acquisitions.....58

Map 22: Action Plan70

Section 1: Plan Summary

The town of Gosnold in Dukes County is not a town in the traditional sense. Gosnold is the Elizabeth Islands, which stretch for 16 miles southwest from Falmouth, separating Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound. Gosnold encompasses a total area of 140 square miles and most of it, 127 square miles, is water. There are only 13 square miles of land in town. The major islands in the chain are [Naushon](#), [Pasque](#), [Nashawena](#), [Cuttyhunk](#), and [Penikese](#).

Gosnold has the smallest population of the 351 cities & towns in Massachusetts — 75 — living in 39 households. The highly seasonal population is both an asset and a liability. Nine months of the year the man-made footprint is negligible. At the same time, the year-round population is declining and the viability of sustaining a healthy year-round population is an ongoing concern.

Property owners and visitors alike prize Gosnold for its unspoiled vistas and clean water and air. One would be hard pressed to find a town in the Commonwealth with less pollution — air, water, noise and light — than Gosnold.

All the Elizabeth Islands are privately owned except for Cuttyhunk and Penikese. Penikese is owned by the Commonwealth and the remaining Elizabeth Islands are owned by three real estate trusts. These owners have a long-standing tradition of land conservation, limited development, and seasonal public access to major beaches.

Cuttyhunk is the westernmost isle in the archipelago, located 12 miles south of New Bedford and eight miles west of Martha's Vineyard. It is the most populated island, it has the greatest amount of housing density, the most access to and from the mainland, and is also the seat of town government. Because of these factors, the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Gosnold will focus primarily on Cuttyhunk.

Section 2: Introduction

A.- Statement of purpose

This is the first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for Gosnold. The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) drafted this Plan to determine the priorities of Gosnold residents regarding open space preservation and to learn their recreational preferences. The plan also analyzes current open space inventory and historical land use in Gosnold.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared following the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services. A wide inventory of resources were consulted during the drafting of this document.

A series of public hearings were held during the process and response to an online survey was particularly strong. The OSRP summarizes the feedback from townspeople and input from elected officials.

The MVC last completed an opinion survey on Cuttyhunk in 2005. Preservation of open space, protection of the public water supply, and the stabilization of barrier beaches were the primary concerns for islanders and visitors. They remain top priorities today. Climate change presents a considerable challenge for this town of islands and must be weighed accordingly. Recent years have shown Gosnold is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and to the increasing number and severity of storms.

The plan can be updated as necessary. Typically, in Massachusetts, Open Space and Recreation Plans are revised every seven years. A seven-year action plan has been formulated, with public officials, representing the desires of the residents, consulted for comment and revision.

B.- Planning Process and Public Participation

The MVC held a public meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Gosnold town hall on Cuttyhunk and pursuant to that meeting, drafted an online survey to gauge the opinions of year-round residents, seasonal residents, and visitors. While the public meeting was lightly attended, 112 people responded to the 26-question online survey.



Photo: Public Meeting 6/11/18 - Gosnold Town Hall

The online survey was distributed through an email blast used for communication of Town activities, meeting dates, and announcements. The survey was sent to year-round residents, seasonal residents, and other interested parties.

The public was informed of the May 11 and June 29 meetings by the same community list distribution and announcements were posted around the island.

The MVC also reached out to trustees of the other Elizabeth Islands for their input regarding the specific vision and future conservation/recreation goals for their island community.

The MVC held a second public meeting at Gosnold town hall on Friday June 29, 2018. The draft Plan was presented, and feedback was sought regarding goals, objectives, and a 5-year action plan. There were 18 attendees; one year-round resident and 17 seasonal residents. All were Cuttyhunk property owners. There were no attendees from any other Elizabeth Island.

The draft plan was revised in the Spring of 2020 per feedback from EEA. The Board of Selectmen contributed key sections, including the extension of the Action Plan to a 7-year timeframe, completing the ADA access self-evaluation, and history of the community. The Martha's Vineyard Commission continued their support to the revisions by contributing additional maps and writing about vegetation, habitat, and cultural resources present on Gosnold.

The revised plan was provided to the Board of Selectmen for review on April 23, 2020; minor edits were completed as needed, and the final version was provided for public review on April

27, 2020. The public had access to the plan via the Martha's Vineyard Commission's website and were notified via the community email list.

As a separate endeavor, but one which dovetails nicely into the Town's open space and recreation concepts, is the multi-year effort lead by the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) in partnership with the Town, to protect the habitat and water quality of Buzzards Bay and provide access to open space by conserving approximately 300 acres on Cuttyhunk Island, including the donation of a conservation restriction to BBC on a large privately owned property. The Cuttyhunk Land Conservation Project involves fee acquisitions of approximately 70 acres of various parcels by the Town and BBC (and double protected by conservation restrictions held by the other). Many public discussions and information sessions have surrounded the pursuance of conserving these 70 acres, including two articles passed at 2019 Town Meeting in order to advance the project.

Starting in May 11 of 2018, The BBC spoke of their vision at the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) meeting. They returned to the island on May 27, 2018 for a discussion over dinner at the Avalon with the Long-Range Planning Committee. The BBC updated the BOS quarterly, in-person on Cuttyhunk over the next year and a half. Attending meetings on 10/13/2018, 1/26/2019, 3/29/2019, and 5/20/2019.

The BBC also attended the popular Community Dinners on Cuttyhunk where approximately 70 attendees got their questions answered about the proposed land protection project. These dinners occurred in the summer of 2018 and 2019.

Please note, the town of Gosnold does not contain any Environmental Justice communities (as mapped by MassGIS). Therefore, no special outreach was needed to include this population in this planning process.

Section 3: Community Setting

A.- Regional Context

(see Map 1 Overview and Map 2 Zoning)

Seasonal and permanent residents express concern about the dwindling year-round population on Cuttyhunk. The population peaked around 1915 when population of Gosnold reached 155, with 50 living on Cuttyhunk. 28 percent of that population was foreign-born.

Today, there are no stores or restaurants open year-round on Cuttyhunk. Cuttyhunk has the last operational one-room schoolhouse in Massachusetts, serving grades K - 8. One student just graduated, leaving one student at the school.

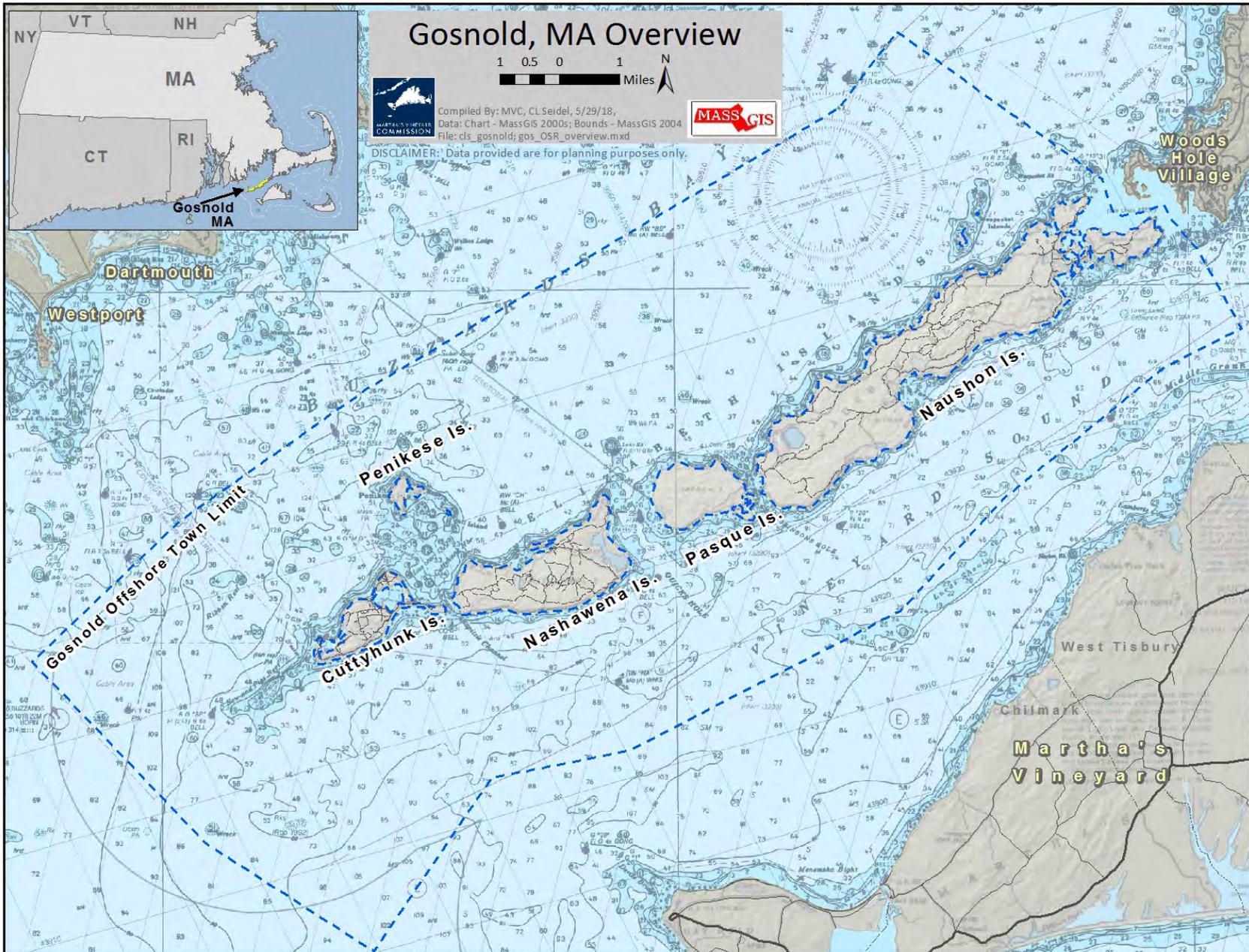
According to the 2012 Cuttyhunk Master Plan, there are 134 properties on the island, with the average assessed value of a single-family property of \$1,079,265. Property taxes on Cuttyhunk, 2.76 percent, are the second lowest in Massachusetts. Chilmark, also in Dukes County, has the lowest rate of 2.75 percent, according the Massachusetts [Department of Revenue](#). The total property valuation of Cuttyhunk is \$232 million.

Like many Island-based, tourism-driven locations, Cuttyhunk has a bifurcated economy. The Average Median Income (AMI) on Cuttyhunk is \$33,067, far below the state AMI of \$75,297, while the median house value, \$839,000, is far greater the \$366,900 [state average](#).

The harbor brings in about 30 percent of town revenue, although this figure is somewhat weather dependent. In FY17, revenue from the harbor and wharf totaled \$413,000. The Gosnold town budget for FY17 was \$1,381,944. The construction of a new pump out station is complete and now in operation. A Cuttyhunk Harbor Commission was established in 1984, that same year public moorings were installed.



View across Cuttyhunk Pond overlooking the marina area



Map 1: Overview



Map 2: Zoning

B.- History of the Cuttyhunk Community

Cuttyhunk was originally named Pooquohhunkkunnah by the native [Wampanoag](#), translating to “point of departure” or “land’s end.” It was the first English settlement in New England.

[Bartholomew Gosnold](#) led the landing on Cuttyhunk in 1602, 18 years before the Pilgrims landed in Provincetown. Gosnold and his crew stayed for 22 days. They harvested one ton of sassafras — a valuable commodity in Europe thought to heal venereal disease.

Ownership of Cuttyhunk changed frequently in the ensuing years. In 1635, the Elizabeth Islands became the property of William Alexander, 1st Earl of Stirling, who sold the islands to [Thomas Mayhew](#) in 1641. In 1668, Mayhew sold Cuttyhunk to Philip Smith, Peleg Sanford, and Thomas Ward of Newport, Rhode Island. In 1688, Sanford bought out his partners sold half of Cuttyhunk to Ralph Earle of [Dartmouth](#). He sold to his son, Ralph Jr.

In 1693, Peleg Slocum purchased all holdings on Cuttyhunk and became its sole owner. The Slocum family continued to live on Cuttyhunk for close to two hundred years. Paul Cuffe, famous Quaker ship captain and entrepreneur, was born on Cuttyhunk in 1759. He was the son of Wampanoag Ruth Moses and freed slave Kofi Slocum, farm managers on the island for owner John Slocum. In 1780, Cuffe led a group of free blacks to petition the Massachusetts government for the first time to either give African Americans and Native Americans voting rights, or to stop taxing them.

Born in 1815 on Nashawena (the island located next to Cuttyhunk), Mary Devol Slocum Allen Daggett moved to Cuttyhunk in the 1830’s and is considered the matriarch of Cuttyhunk. Her descendants include the Veeder, Akin, and Tilton families - with some of these families still living on the island.

The 1850 U.S. Census lists 30 residents on Cuttyhunk. In 1864, the Town of Gosnold was incorporated. Also, in 1864, the Cuttyhunk Club was incorporated.



View up to Lookout Hill

The club was frequented by luminaries — Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Grover Cleveland and William Taft, railroad tycoon Jay Gould, and Standard Oil President J.D. Archbold. The

importance of the striped bass to this community is evidenced today by the striped bass weathervane perched atop the one church on the island. The land for the church — then known as Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church — was donated by the club. The Cuttyhunk school was built in 1873 also on land donated by the club.

A census of the Elizabeth Islands done in 1874 by Reverend Elias Nason states the total population of the Elizabeth Islands is 99 people, which includes 13 farmers on 8,301 acres, 32 houses, 270 sheep, 33 horses, and 53 cows. The first Gosnold town meeting took place in 1874 on Naushon. The Cuttyhunk library was established in 1892.

For many years farming, piloting for whales and fishing were the mainstays of the island community. A lighthouse was built in 1823, with the Massachusetts Humane Society establishing a presence on island to aid ship-wrecked boats and mariners - a frequent occurrence off the shores of Cuttyhunk. The Humane Society became the U.S. Life-Saving Service - eventually to become the U. S. Coast Guard. In the 1960's the Coast Guard station was closed, and now the island is served by the Menemsha Coast Guard station.

No major changes to the island occurred until 1863 when the Elizabeth Islands petitioned for permission to separate from Chilmark to become the township of Gosnold. Granted by the State Legislature, the first town meeting was held in 1864 on Naushon Island, but by 1874 town meetings were held in the Cuttyhunk schoolhouse.

Beginning in the 1880s tourism came into its own as a result of regular ferry service from New Bedford. With lobstering an important summer occupation, islanders began to offer shore dinners, and several island homes became boarding houses. Today tourism continues to be a main source of revenue for the community and the Town.

20th Century

In 1907 Mr. Wood purchased additional land on which was built a house, Avalon, used as his primary island home until a new house, Winter House, was constructed in 1920. Construction of the Avalon was supervised by Walton Jenkins of Rochester, MA -- the first descendent of the current Jenkins family on island.

In 1918 the Avalon became a convalescent facility for disabled Allied soldiers of World War I, and used by a few officers and non-commissioned officers. Known as "The Avalon Club", this facility was run by Mr. Wood's daughter, Rosalind Wood, as its superintendent with the American Red Cross initiating the program. Managed by Dr. Norman E. Ditman as the Medical Director, officers were able to take advantage of swimming, sailing, and fishing, as well as use of a tennis court, bowling alley, and pool table. Also, in 1918 the Avalon Club housed several children from Boston Children's Hospital. Unfortunately, this facility only ran for 2 years.

In subsequent years the Avalon was sold numerous times and run as an inn and a private home. Its last owner, David Baumgarten established the Marilyn Snow House Foundation (MSHF) in memory of his wife for the purpose of benefiting the Town of Gosnold. It is a 501(c)(3) entity and is run by a 7-member board consisting of two Baumgarten family members and 5 members of the community. Its mission is to enrich the health, well-being, and cultural life of Cuttyhunk by carefully stewarding the historic Avalon property and dedicating it to the needs and interests of the islanders.

This mission is seen in a number of programs and events hosted by the Foundation: (1) a physicians' program was established in the late 1990's that provides medical services from mid-

June through mid-September and is housed in an area of the Avalon. This facility is the only medical service available to the community and visitors and is a critical and important asset for the island; (2) for the past three years the Avalon has hosted writers' and artists' residency workshops. Readings, talks, and concerts held during the workshops are open to the public. Past artists that have taken part in the workshops include Pulitzer Prize awardees and National Book Award winners. These programs continue to grow and truly benefit the cultural life of the island.

The Cuttyhunk Club disbanded in 1921, in large part because of declining fish stocks. Looking for a bucolic summer retreat for his family, in 1921, [William M. Wood](#), president of American Woolen Company, bought out the Cuttyhunk Club, along with all other Cuttyhunk land that was for sale. Wood was born on Martha's Vineyard; his birth name was Joaquim Medeiros Sylvania. He was instrumental in introducing electricity with underground power lines, sewerage, town water, telephone, and harbor improvements.

The U.S. Army installed artillery and outposts on Cuttyhunk at the beginning of World War II. Fishing continued to be a primary work for islanders until islanders went off to war. After the war power boats came into their own, and Cuttyhunk and the waters of Gosnold were well known for islanders fishing for striped bass, swordfish, tuna, and white marlin. An annual sword fishing tournament was held from 1960-1973 and attracted fishermen from all over the east coast.

Public moorings were installed in 1984, the same year in which the Town's Harbor Commission was established. The marina and harbor now provide a substantial revenue stream for the Town.

Winter life has always been a challenge to the island's year-rounders. Weather frequently prevents the twice-weekly ferry to run, and the harbor has been known to freeze over - not allowing access to and from the mainland. However, residents are hardy and resilient. During the shoulder seasons year-rounders continue to support themselves in numerous ways such as serving as caretakers of seasonal residents and renovating and repairing homes. Come spring, they turn to charter fishing and running small food, retail, and rental businesses.

Weather Impacts and Town Layout

Hurricanes and disasters have had a profound effect on the island. The great hurricane of 1938 struck a direct blow to Cuttyhunk with recorded wind gusts of 185 mph. The 1944 hurricane with 100 mph winds caused more damage to homes, the main wharf, and beach erosion than the 1938 hurricane with the Vineyard Sound Lightship sinking and losing all its crew. Gusts of 150 mph were clocked during the 1954 Hurricane Carol, again with major damage down to houses and docks. Nor'easters and hurricanes continue to cause damage to Cuttyhunk, and in the last 20 years, such storms have caused significant over-washing and breaching of the beaches on the south side of the island - which continues today. Over the years, numerous shipwreck disasters have occurred on the south shores of the islands and have resulted in tragedies for islanders. The worse tragedy involving the brig *Aquatic* in 1893, resulting in the death of five men from the Cuttyhunk Massachusetts Humane Society. The last New Bedford whaling ship, the *Wanderer*, sank off the west end of the island.

The village center encompasses the Town Hall, library, school, church and parsonage, and the Cuttyhunk Historical Society. Since 1873 the one-room schoolhouse continues to educate the

island children. Enrollment has varied from year to year, and since 150 has ranged from a high of 13 students to currently 1 student. The Cuttyhunk Public Library has been open since 1892, and with a collection of over 10,000 books, it serves the community and visitors as a welcoming retreat. Founded in 1978, the mission of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society is to preserve the traditions, records, and history of the Elizabeth Islands. Our church's worship program is designed to include a wide range of Catholic, Episcopal, Unitarian, Congregational, Methodist, Lutheran, and Jewish worshippers, and also conducts a youth program, Cuttyhunk Cares Kids. In the past this program has volunteered work at the New Bedford Food Bank, participated in an island beach clean-up, and raised funds to send New Bedford children to summer camp.

Infrastructure

With the closing of the island's dump in 1993, a transfer station was built by the ferry and Town docks. All solid waste and recyclables are now taken off island by barge.

In the last 20 years, the island's infrastructure has been vastly improved. These improvements include: (1) the installation of three underground water tanks that supply the island's water; (2) renovation of the Fish Dock and the fish sheds occupied by island fishermen and marine businessmen; (3) rebuilding of the Town Dock; (4) closing of the Town's sewer outfall with homeowners installing septic systems; (5) building of a ferry dock off the Coast Guard Boat House; and (6) installation of a pump-out facility for boaters. Also, in 2017 a solar farm began operation. This facility is overseen by the Town's electric light commissioners and provides the majority of electricity to residents and boats at the Town's marina. In winter it provides ~80% of off-season electricity. The costs of the solar farm, new ferry dock, and rebuilding of the Town Dock were generously supported by grants from the U. S. Agricultural Department and the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council.

Plans are currently underway to create a visitors center located in the Town-owned Coast Guard Boat House at the ferry dock. Cost of this center is possible with a grant from the State.

In April 2018 the Town signed a Commonwealth Compact Community agreement with the Baker-Polito Administration to work as partners in implementing best practices. These best practices allow the Town to receive bonus points on selected state grant programs and to be prioritized for various technical assistance programs. The Town's two best practices are (1) manage water system assets so that the condition of the infrastructure is known and a plan for regular maintenance and rehabilitation is implemented; and (2) expand aquaculture economic development to encourage expansion of year-round resident population.

C.- Population Characteristics

(see Map 3 Population)

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#), Gosnold has the smallest population of the 312 towns in Massachusetts — 75 — living in 39 households. There are 215 housing units in Gosnold, 174 of which are seasonal. 96 percent of the year-round population is Caucasian, four percent is mixed race. It's important to note that the last census was done in 2010 and that these numbers fluctuate from year to year.

For comparison, the American Community Survey's 5-year estimate reports the following numbers for Gosnold. For comparison purposes, the table also includes the six other towns within Dukes County.

Per ACS Five-year Estimate (2013-2017)	Selected Housing Characteristics; Demographic & Housing Estimates						
	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Gosnold	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	West Tisbury
Total Housing Unit	490	1622	214	5399	4658	3121	2173
(aka year-round unit) Occupied	139	329	18	1597	1684	1442	930
(aka seasonal unit) Vacant	351	1293	196	3802	2974	1679	1243
Avg Household Size Owner-Occupied	4.47	3.4	2.14	2.69	2.95	3.27	2.48
Avg Household Size Renter-Occupied	4.97	3.26	not avail.	2.42	1.83	1.92	3.11
Total Population (Year-round)	640	1117	34	4292	4675	4100	2417
Avg year-round per House Unit	4.60	3.40	1.89	2.69	2.78	2.84	2.60
Number of Seasonal Housing Units	351	1293	196	3802	2974	1679	1243
Guest population of Year-rounders	97	230	13	1118	1179	1009	651
Seasonal Resident Population Count	1674	6168	935	18136	14186	8009	5929
TOTAL (Peak/In-Season) Pop Count	2412	7515	982	23545	20040	13118	8997
Avg in-season per House Unit	4.92	4.63	4.59	4.36	4.30	4.20	4.14

While Cuttyhunk is the metropolis of the Elizabeth Islands, it is a remote island, with a highly seasonal economy and population. The current estimated year-round population is 20, which keeps the human footprint minimal nine months out of the year.

The peak summertime population is roughly 400. That number doesn't include the heavy boat traffic in the harbor — Cuttyhunk Pond. The harbor is the main engine of the Cuttyhunk economy with an estimated 7,500 boats visiting last summer.

Employment Trends

The main employment within Gosnold is that of municipal employees and self-employed entrepreneurial. A town of any population size still requires the full suite of municipal employees to conduct the official business of the town and to keep its residents and visitors safe. The table below lists the municipal positions within the town. The town hall, school, library, and public marina are located on Cuttyhunk and so are all these positions.

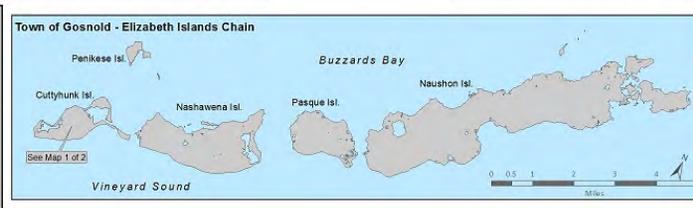
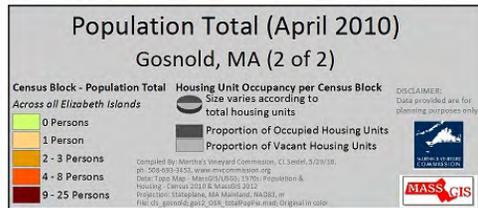
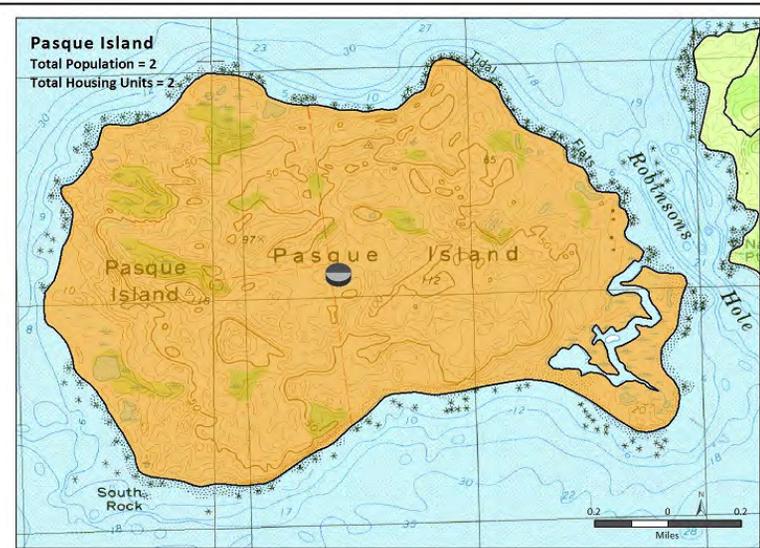
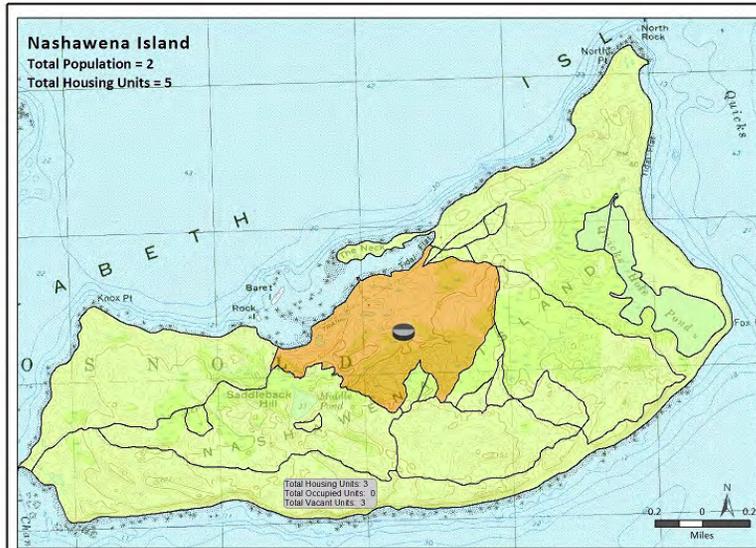
Category	Position	Renumeration Category	Filled as of April 2020
Finance			
	Select Person (3-person board)	Salary	Yes
	Town Clerk	Salary	Yes
	Auditor	Salary	Yes
	Select Board's Secretary	Hourly	Yes
	Billing Clerk	Hourly	Yes
	Treasurer	Salary	Yes
	Tax Collector	Salary	Yes
	Assessor	Hourly	Yes
	Town Clerk Assistant (vacant)	Hourly	
Resource Based			
	Wharfinger	Commission	Yes
	Shellfish Warden	Hourly	
	Dog Warden	Hourly	
	Animal Officer	Hourly	
	Mooring Collector	Commission	Yes
	Harbor Master	Salary	
	Shellfish Constable	Hourly	
	Forest Warden	Hourly	
	Wharf Assistant (vacant)	Hourly	
Public Works			
	Highway Supervisor	Hourly	
	Public Toilet Manager (vacant)	Hourly	
	Power Plant Manager	Salary	Yes
	Solid Waste Manager	Salary	Yes
	Water Dept Manager	Salary	Yes
	Assistant Water Dept Manager	Hourly	
	Cemetery Manager (vacant)	Hourly	
Public Safety			
	Police Chief	Salary	Yes
	Fire Chief	Salary	Yes
	Emergency Management Director	Hourly	Yes
	Board of Health Agent	Hourly	
Education			
	School Teacher	Salary	Yes
	Librarian	Salary	Yes

Note: Position titles highlighted in identical color are filled by the same person.

While the other islands within the Elizabeth Island chain only provide caretaker positions, on Cuttyhunk there are a handful of businesses including; two inns, three restaurants, and one market; all of which are only open seasonally. Contractors and caretakers round out the remaining employment on Cuttyhunk.

The goal for future employment includes hiring a town administrator and reorganizing some municipal positions to reduce redundancy and practice government efficiency. The town is also working on improving their broadband internet connection to make it possible for people to tele-commute from Cuttyhunk.

Now that the Cuttyhunk School is without students, it is currently being used for special STEAM (science technology engineering arts math) weeklong programs by visiting school groups. However, enduring this loss of an operational school for local, year-round children is quite the loss to the community. The residents of Cuttyhunk are concerned about losing their spirit of community as the number of year-round residents dwindles. The goal of enticing new people to the island and telecommuting to secure mainland jobs, is the community's primary economic goal.



Map 3b: Population

D.- Growth and development patterns

(see Map 4 Zoning, Map 5 Development Over Time and Map 6 Infrastructure)

Cuttyhunk's most valuable resource is its scenic beauty and pristine environment and Islanders are passionate about preserving it. In addition, because of its remoteness and the high cost of real estate, development on Cuttyhunk has been minimal and looks to remain that way in the foreseeable future. Please see section 6 for a description of the Cuttyhunk community's vision for future protected open space and public access.

The table below shows the slow and minimal growth on Cuttyhunk over the years. The count of structures does not account for teardowns that may have occurred.

Cuttyhunk Development Over Time	
Year	Number of Structures
Pre-1900	13
1900 to 1918	32
1919 to 1945	22
1946 to 1969	47
1970 to 1989	31
1990 to Present	30
Total	175

Data from Town Assessor's Records (FY15) and MassGIS Structures Dataset (2017)

The various islands comprising Gosnold have had a long history of land protection and minimal development. Penikese Island, 88 acres, was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game in 1924 for the purpose of conservation. The entirety of Nashawena Island 1,790 acres, was placed under a conservation restriction, held by The Trustees of Reservations, in 1976.

Pasque island has minimal development (only 2 acres). There is 10 acres of vacant developable residential land, and the remainder of the island (858 acres) is listed in the FY15 assessor's records as land use code 8000 (Chapter 61B – Open Space). The designated Chapter 61B land is not available for development and a lien to this effect is attached to the property. Should the property change hands, the lien is transferred to the new owner. However, the owner (current or new) reserves the right to remove the property from Chapter 61B program and change the use to something else.

Naushon has been owned by the same family since 1856 and has had minimal development. Anecdotally, a current resident of Naushon shared that only 2 homes, an equipment barn, and a solar energy facility have been built in his 60-plus years lifetime. Per the assessor's records (FY15) Naushon contains 4,832 acres of vacant residential developable land (just over 90% of the island); approximately 7% (400 acres) is vacant residential undevelopable land) and the remainder of the island's land is currently developed.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Regarding public transportation infrastructure, the only island with public ferry service is Cuttyhunk. The Cuttyhunk Ferry (foot passengers only) runs a single round-trip 2 days a week in the off-season and two round-trips daily in the summer season. While there are a handful of

automobiles on Cuttyhunk, the primary motorized mode of transportation is by golf cart. No public transportation service is available on the island.

On Naushon, the ferry (also foot passengers only) is private for residents, staff, contractors, and guests. It runs year-round on a schedule and on demand for special trips. It also serves as the school bus for children attending school in Falmouth. There is no other form of public transportation on any of the islands.

All the islands are powered by combination of generators, fueled by oil, and more recently, solar energy. All utility lines are buried, and phone service is provided to Cuttyhunk from Verizon via a cell tower.

There is a central public well on Cuttyhunk which serves all the island's residents. There are three underground water tanks which store the water. The other islands have individual wells at each residence. Gosnold has received a USDA grant /loan in the amount of \$2.9 million in September of 2020, to be used for a new wellfield, automated pumping system and the replacement of 1.6 miles of asbestos cement pipe in its water distribution system. Funding for this public water infrastructure improvement is pending approval at the annual 2020 town meeting. The town will be taking on a long-term, low interest loan to fund the project.

None of the islands have a central sewage treatment plant. On Cuttyhunk, a massive effort was undertaken from 2013-2016 to remove 30 properties from outfall pipes running into Vineyard Sound and upgrade their sewer systems to Title V septic. As other properties sell to non-family members, those properties are upgraded to Title V septic. The properties on the other islands all use private septic systems as well. These are a mix of Title V, pre-Title V, and a possible cesspool or two. The Cuttyhunk marina also has recently received water quality improvements with the installation of a pump-out facility for boaters and public restrooms connected to a Title V septic complete with adequate leaching field.

Long-Term Development Patterns

The beginning of this section described Gosnold's historic development. Going forward, the town is limiting future development through zoning regulations and by placing land into formal conservation. The two zoning areas are District 1 (0.17 acre minimum parcel size) and District 2 (1 acre minimum parcel size). District 1 is on the eastern end of Cuttyhunk. The remainder of Cuttyhunk and the other 4 islands are all within District 2.

The island-by-island breakdown of future development looks like this based on current parcel configuration, minimum lot size, existing conservation, & anticipated BBC conservation:

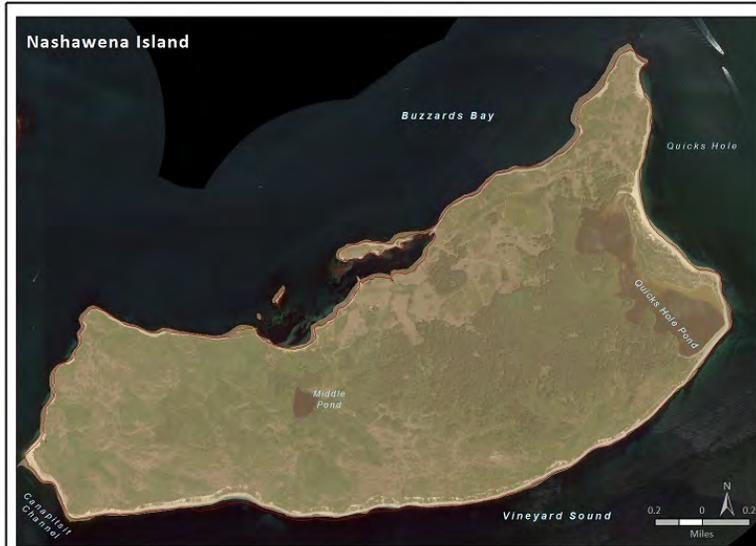
- Penikese – No future development – Conserved by MA Dept. of Fisheries
- Nashawena – No future development – CR Held by TTOR
- Pasque – 10 future structures – Chapter 61B. It is important to note that this land is not conserved in perpetuity. Should the 61B land become available for development, potentially, 858 structures could be developed per 1 acre minimum parcel size.
- Naushon – Minimal future development anticipated given single family ownership for 164 years. However, given 1 acre minimum parcel size and the abundance of vacant land, 4,832 structures could be developed should the property take on a new management vision.
- Cuttyhunk –
 - The West-End could have approximately 230 more structures if it weren't for the anticipated CR held by the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

- The BBC anticipated conservation aside, the remainder of Cuttyhunk could potentially have 230 more structures if no additional land is placed into conservation.

Knowing the potential build-out for all of Gosnold is vital information for future planning. To protect the Gosnold way of life, the planning board could explore the possibilities of limiting guest houses or changing the minimum lot size. Another option for the town leaders to consider is reaching out to the owners of Pasque and Naushon to begin conversations about protecting those lands in perpetuity for future generations.



Map 4: Zoning - Cuttyhunk



Zoning
Gosnold, MA (2 of 2)

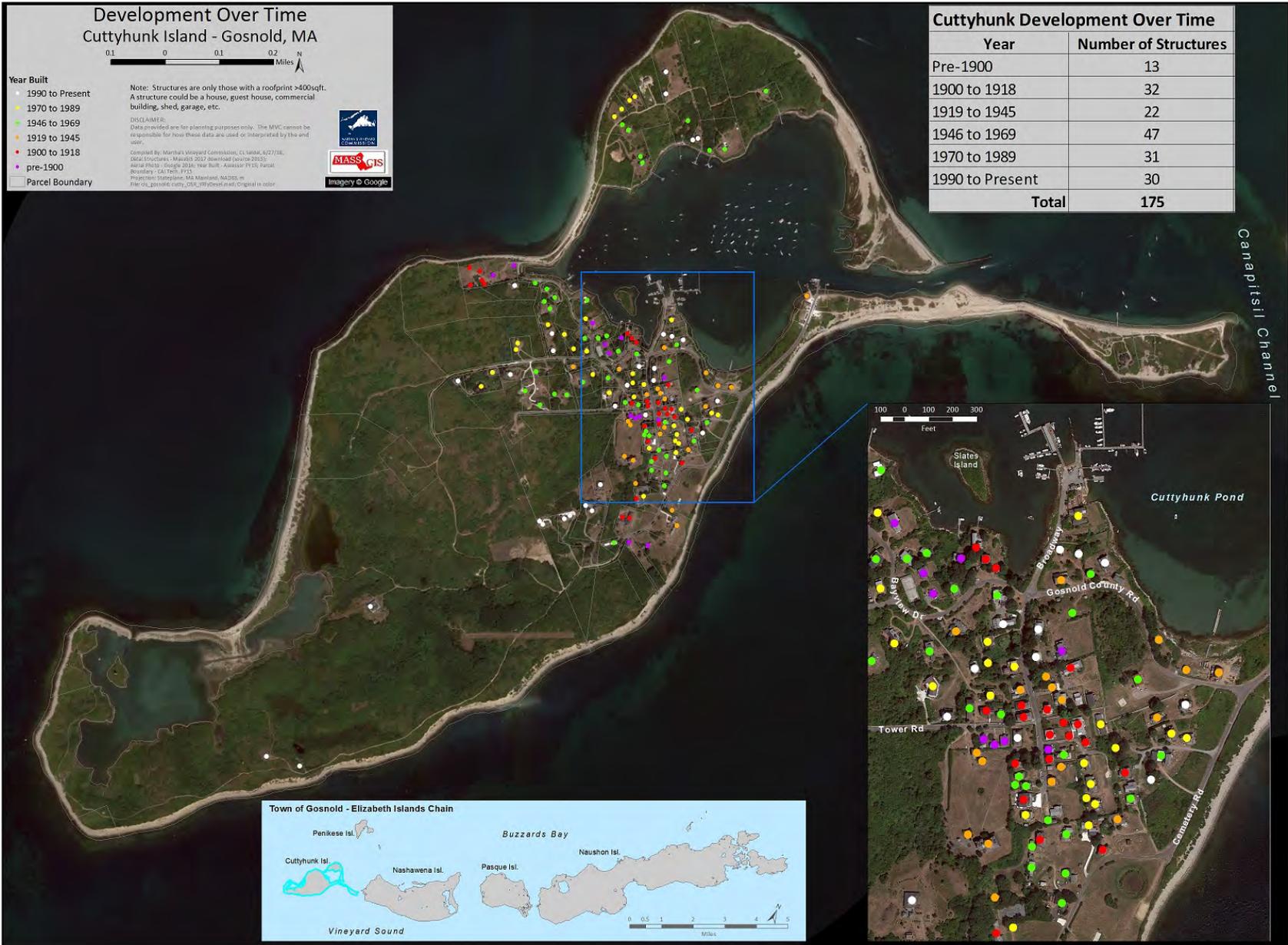
Parcel Boundary
Zoning
District I
District II

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Compiled by: Martha's Vineyard Commission, CLS664, 5/22/16, go:104/000-1426, www.mvcommission.org
Data: Aerial Photo - Google 2016, Zoning - MVC 2004, Parcel - Massachusetts Public Works - MAZDEP 2017
Projection: StatePlane, MA Mainland, NAD83, in
File: C:\gis\gonosd\zoning\zoning.mxd, Original in color

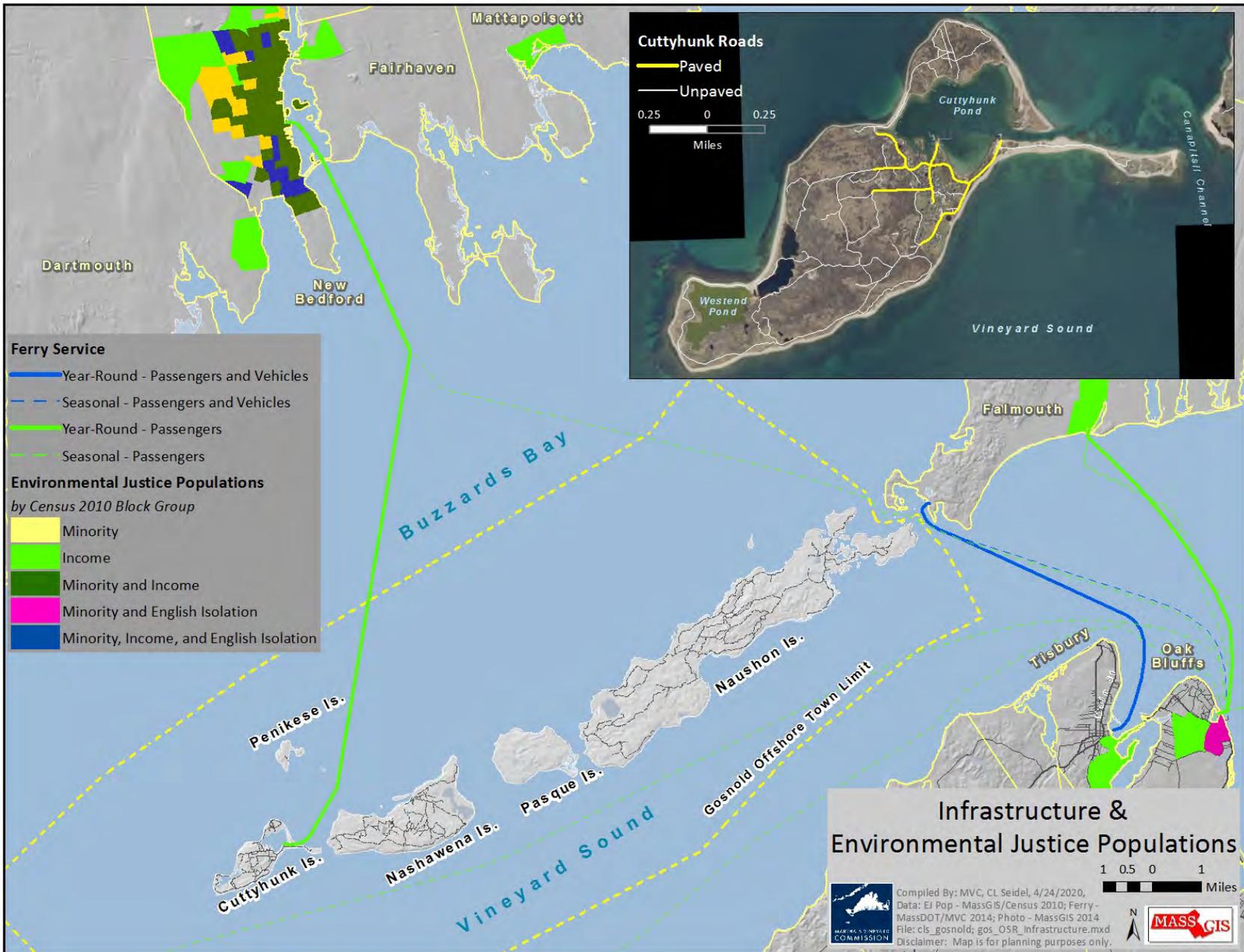
MASS GIS
Imagery © Google



Map 4b: Zoning



Map 5: Development Over Time



Map 6: Infrastructure

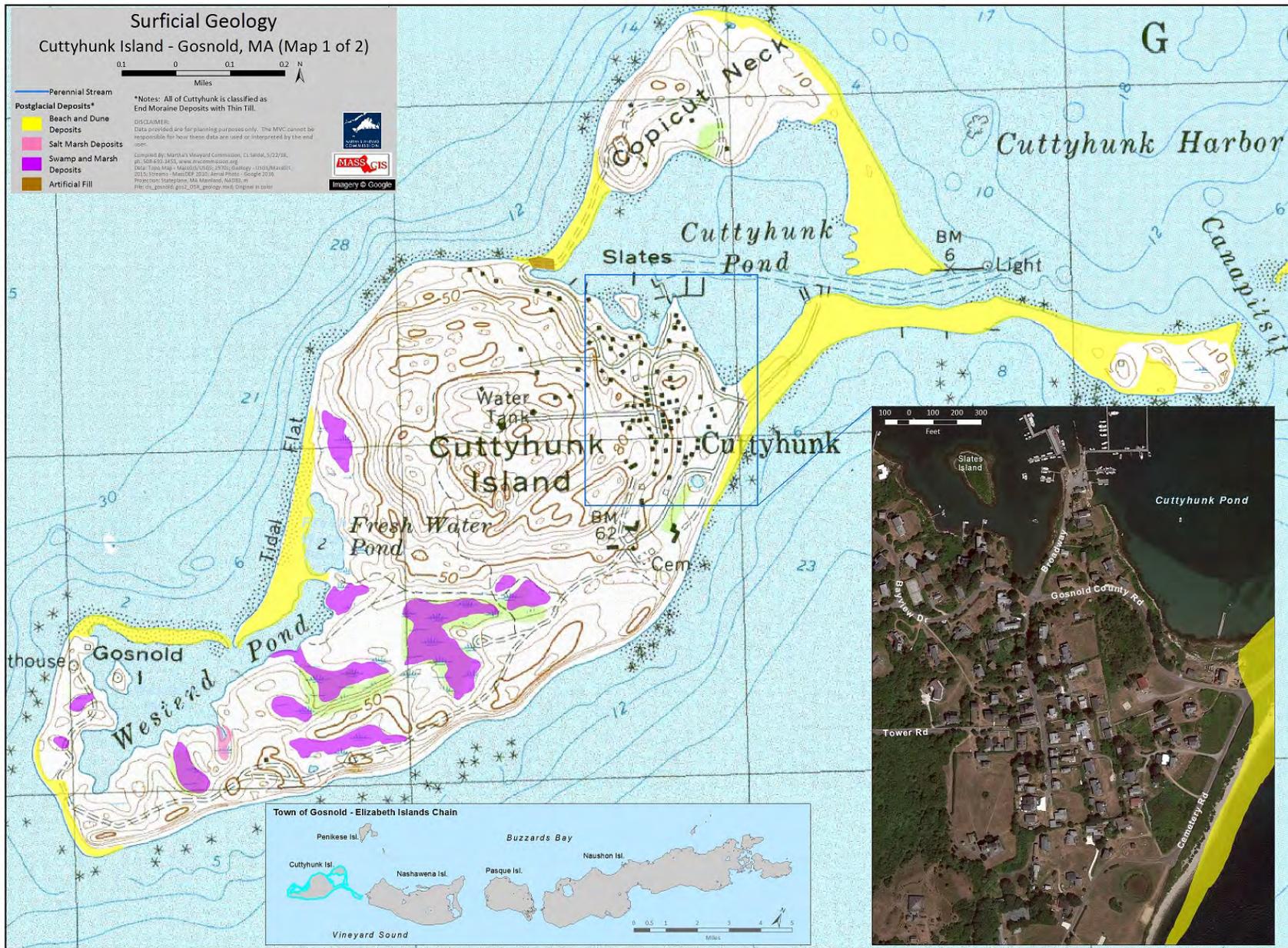
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A.- Geology, Soils and Topography

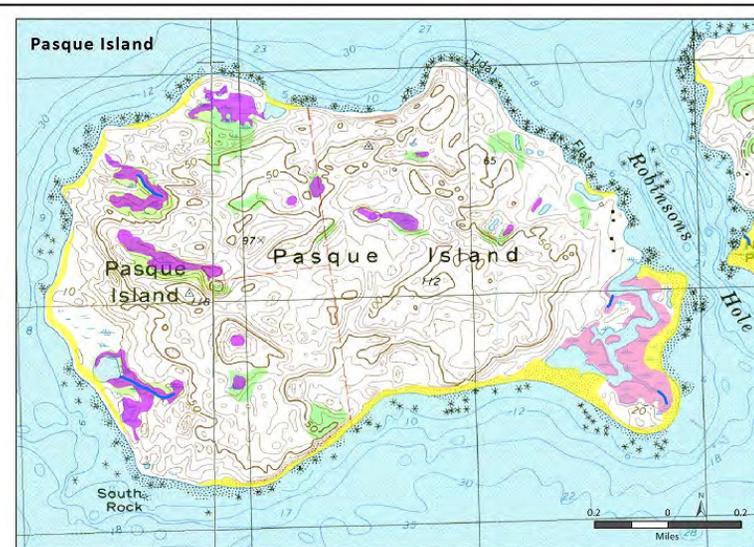
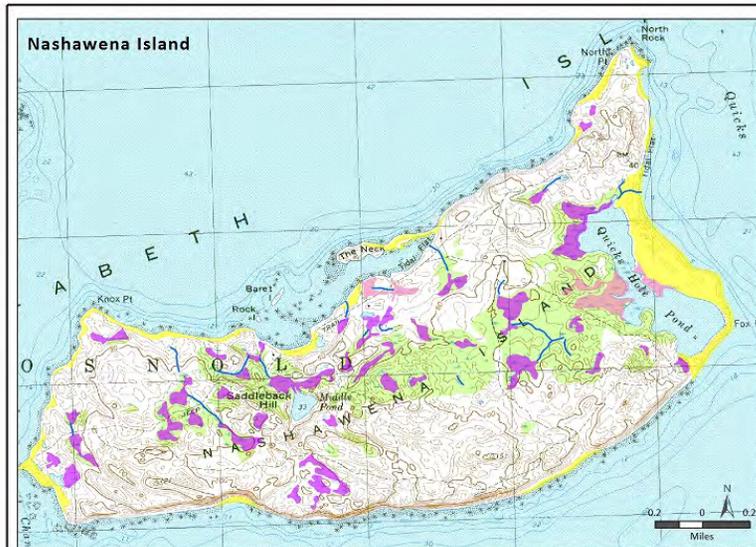
(see Map 7 Surficial Geology & Map 8 Soils)

The Elizabeth Islands are part of a terminal moraine archipelago that covers the North Atlantic — Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Block Island and Long Island, also known in geologic terms as the Outer Lands. Terminal moraines are the endpoint of a glacier's journey. The Outer Lands were created by three advances and retreats of the Wisconsin Ice Sheet, the final retreat occurring 14,000 years ago. The main portion of Cuttyhunk Island is dominated by a central morainal hill. Cliffs are found along the north and south shores and were probably located on the west shore as well until relatively recent storms caused substantial land loss at the southwestern end of the island and along Canapitsit Neck.

Cuttyhunk is covered by "thin till," sandy, rocky soil less than 15 feet deep, with non-stratified mixtures of grain-sizes ranging from clay to large boulders. Most tills are predominantly sand and silt and boulders can be sparse to abundant. Bays, marshes, kettle hole ponds and bogs are also typical in terminal moraine geology and Cuttyhunk has substantial salt marshes and bogs. Cuttyhunk has the highest elevation of the Elizabeth Islands, reaching 154 feet above sea level at the peak of Lookout Hill.



Map 7: Surficial Geology - Cuttyhunk



**Surficial Geology
Gosnold, MA (2 of 2)**

— Perennial Stream

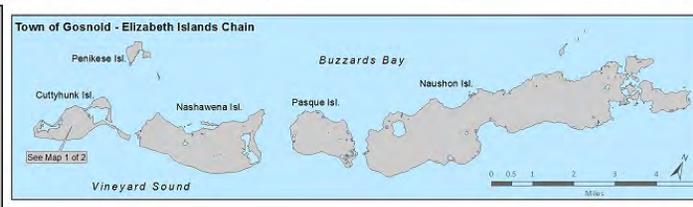
Postglacial Deposits

- Beach and Dune Deposits
- Salt Marsh Deposits
- Swamp and Marsh Deposits
- Artificial Fill

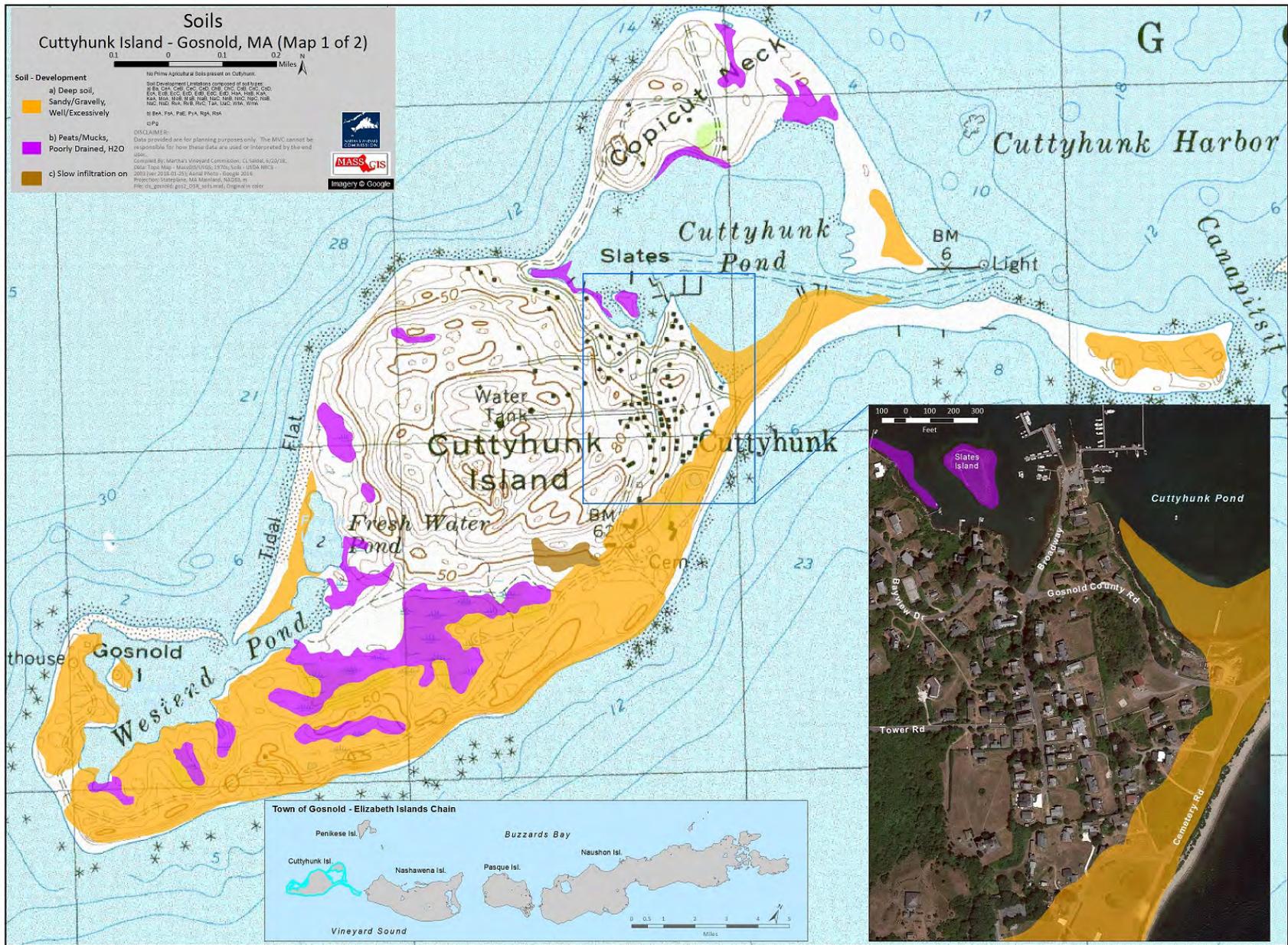
*Notes: All 4 Islands are classified as End Moraine Deposits with Thin Till.

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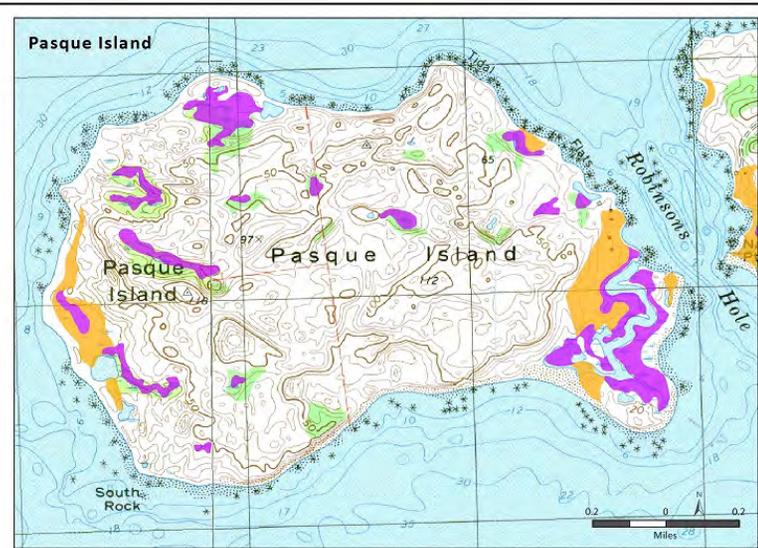
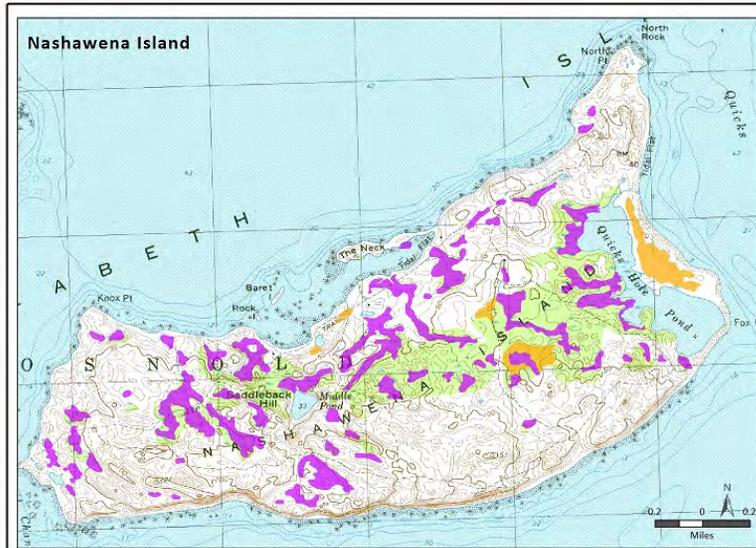
Compiled by: Martha's Vineyard Commission, CT 01944, 572/238-1000
Data: Topo Map - MASSGIS/USGS 1:75,000 Geology - USGS/MASSGIS 2010
Projection: StatePlane, MA Mainland, NAD83, m
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Map 7b: Surficial Geology



Map 8: Soils - Cuttyhunk



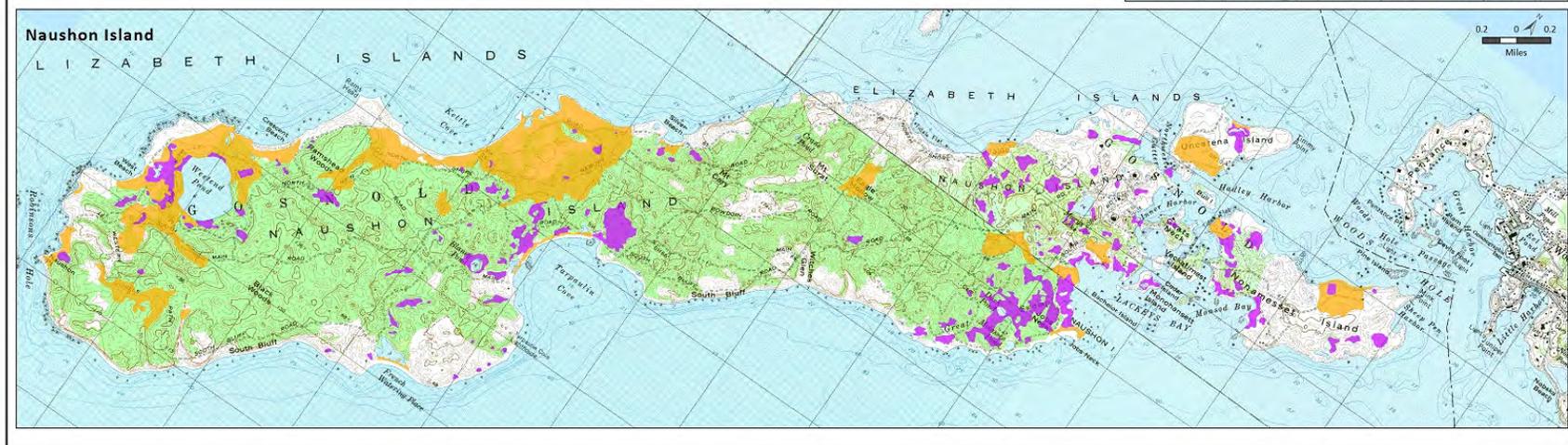
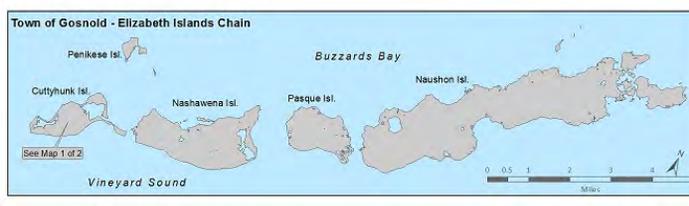
**Soils
Gosnold, MA (2 of 2)**

Soil - Development Limitations

- a) Deep soil, Sandy/Gravelly, Well/Excessively Drained
- b) Peats/Mucks, Poorly Drained, H2O table near surface
- c) Slow infiltration on steep slope

No Prime Agricultural Soils present on any of these islands.

DISCLAIMER: Data provided are for planning purposes only. The MVC cannot be responsible for how these data are used or interpreted by the end user.
Compiled by: Martha's Vineyard Commission - CL Set 64, 6/2/19, 10/2019 10/2019 10/2019
Data Topo Map - Massachusetts 1:250,000 - USGS NED - 2011
Projection: StatePlane, MA Mainland, NAD83, m
File: c:\gis\soils\g02_02a_02a.mxd. Original color.



Map 8b: Soils

B.- Landscape Character

(see Map 9 Unique Features)

Cuttyhunk is rich with landscape character which has been well preserved, both on land and in town waters. The topography is varied for a small island. It's a relatively short walk from the harbor to Lookout Hill, but a steep climb. From the 154 ft. peak at Lookout Hill, a 360 degree, 28-mile view is available to the public. All the utility lines are buried so utility poles do not obstruct the views. The town center area of the island has historic paved walking paths which are lined by stone walls. There are miles of pristine shoreline. There are saltwater and freshwater ponds and wetlands in the island interior. See the Unique Features map of Cuttyhunk to locate the extent of the paved walking paths and stone walls.



Map 9: Unique Features - Cuttyhunk

C.- Water Resources

(see: Map 10 Water Resources (includes wetlands), Map 11 Flood Zones, and Map 12 Critical Facilities)

The thin till soil which dominates Cuttyhunk is highly permeable. To that end, Cuttyhunk's sole source aquifer currently provides an abundant supply of fresh water.

There are three ponds on Cuttyhunk. Westend Pond (37 acres), Cuttyhunk Harbor (98 acres) and Fresh Water Pond (5 acres). Due to the lack of development and the resulting wastewater burden, water quality in the ponds is excellent. Cuttyhunk oysters, well known in culinary circles, have been commercially grown in Westend Pond since 1981. From 2012 to 2014 the oyster farm was moved after accreting sand closed the inlet to the pond, resulting in a drop of salinity due to encroaching fresh water. After the pond was re-opened in 2014, salinity was restored within days.

Cuttyhunk has a number of smaller ponds maintained by the water table 6 to 32 feet above sea level. Most of these ponds are seasonal and occur in morainal depressions, and four are man-made ponds. Brackish and saltwater ponds and salt marshes are present on Cuttyhunk. Gosnold is within the Islands Major Watershed with runoff into Buzzards Bay & Vineyard Sound.

Flooding on Cuttyhunk, per FEMA's digital flood zone data (effective 2016), affects one third of the island's land but, fortunately thanks to the topographic relief, only 10% of the island's structures are within the 100-year flood zone. However, the leaders of the island are planning and taking measures to relocate or elevate certain critical facilities (i.e. fuel storage, waste storage, public ferry & barge dock) that are located within the flood zone.

Gosnold successfully completed the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) community resiliency workshops in 2017/2018 and [Summary of Findings](#) report. The report identifies minimizing impacts due to flooding and sea level rise as a high priority.

Similar resiliency measures were outlined in that same report for Naushon. While a much smaller community, they rely on ferry service to the mainland and several bridges to navigate around Naushon.

Gosnold - Land and Structures within FEMA Flood Zones (Effective 2016)

Island	FEMA Flood Zone*	Acres	% of Land	# of Structures**	% of Structures
Cuttyhunk	AE	66	12%	17	8%
Cuttyhunk	VE	119	21%	5	2%
NASHAWENA	AE	136	8%	0	0%
NASHAWENA	VE	176	10%	0	0%
Naushon	0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD (500-year flood zone)	83	2%	1	1%
Naushon	AE	523	10%	26	28%
Naushon	VE	335	6%	4	4%
PASQUE	AE	83	10%	6	86%
PASQUE	VE	93	11%	0	0%
Penikese	VE	33	37%	2	20%

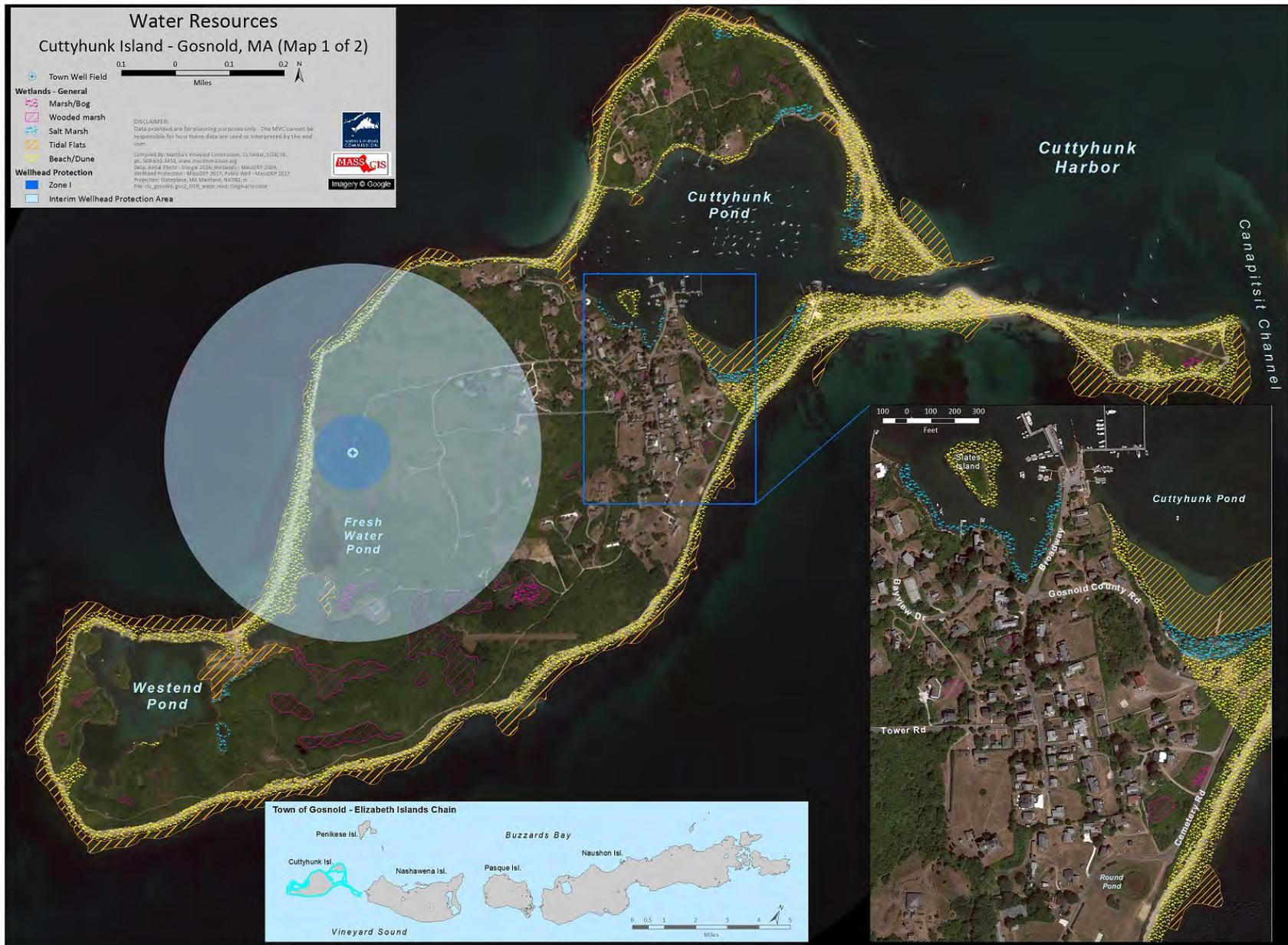
*VE (velocity zone) and AE areas comprise the 100-year flood zone.

**Digitized from aerial photos by MassGIS (year 2013 most recent source). All structures, regardless of size are included. A structure could be a residence, barn, shed, garage, etc.

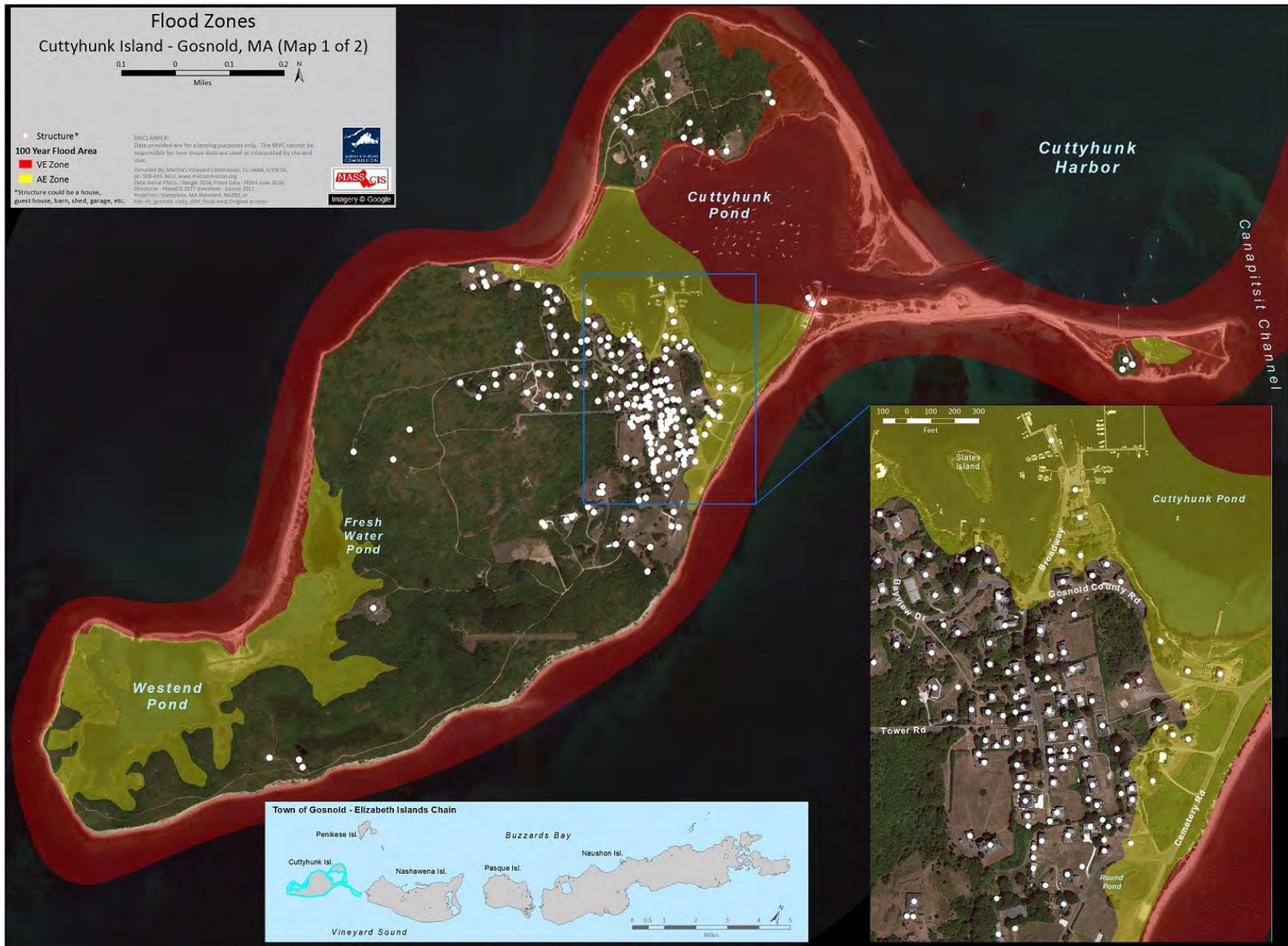
The wetlands on Cuttyhunk are primarily beach dune and woody marsh. The largest continuous areas of beach dune are located on either side of the navigation channel leading into Cuttyhunk Pond. The southern beach dune area abutting the channel is Barges Beach. Fortunately, this area will soon be preserved in perpetuity as part of the Buzzards Bay Coalition project. The MVP project identified the highest priority on Cuttyhunk is to protect the entry channel by maintaining Barges Beach.

The majority of the woody marsh area is located in the West End of the island. This area is primarily owned by one family. Recently, site plans were adopted which identified future development areas and the remaining land in the West End will be placed under a conservation restriction. These plans will help alleviate impact to the woody march wetlands.

The other islands in the Elizabeth Island Chain have woody marsh as their dominant wetland. Fortunately, these areas do not compete with the minimal development that is present on those islands



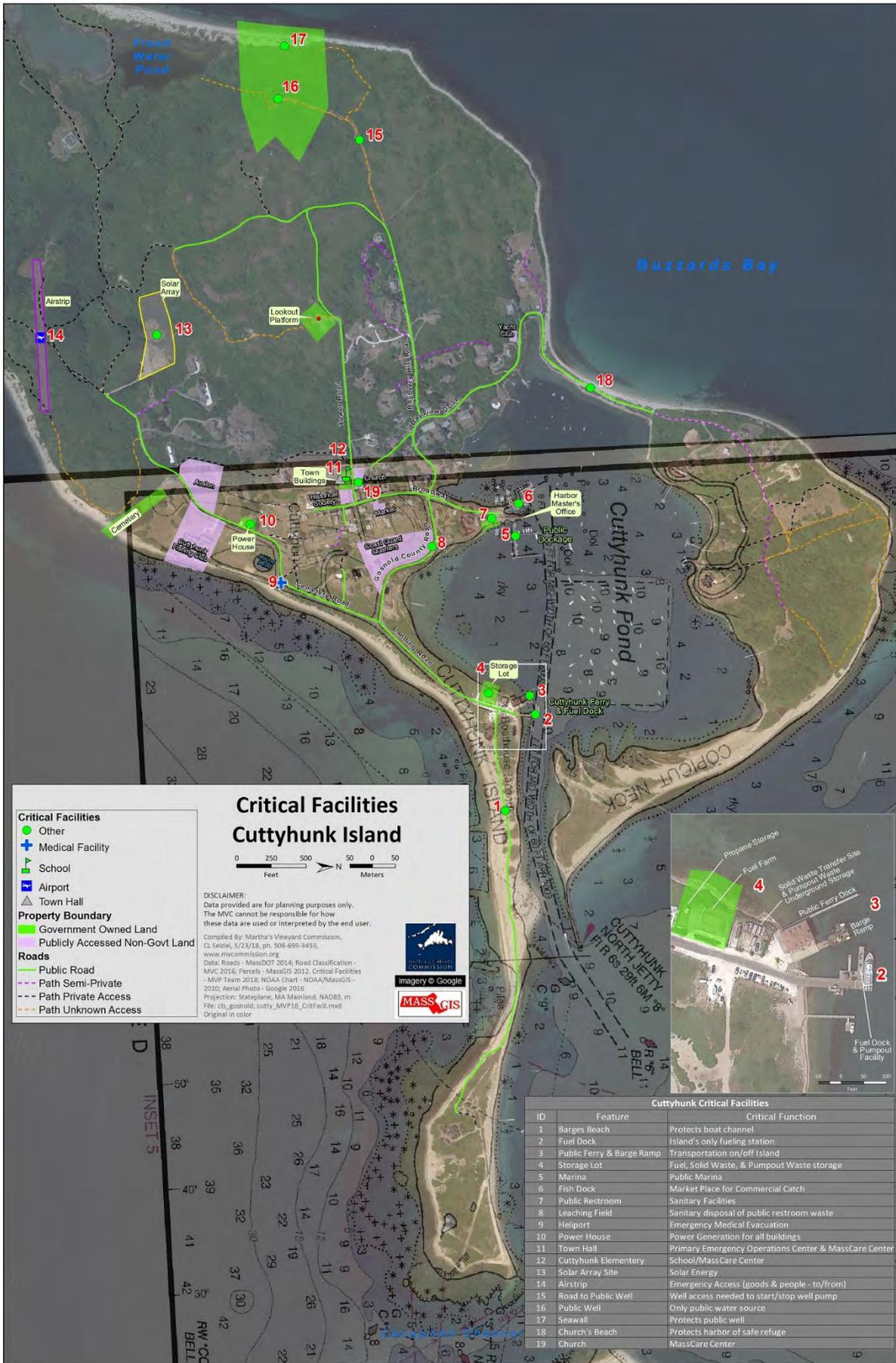
Map 10: Water Resources



Map 11: Flood Zones - Cuttyhunk

Map 11b – Flood Zones





Map 12: Critical Facilities - Cuttyhunk



Map 12b: Critical Facilities - Naushon

D.- Vegetation

(see Map 13 Vegetation, Map 14 Land Use/Cover, and Map 15 NHESP & BioMap2 Habitats)

Vegetation on Cuttyhunk has changed considerably in the 400-plus years since the English landed. Gosnold's chronicler, M. John Brereton, wrote in 1602, "This island is full of high timbered oaks, their leaves thrice so broad as ours; cedars, straight and tall; beech, elm, holly, walnut trees in abundance...hazelnut trees, cherry trees, sassafras trees, great plenty all the island over."

The extensive grasslands that once fed grazing sheep have been taken over by shrubs. Today the maritime shrubland now dominates most uninhabited sections of Cuttyhunk. Chokecherry, scrub oak and other stunted trees are common. Cuttyhunk has most varieties of New England wildflowers, as well as bayberry and sweet peas.

The majority of the Elizabeth Islands are within the primary habitat of rare species (delineated by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) and/or the core habitat and critical natural landscapes as identified by NHESP & TNC's BioMap2 conservation plan. On Cuttyhunk, Nashawena, and Penikese over three quarters of each island is within the NHESP designated Primary Habitat. Primary habitat is land containing State-listed rare flora & fauna species. While Naushon and Pasque do not contain much in way of Primary Habitat, they are nearly entirely Critical Natural Landscapes (CNL) per the BioMap2 conservation analysis conducted in 2010 by NHESP & The Nature Conservancy. These CNLs represent areas of intact landscapes which provide long time range support for a wide variety of species.

Island	Percentage of Island		
	w/in Critical Natural Landscape	w/in Core Habitat	w/in NHESP Priority Habitat
Cuttyhunk	23%	79%	75%
Nashawena	99%	87%	87%
Naushon	98%	35%	2%
Pasque	99%	92%	7%
Penikese	13%	84%	95%

Source: Critical Natural Habitat & Core Habitat - BioMap2 NHESP/TNC 2010; Priority Habitat - NHESP 2017

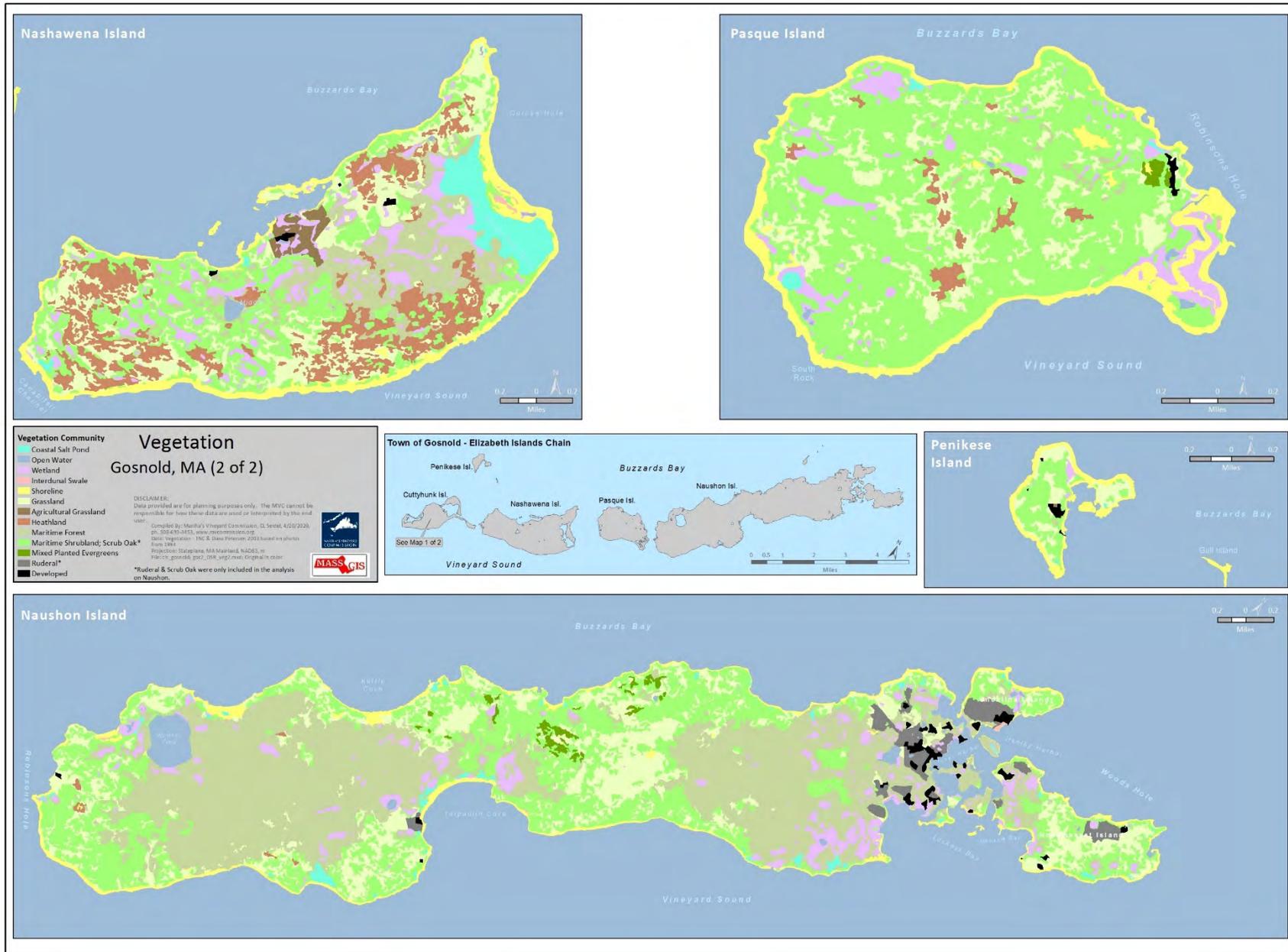
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Vegetation Species within Gosnold

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>	Purple Needlegrass	Threatened	1990
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Linear-leaved Milkweed	Threatened	1901
<i>Carex mitchelliana</i>	Mitchell's Sedge	Threatened	1985
<i>Crassula aquatica</i>	Pygmyweed	Threatened	1985
<i>Dichanthelium ovale</i> ssp. <i>pseudopubescens</i>	Commons's Panic-grass	Special Concern	1990
<i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i>	Purple Cudweed	Endangered	1928
<i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i>	Saltpond Pennywort	Threatened	1990
<i>Leptochloa fusca</i> ssp. <i>fascicularis</i>	Saltpond Grass	Threatened	1983
<i>Myriophyllum pinnatum</i>	Pinnate Water-milfoil	Special Concern	1990
<i>Nabalus serpentarius</i>	Lion's Foot	Endangered	1969
<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Adder's-tongue Fern	Threatened	1928
<i>Panicum rigidulum</i> ssp. <i>pubescens</i>	Long-leaved Panic-grass	Threatened	1928
<i>Persicaria puritanorum</i>	Pondshore Knotweed	Special Concern	1974
<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Pale Green Orchis	Threatened	1901
<i>Polygonum glaucum</i>	Sea-beach Knotweed	Special Concern	2014
<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	Canadian Sanicle	Threatened	1989
<i>Setaria parviflora</i>	Bristly Foxtail	Special Concern	1990
<i>Tipularia discolor</i>	Cranefly Orchid	Endangered	1901
<i>Triosteum perfoliatum</i>	Broad Tinker's-weed	Endangered	1989

Source: NHESP <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-viewer>

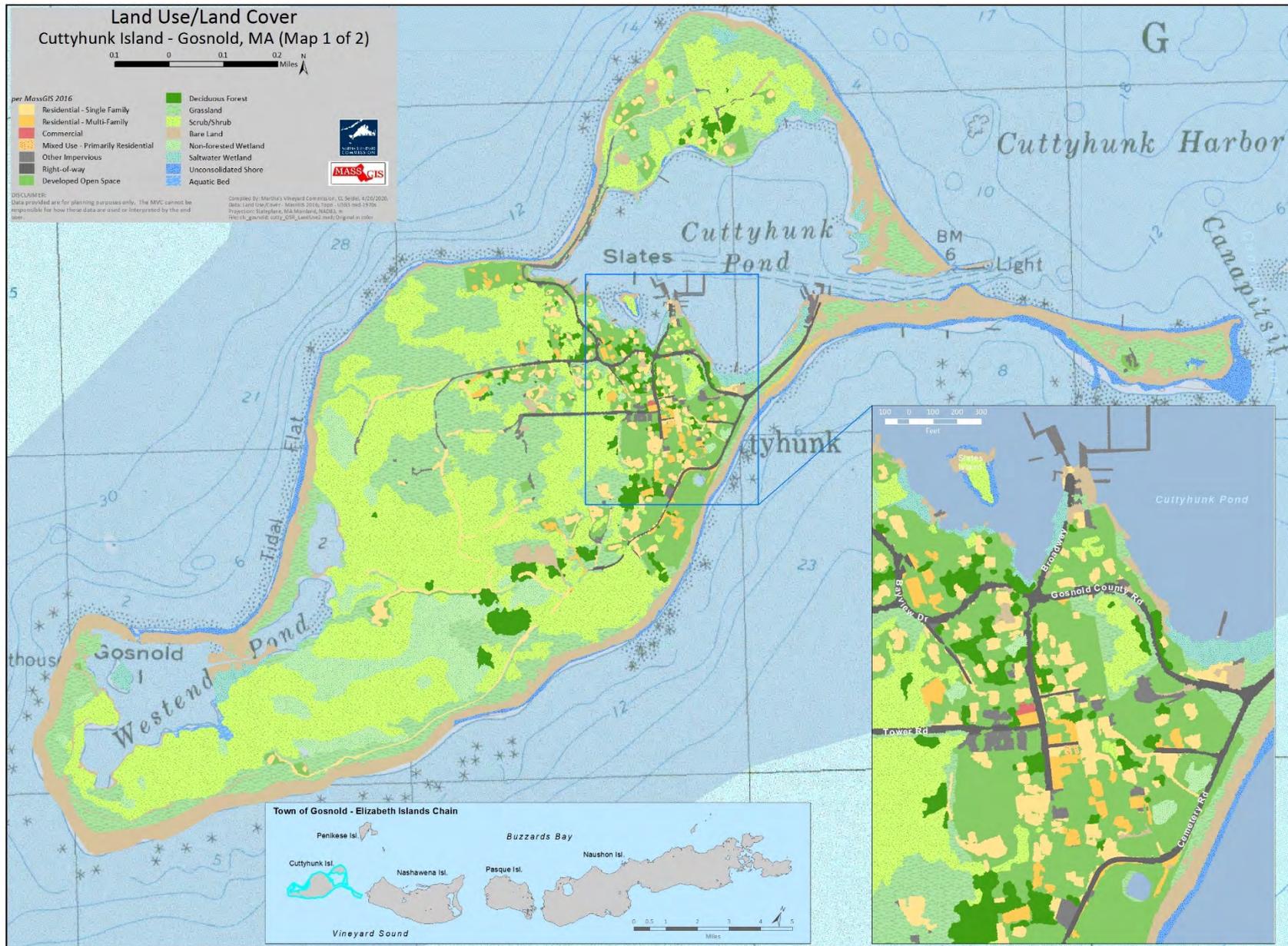


Map 13: Vegetation - Cuttyhunk

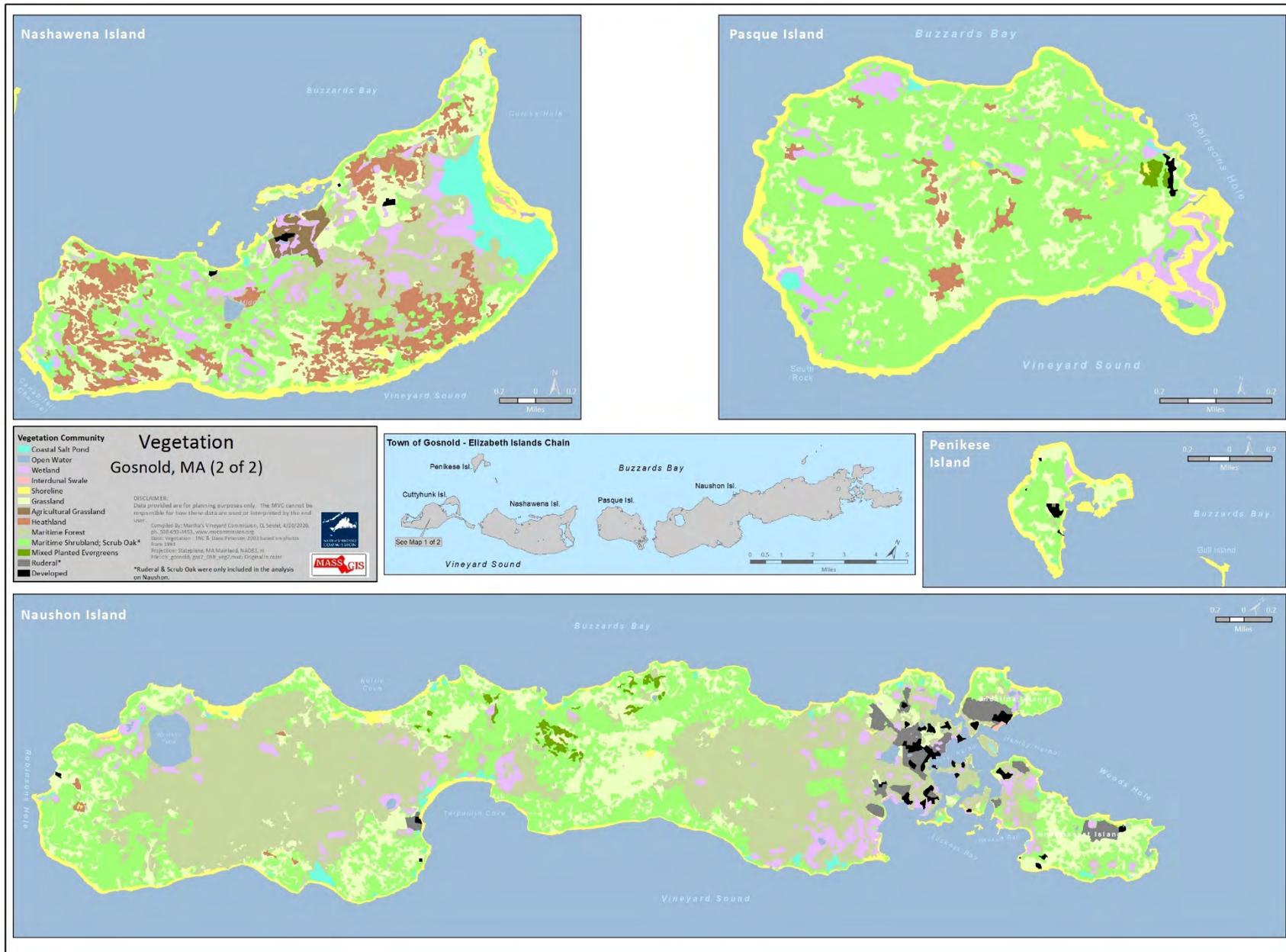


Map 13b: Vegetation

Map 14: Land Use/Land Cover - Cuttyhunk



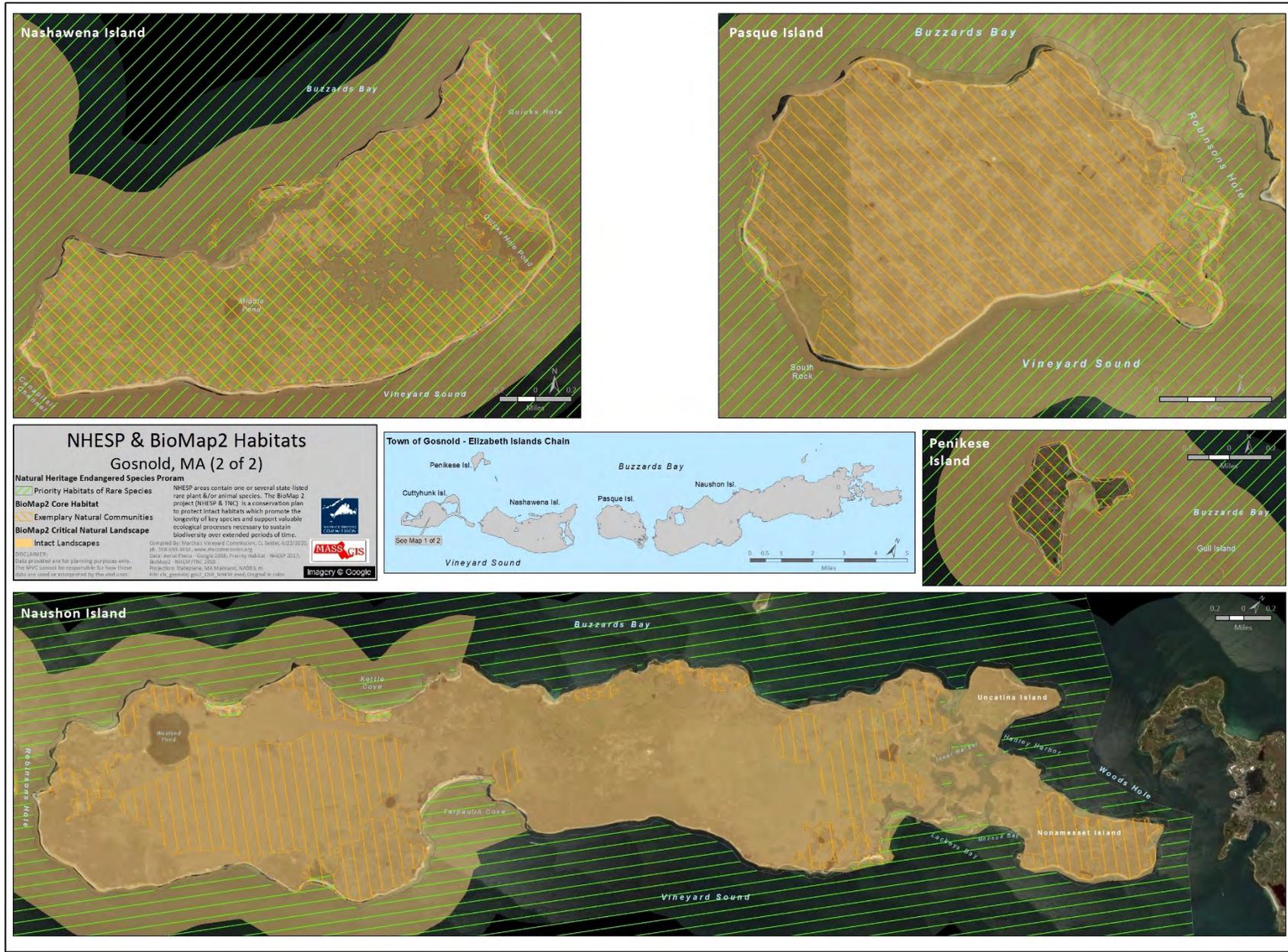
Map 14b: Land Use /Land Cover





Map 15: NHESP & BioMap2 Habitats - Cuttyhunk

Map 15b: NHESP & BioMap2 Habitats



E.- Fisheries and Wildlife

(see Map 16 Shellfish Suitability Areas and Map 17 Avian Areas)

Land-based fauna on Cuttyhunk includes coyotes, deer, rodents, rabbits and unfortunately an abundance of ticks. Lone Star ticks, like coyotes, are relatively recent arrivals to the island. Although they don't carry the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease, Lone Star Ticks can transmit Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and STARI – Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness.

Cuttyhunk waters are home to an abundance of aquatic flora and fauna. It has long been a storied fishing destination on the East Coast. The surfcasting is some of the best in the country, although fishing has slowed over the years. Striped bass and bluefish are the primary game fish from shore and from boats. In 1913 Charles Church caught a world-record 73-pound striped bass from an oar-powered skiff. In 1967, Charles Cinto tied the record when he caught a 73-pound striper in Cuttyhunk waters. Unlike many places in Dukes County, eelgrass is plentiful in Cuttyhunk waters. Healthy eelgrass helps the prized bay scallop propagate.

Gosnold is within the Atlantic Flyway of the undeveloped and contiguous open landscape provides valuable resting and breeding grounds for a variety of migratory birds. Some of these birds are warblers, swallows, finches, and shorebirds abound, with raptors — Peregrine Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk, and Osprey— a steady presence in the thermals above. Protected shorebirds such as the Piping Plover and Least Tern make annual breeding pilgrimages to breed, resulting in beach closures for part of the summer, until the chicks fledge. The Massachusetts Audubon Society sponsors regular birding tours to Cuttyhunk.

The waters surrounding Gosnold are part of the migratory whale corridor for those whales that feed in New England waters in the spring & summer months. These whale species include humpback, finback, right whale, and minke whale.

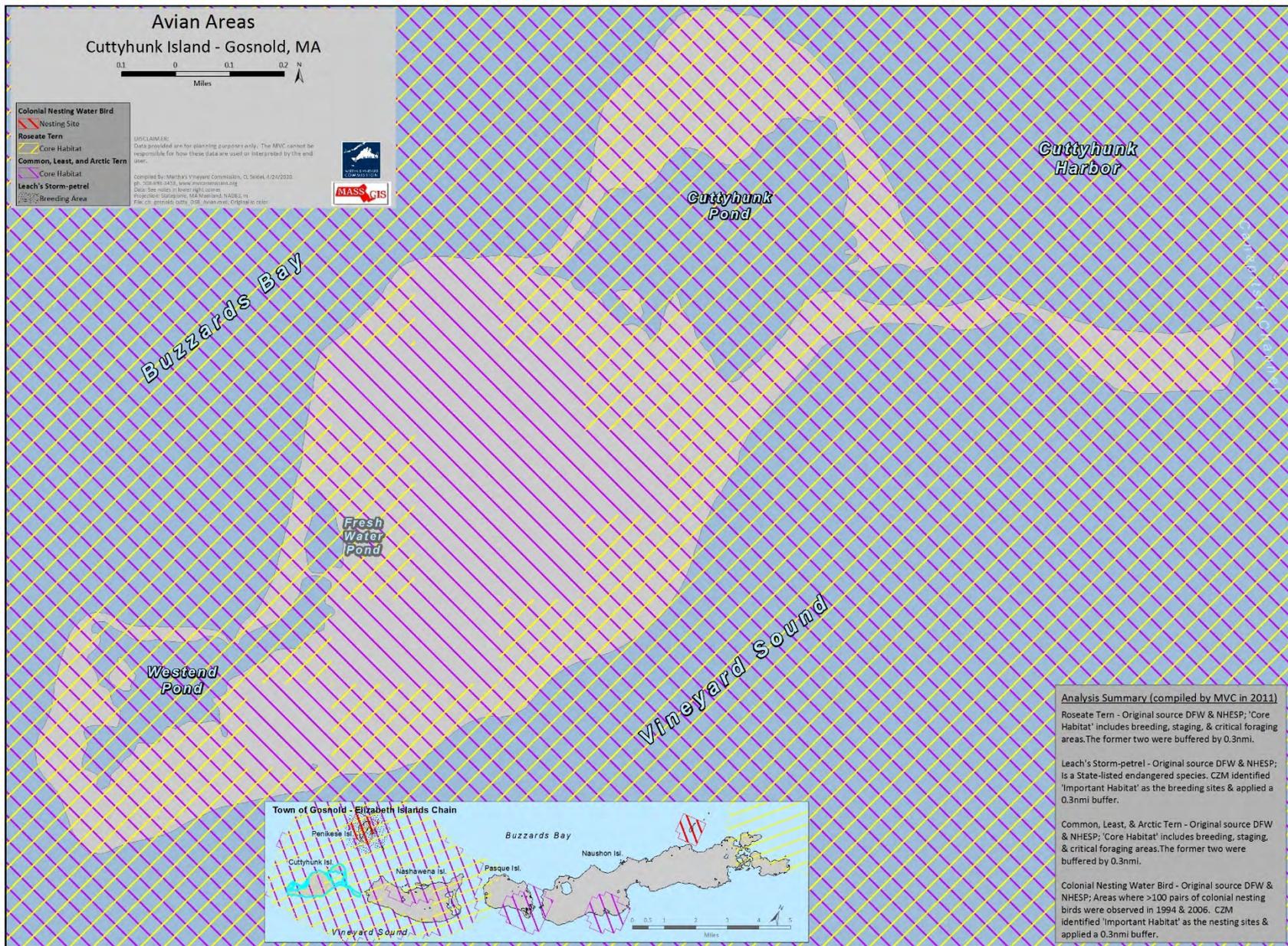
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Wildlife Species within Gosnold

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Federal Status	Most Recent Observation
Beetle	<i>Cicindela limbalis</i>	Common Claybank Tiger Beetle	Threatened		2008
Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Cow Path Tiger Beetle	Special Concern		2008
Bird	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	Threatened		1997
Bird	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	Threatened	Threatened	2018
Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	Threatened		2011
Bird	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Leach's Storm-petrel	Endangered		2005
Bird	<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula	Threatened		1980
Bird	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Endangered	2015
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	Special Concern		2015
Bird	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	Special Concern		2014
Bird	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Least Tern	Special Concern		2015
Bird	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	Endangered		1976
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Abagrotis nefascia</i>	Coastal Heathland Cutworm	Special Concern		1996
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Eacles imperialis</i>	Imperial Moth	Threatened		2006
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Hemileuca maia</i>	Barrens Buckmoth	Special Concern		1996
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Papaipema sulphurata</i>	Water-willow Borer Moth	Threatened		2015
Crustacean	<i>Eulimnadia agassizii</i>	Agassiz's Clam Shrimp	Endangered		1873
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	Special Concern		1998

Source: NHESP <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-viewer>



Map 16: Shellfish Suitability Areas



Map 17: Avian Areas

F.- Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

(see Map 18 Unique Features)

96 percent of the land on Cuttyhunk — 542 acres — is classified as “Distinctive Scenic Landscape,” defined by the Massachusetts Landscape Inventory Project as land having “the highest visual quality.” The scenic quality of the landscape was preserved when power lines were installed underground. Lookout Hill (elevation 154 feet) provides an unobstructed, 360 view that can stretch for 28 miles on a clear day.

People can access almost 10 miles of pristine shoreline, including the shores of Cuttyhunk Pond, Westend Pond and Fresh Water Pond. According to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 91, which dates back to the Colonial Ordinances of 1647, people have access along the entirety of the shoreline, between the high tide and low tide mark, for fishing, fowling and navigation.

Cultural & historic features on Cuttyhunk include the Gosnold Monument, 100-year-old stone walls, paved walking paths, military pillbox bunkers from WW II, and the Cuttyhunk Historical Society – Museum of the Elizabeth Islands. The 70ft stone monument was built in 1902 to honor Bartholomew Gosnold who is credited with establishing a settlement on Cuttyhunk in 1602. The 100-year-old stone walls abut about a half mile of the island’s major roadways and paved walking paths. The paved walking paths have a unique history in that they were created about 100 years ago by William Wood’s caretaker. The paths, apparently, were built by Mr. Wood for two reason; 1) so house staff would have an easier time going to certain homes to provide needed items; and 2) so Mr. Wood could easily get to friends’ houses to play cribbage.

There are four remaining WW II military bunkers on Cuttyhunk which were built in the 1940s as part of the military’s coastal defense system. The town has recently begun investigating grant opportunities to preserve these critical linkages to history. For more info, reach out to the staff at the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands for various issues of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society’s (CHS) Monograph.

Established in 1978 by the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church, the Cuttyhunk Historical Association aimed to preserve the history of the Island. Formally becoming the Cuttyhunk Historical Society, Inc in 1980. In 1991, Oriel Wood Ponzecchi donated land adjacent to the Town Hall for the building of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society Museum (name officially changed in 2005 to Museum of the Elizabeth Islands). The museum is only open from late June to Labor Day but their website, available year-round, provides a wealth of information.

<https://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org/timeline/>

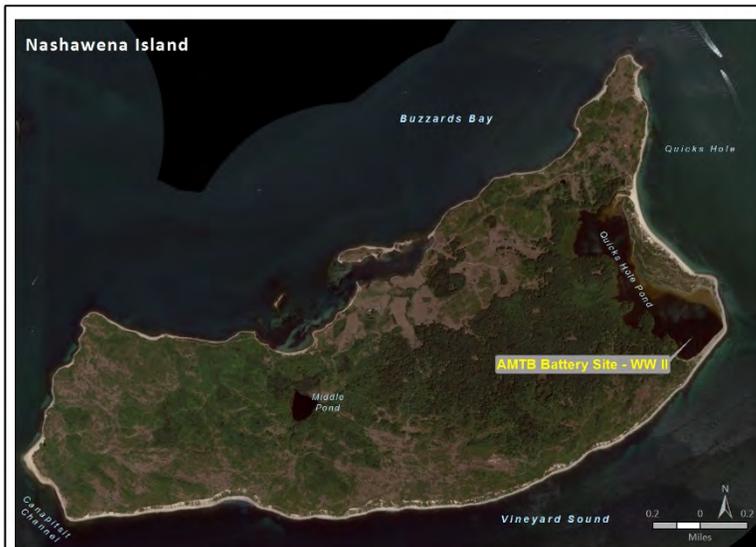
Penikese Island is well known in history as a former Leprosy colony. From 1905 to 1921, the small island was home to 3 dozen patients. All that remains today from this era is a small cemetery.

The only remaining lighthouse on the Elizabeth Islands is Tarpaulin Cove Light on Naushon Island. While the light was initially established at this location in the 1700s, the current structure was built in 1891. Naushon, like Cuttyhunk, has two pillbox bunkers left over from WW II. From that same era, Nashawena island housed an anti-motor torpedo boat battery station.



Map 18: Unique Features - Cuttyhunk

Map 18b: Unique Features

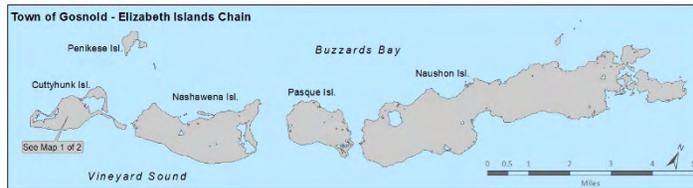


**Unique Features
Gosnold, MA (2 of 2)**

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File Path: gosnold_gm2_208_100sqm_features.Original.mxd

MASS GIS
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G.- Environmental Challenges

(see Map 19 Environmental Challenges)

Cuttyhunk Island has been spared some of the manmade environmental challenges such as hazardous waste and brownfield sites, ground and surface pollution from point & non-point sources, and impaired water quality of its coastal ponds. The town dump/landfill was closed in 1996 and barging of trash & recycling off the island began the subsequent year.

The island has had a chronic fight with sedimentation and shifting sand and will continue to fight this battle given the future of rising sea levels, storms increasing in frequency and severity, and beach erosion. The Cuttyhunk Channel is the lifeline of the island, through which all traffic and commerce flow. A fortified Barges Beach will help keep the channel navigable.

Over the past twenty years, severe winter storms have caused significant overwashing of Barges Beach, causing the barrier to become extremely low and vulnerable and allowing sand, cobble, and rocks to frequently wash into Cuttyhunk Channel making navigation hazardous.

On the north side of the channel, Copicut Neck is vulnerable to the frequent nor'easters in the area and is also a source of overwash into the channel. Maintenance dredging is typically done every few years, requiring the removal of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of clean sand from the outer portion of the 10-foot-deep entrance channel. The channel was last dredged in 2012.

The battle to buttress the barrier beaches is not new on Cuttyhunk. Since 1936, when Congress declared Cuttyhunk Harbor a federal "harbor of refuge," the Army Corps of Engineers has been responsible for keeping the harbor open to mariners. Subsequent to a major Barges Beach breach in 1944, in 1949 the Army Corps planted train cars down the length of beach, and perpendicular to the shore, then covered them with 150,000 cubic yards of fill — thus the name Barges Beach.

The Canapitsit stone jetty and Church's Beach breakwater projects were designed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1959 and funded by Congress in 1963. Their stated purpose was to create "structures to preserve the natural beaches, protect the harbor and reduce shoaling." The Church's Beach breakwater was completed in 1965. Half of the Canapitsit 2600-foot dike had been completed when Congress cut the funding in 1965. In 2005 the Army Corps and the Town of Gosnold submitted a plan to complete the construction of the 1959 plan with a 1300 foot, 10-foot-high stone dike along the top of Barges Beach. Six agencies opposed resumption of the work and it never got off the ground.

Major storms in 2011 (Hurricane Irene), 2012 (Hurricane Sandy) and the blizzard of 2013 underscored the ongoing vulnerability of Cuttyhunk's harbor and barrier beaches. Westend Pond is also susceptible to storms. In 2011, Hurricane Irene filled in about 85 percent of the Westend Pond Inlet. Tidal flushing of Westend Pond is crucial to water quality. An October storm closed the inlet completely. The inlet was relocated and dredged in 2014.

In 2015 the Woods Hole Group was contracted by the Town of Gosnold to design "Green Infrastructure" to fortify Barges Beach. The work was funded by a Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Coastal Resilience Grant. The Woods Hole Group recommended designs for

beach nourishment and dune restoration, but funding, projected to be between \$3 million and \$4 million, remains prohibitive.

A new ferry dock, built to accommodate sea level rise, was completed in 2017. The fish dock was recently rebuilt and the fuel dock recently redecked. The barge ramp, fuel depot and trash facilities at the harbor are vulnerable to sea level rise and hurricanes. Relocating or re-engineering these areas to lessen their impact from natural hazards has been identified as a priority in the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Summary of Findings report of 2018.

Because of the extensive shrub growth, Cuttyhunk is vulnerable to wildfire. In September of 2016, four goats were transported to the island to clear brush in targeted areas to reduce the fuel load. There is a Wildfire Management Plan for the island and controlled burns are scheduled for the fall of 2018. Wildfire management is also recognized as a high priority in the aforementioned MVP report.

Environmental Equity

Gosnold does not contain any Environmental Justice (EJ) populations. However, those EJ communities in New Bedford, do have relatively easy year-round access to conservation lands on Cuttyhunk via the public ferry (see Map 6 - Infrastructure).

Given the lack of landfills and brownfields within the town, no segment of the population is unduly burdened with the potential negative environmental side-effects these land-uses may contain.

With the anticipated Buzzards Bay Coalition conservation efforts on Cuttyhunk more land will be open for public access. Public walking trails are planned for these lands. Given the small size of Cuttyhunk, these public trails are within a short distance of all residents.



Map 19: Environmental Challenges

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

(see Map 20 Conservation Lands & Map 21 Possible Future Acquisitions)

Overview of Gosnold Conservation

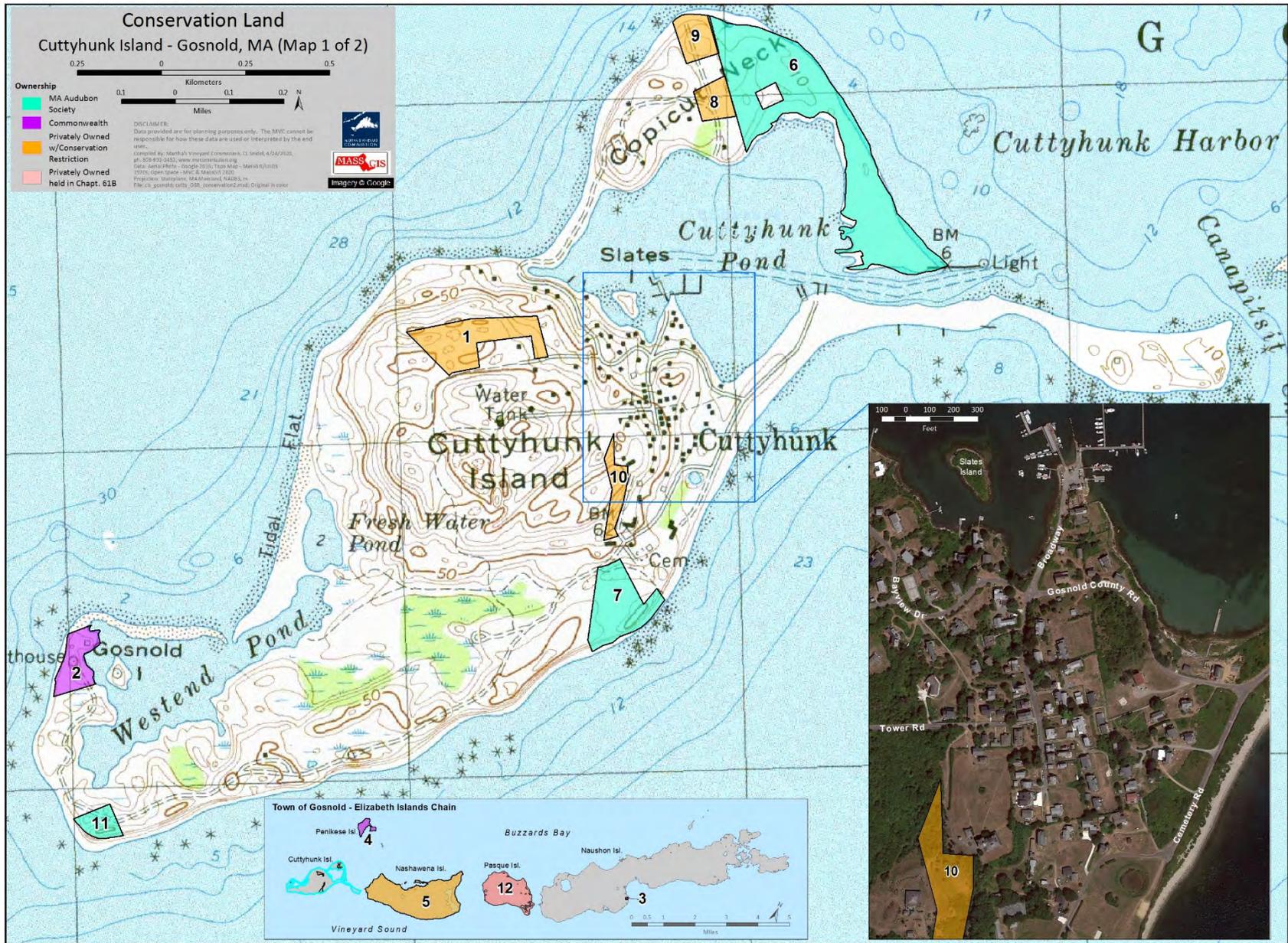
Island	Acres	Acres Conserved	Percent of Island Conserved	Percent of Town Conserved
Cuttyhunk	563.0	69	12%	0.8%
Nashawena	1,790.0	1,790	100%	21.0%
Naushon	5,205.3	4	0%	0.0%
Pasque	870.0	858	99%	10.1%
Penikese	88.4	88	100%	1.0%
Town of Gosnold Total	8,516.7	2,809.3		33%

"Open space" is defined as conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, parks, or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to preservation. Open space protection is important for many reasons. Open space protects the local ecosystem by preserving water quality and providing a natural, unfragmented landscape which supports various populations of wildlife and preserves biodiversity. These small local impacts do contribute positive effects to the global climate by helping to lessen the impacts of climate change.

Open space near coastlines prevents development in natural hazard areas. Thereby potentially saving lives and damage to structures. A natural landscape, vs the human-built landscape, will absorb the impacts of flooding and slow the inundation landward.

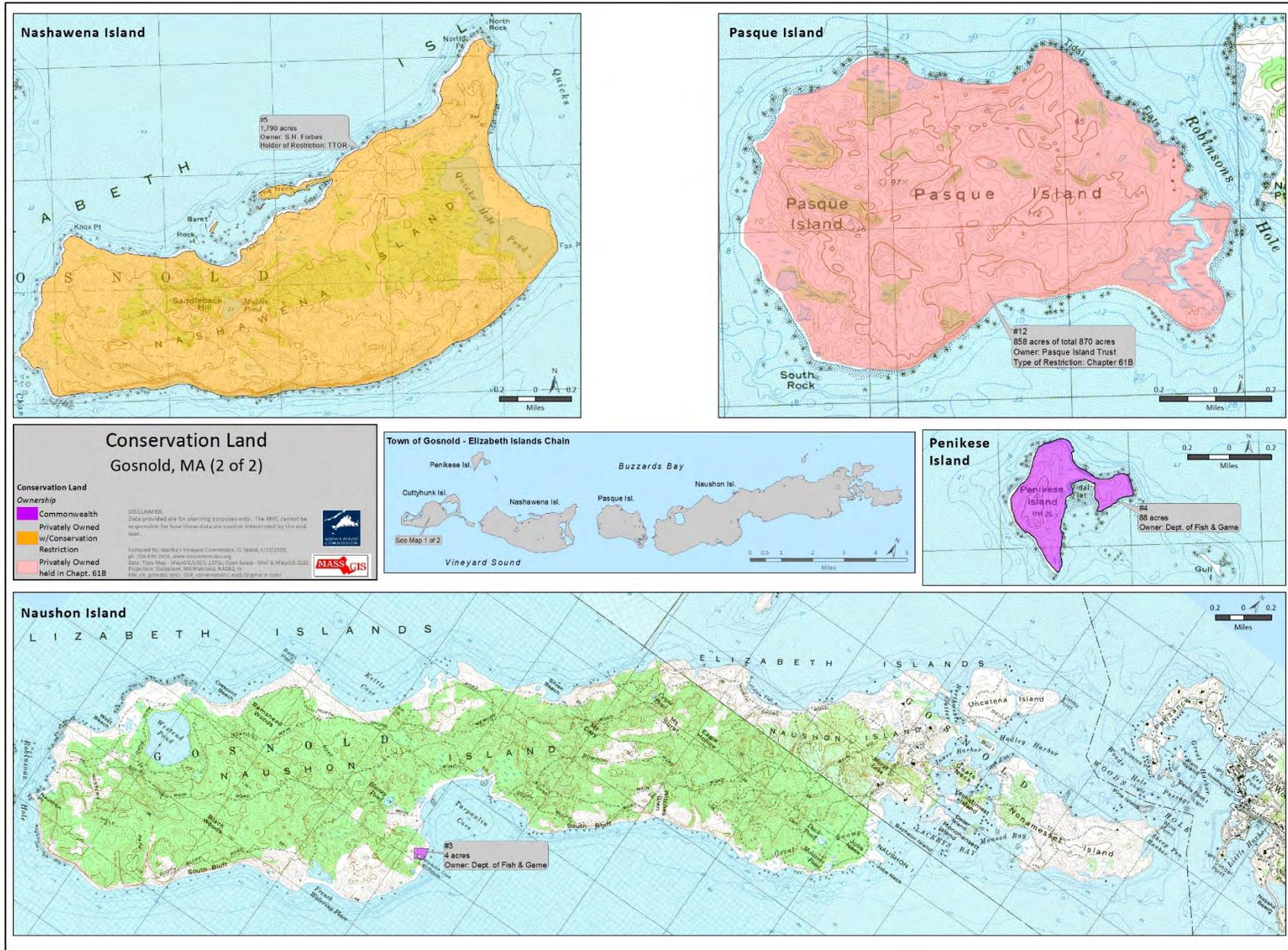
Protected lands can provide areas for public recreation. The mental and physical benefits from outdoor exercise provide many positive effects. Outdoor recreation is a great way to manage stress which will aid in reducing anxiety and lessen depression. Physically, cardiovascular exercise promotes a healthy heart often by reducing cholesterol and blood pressure.

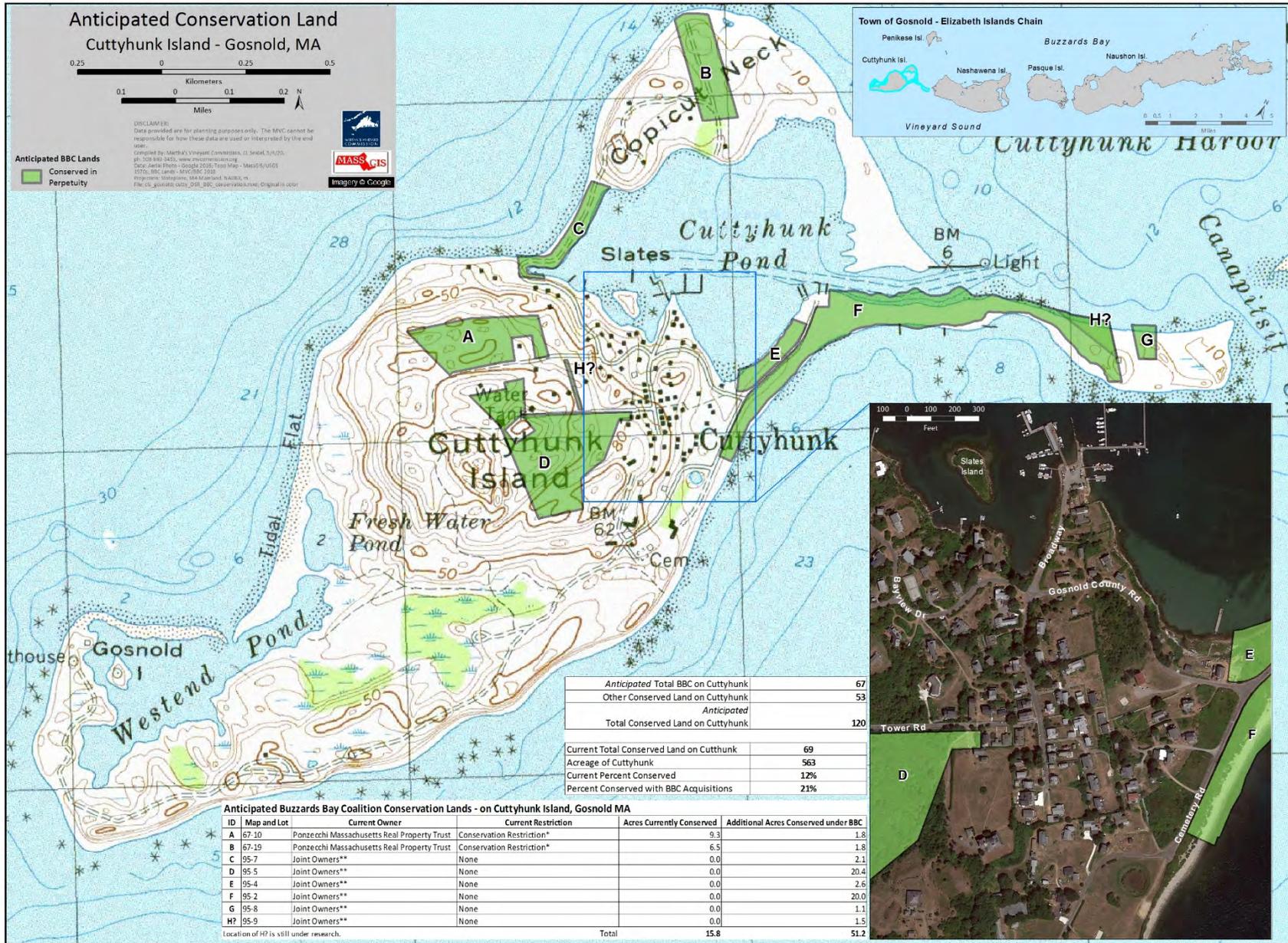
For the individual in the community, open space recreation provides a social gathering place and a sense of community. These open space areas enable residents to feel good about themselves and where they live and to realize that their town planners care about providing a well-rounded, balanced livable environment.



Map 20: Conservation Land - Cuttyhunk

Map 20b: Conservation Land





Map 21: Anticipated Future Acquisitions

A. Private Parcels

On Pasque Island, parcels 66-5-PSQE (731 acres) & 66-6-PSQE (127 acres) are listed as use code 8000. This is land in the Chapter 61B Open Space program.

No other private parcels within Gosnold are in any Chapter 61 program. Nor are there any private parcels with APR, agricultural preservation restrictions.

A few privately owned parcels do have CRs (conservation restrictions) held by various conservation entities. See the brief summary table below of Privately Owned Parcels and Appendix B: Table 1 Conservation Land Matrix for full details.

Conserved Privately Owned Parcels*

Site Number	Name	Acres
1	Bayberry Hill Road (CR) Conservation Restriction	9.3
5	Nashawena Island (CR) Conservation Restriction	1,790.0
8	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	0.0
9	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	0.0
10	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	2.7
12	Pasque Isl. (61B) Chapter 61B	858.0

*See full conservation land matrix in Appendix B & the preceding Map 19

B.- Public & Nonprofit Parcels

(see Appendix B: Table 1 Conservation Land Matrix & Table 2 Possible Future Acquisitions)

The total area of Cuttyhunk is 563 acres. Of that, roughly 69 acres, or 12% is protected open space; 16 acres, or 3% is Town owned land. Much of the island remains private property, owned by a few families. There are four parcels of private land with permanent conservation restrictions.

Conserved Public & Nonprofit Owned Parcels*

Site Number	Name	Acres
2	Gosnold WMA	4.1
3	Tarpaulin Cove Sanctuary	3.9
4	Penikese Island Sanctuary	88.4
6	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction & held in-fee	35.5
7	Cuttyhunk Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary	8.2
11	West End Sanctuary	2.7

*See full conservation land matrix in Appendix B & the preceding Map 19

In all, there are eight parcels on Cuttyhunk owned in perpetuity by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Department of Fish and Game and in private trusts. Only a small amount of conserved open space is not open to the public. While six parcels within Gosnold have formal Conservation Restrictions, no parcels have Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs).

The Cuttyhunk Land Protection Project will enhance coastal water quality protection by preventing development and the accompanying wastewater. It will also help retain the natural vegetation which intercepts stormwater runoff, as well as protect the aquifer and the unique character of Cuttyhunk. The purchase will also increase public access to the coastline and connect existing walking trails. The BBC will maintain the public access trails on its properties and will also manage natural resources, including invasive species control. The anticipated 70 acres of Town and BBC land acquisitions will be open to the public.

Recreation

Barges Beach and Church's Beach are destinations for swimmers, relaxers, and increasingly on Barges Beach, surfers. In the summertime, these beaches are the primary land-based recreational destinations.

Fishing for finfish and shellfish has long been a popular form of recreation on Cuttyhunk. The striped bass is venerated on Cuttyhunk, as evidenced by the striped bass weathervane that sits atop the church steeple. Westend Pond is a popular shellfishing spot.

Cuttyhunk is a top sailing destination on the East Coast. In the summer the harbor is a forest of tall masts. The Cuttyhunk Yacht Club (CYC) is distinctly not a yacht club in the traditional sense, as evidenced by the rustic clubhouse. The CYC is a non-profit, all volunteer organization, established in 1956, that has focused on teaching sailing to children, ages 6 to 16 years old.

The island has one hiking trail. Some parts of the trail are vestiges of days gone by and sometimes run on private property close to privately owned houses.

In 2005, the basketball court at Coast Guard Barracks was resurfaced. It is open to the public.

In 2012, under the direction of the Long-Range Planning Committee, a volleyball court was built and a beautification project at the Town Landing undertaken.

Negotiations are underway for land that may provide room for expanding the school playground. The property closing may come as soon as mid-July 2019.

The Friends of the Cuttyhunk Public Library is looking to private funding to cover the cost of constructing a new library.

There is a volleyball and pickleball court open to the public.

Social events and concerts are held at the church.

Section 6: Community Vision

A.- Description of Process

In tandem with preparing this open space & recreation plan, the town of Gosnold was also undergoing a visioning process while considering a substantial land acquisition proposal by the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC). The combined process is outlined below.

- 5/11/18 - MVC requested by Gosnold Selectmen to write report Open Space & Recreation Plan for Gosnold so the town may be eligible for grants from MA DCS programs.
- 5/11/18 – BBC attends Board of Selectmen’s (BOS) meeting to introduce the ‘Cuttyhunk Land Protection Project’
- 5/27/18 – BBC and Long-Range Planning Committee meet & share visions
- 6/11/18 - MVC holds first public meeting on Cuttyhunk to hear residents’ concerns and desires for future open space.
- 6/13/18 - online survey posted on the MVC website.
- 6/29/18 - MVC holds second public meeting on Cuttyhunk to present draft Plan and get feedback on goals, objectives, and five-year action plan. Again, the consensus of attendees was that preservation of open space and scenic value of Cuttyhunk is paramount. It was suggested that open space preservation not be described as “stopping development,” but take a more positive tone, such as “preserving Cuttyhunk wilderness.” Because of the tight deadline, copies of the draft OSRP were not available before the meeting, and a number of questions at the meeting had been already addressed in the draft. (The draft OSRP was posted on the [MVC website](#) on June 28.) There were a number of questions about the anticipated Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) land purchase — “Would the land be open to the public? Will the BBC manage the trails on that land?” Many were not aware that the purchase would connect existing hiking trails and enhance public access to open space. (See Section 5).
- 7/6/18 - MVC provides revised draft for review to the Gosnold Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Long-Range Planning Committee.
- 7/10/18 - Town of Gosnold and the MVC submit the Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan to the Division of Conservation Services.

- 10.13/18 – BBC attends BOS meeting to provide update & answer questions
- 1/26/19 – BBC attends BOS meeting to provide update & answer questions
- 3/29/19 – BBC attends BOS meeting to provide update & answer questions
- 5/20/19 – BBC attends BOS meeting to provide update & answer questions
- May 2019 - Annual Town Meeting – Town residents unanimously approve \$400,000 funding article to purchase Church’s Beach
- 3/20/2020 – BBC attends BOS meeting to ask selectmen to allow BBC to work with Town Counsel to finalize 5 conservation restrictions and to approve two parcel layouts the Town is getting an interest in.

B.- Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The main objective for open space and recreation planning on Cuttyhunk is unquestionably to preserve the scenic beauty and character of the island. The vast majority have expressed a desire for minimal change to the island, other than continuing to acquire and/or protect land for conservation and water supply protection.

The plan also presents an opportunity to discern the active and passive recreation preferences of islanders and visitors. Because so much recreation on Cuttyhunk is passive recreation, infrastructure needs are minimal.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

A.- Summary of Resource Protection Needs

The potential impact of climate change on open space, public health and economic viability of the Cuttyhunk is an important consideration in calculating future needs of this island community. A coastal climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan, including a long-term breach management plan, should be considered. Sources of beach nourishment, including offshore sand mining, should be explored.

Collaborations with non-profit entities such as BBC and Audubon Society to transfer land to be preserved in perpetuity are a win-win for Cuttyhunk.

Due to the high cost of land and Cuttyhunk’s remoteness, economics have kept man-made pressure on open space and natural resources in check. There is no shortage of buildable lots. Existing houses can remain on the market for a long time.

B.- Summary of Community’s Needs

The residents of Cuttyhunk’s enthusiasm and support for the Buzzard Bay Coalitions ‘Cuttyhunk Land Protection Project’ (CLPP) is well aligned with the goals set forth by the MA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The additional land brought into conservation by the CLPP, nearly 70 acres, will provide water resource protection to the island’s drinking water, freshwater coastal ponds, and Buzzards Bay & Vineyard Sound. Supporting the statewide trails initiative, once the planned public trails are created, they will provide for an island-wide network of trails. Lastly, all this open space and trails on Cuttyhunk is accessible to the environmental justice populations located in New Bedford via the public Cuttyhunk Ferry.

As of April 2020, the Town managers one public park – Lookout Park. **See Appendix A for the full ADA Access Self-Evaluation.** The Transition Plan for Lookout Park identifies the need for the stairs to be replaced with a ramp and an accessible picnic table to be provided. It is anticipated for that these site enhancements will occur in FY21 under the supervision of the Highway Department.

Open space preservation — acquiring new open space and protected existing open space in the face of climate change — will continue to be the top priority on Cuttyhunk. Community access to open space, including the shoreline, needs to be improved. Easements on private property to connect hiking trails and to allow more shoreline access for fishermen need to be negotiated with landowners.

Clarity on what land is actually privately owned is lacking, according to some residents. Title searches need to be undertaken. Given that land ownership goes back over 400 years, title searches on Cuttyhunk can be difficult and time consuming.

The potential conflict of recreational impact on natural resources appears to be minimal. The most popular forms of recreation are passive recreation, such as hiking, swimming, fishing, and sailing.

The existing recreational facilities, which can be better promoted, include — volleyball court, pickleball court and a basketball court. Desired additions/improvements to recreation infrastructure include: benches with shade trees, expanding the existing playground, wayfaring on hiking trails, and small boat/kayak storage at the harbor. Access to beaches needs to be improved so the elderly and disabled are not trekking over dunes and cobbles.

Survey Results (see Appendix D for complete results)

112 people responded to the 26-question online survey. The big takeaway from the survey is that the majority want to keep Cuttyhunk the way it is, or close to it. It's also clear from the survey that the majority are concerned about Cuttyhunk's future.

- 97% indicated they are concerned about the preservation of the character and natural beauty of Cuttyhunk, with 85 percent being “extremely concerned.”
- 85% indicated they were either “somewhat concerned” or “extremely concerned” about wildlife protection.
- 70% said they were “extremely concerned” about protecting the island's sole freshwater aquifer.
- 90% of respondents expressed concern about sea level rise on Cuttyhunk. They are also inclined to put up a fight —
 - 78% believe that resources should be spent on saving barrier beaches
 - 22% favored planning for a future without them.
 - The operation of the harbor appears to be going swimmingly, with only 9% expressing dissatisfaction with harbor management.
- Two thirds of respondents were against adding public showers and public bathrooms at or near the harbor.

- Two-thirds also said they had no objections to the Buzzards Bay Coalition or other non-profit organizations purchasing land for open space preservation,
 - however, 63% expressed concern that the impending purchase by the Buzzards Bay Coalition would restrict public access to that land.
- Not surprisingly, Church's Beach and Barges Beach were the most popular beaches.
 - 55% of respondents saying they go to Church's Beach daily
 - 54% saying they go to Barges Beach weekly.
 - Westend Pond has considerably less traffic.
 - with 34% saying they went weekly
 - 38% saying they go rarely or not at all.
 - 39% felt the public does not have adequate access to the shoreline and to Westend Pond.
- Hiking is popular, with 70% of respondents saying they go hiking daily or weekly.
 - 23% of hikers expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of the trails.
- As to whether there should be more regulations on golf cart parking, responses were split exactly 50-50.
- Overall, only 15% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the current recreational facilities on Cuttyhunk.
- The three most popular choices for possible additional facilities were:
 - benches with shade trees (38%)
 - expanded children's playground (32%)
 - small boat/dinghy storage (31%)
- Choosing from a variety of possible recreational activities, astronomy nights received the most favorable responses.
- Roughly half of those surveyed said they would volunteer to work on open space and recreation projects.
 - The majority support continued use of CPA funds towards these projects. There is currently \$25,137 of CPA funds available.
- 83% of respondents were seasonal residents.
- 11% were year-round residents.
- 6% were visitors.
- 71% of respondents own property on Cuttyhunk.
- 75% of respondents were 45 years old and older.

C.- Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

A few non-profit organizations have purchased land for preservation on Cuttyhunk. Looking to the future, residents are open to more of these partnerships, including the pending purchase by the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

Most of Cuttyhunk, including Barges and Church's beaches, remains privately owned. Part of the open space planning discussion, which has been going on for years, is whether the town should look to purchase and manage these beaches, which could include hiring lifeguards.

Public access to most of the island is dependent on the goodwill of a small number of owners. The Spaulding family, descendants of William Wood, are the largest private landowners on Cuttyhunk. Historically, this has been a relatively harmonious arrangement but access to the

western part of the island, Westend Pond, the south shore, and historic surf fishing hotspots, has become more restricted by the landowners. Future open space acquisitions should include easements on private property that will allow increased access to the shoreline and ponds, particularly on the west side of the island, including land west of the Gosnold Monument.

A town-created open space fund would enable the town to act quickly when desirable open space becomes available on the open market.

The most popular forms of recreation on Cuttyhunk — fishing, sailing, hiking, kayaking — require relatively little infrastructure or management support from the town, other than the harbor, which has been upgraded in recent years with new docks and a new pump out station.

Since the draft version in 2018, Gosnold residents unanimously supported the May of 2019 town warrant article for the Town to purchase Church's beach. In FY2020, Gosnold was awarded an MVP Action Grant of \$1,400,000 for the purchasing of land and formal Conservation Restrictions associated with the Cuttyhunk Land Protection Project.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

By now it should be abundantly clear from this document that preserving open space and increasing availability of open space for community use are the primary goals for Cuttyhunk property owners and visitors alike.

Because economics keep development in check, climate change is the biggest challenge to preserving open space on Cuttyhunk.

To help preserve Barges Beach, which is the connecting piece of land to the easternmost end of the island, selectmen endorsed a suggestion made by MVC Coastal Planner Jo-Ann Taylor to investigate the design and construction of a rock groin that would diffuse wave energy at Barges Beach. It's estimated the engineering will cost \$250,000. Selectmen said they would lobby representative Dylan Fernandes and Senator Julian Cyr for assistance and have encouraged meeting attendees write to them directly as well. Senator Cyr said he plans to request funding of \$300,000 in an Economic Development Bond bill this July.

Hiking is one of the most popular activities on Cuttyhunk. However, it can be better managed. Easements on private property should be explored so trails can be clearly and legally connected. Improved wayfaring is also needed. One resident said that visitors often unknowingly wander on private property, including her own when she uses the outdoor shower. There is consensus that an inventory of existing trails, signage, a trail map and mobile app, should be created. The trail map could also include historic places of interest. It was unanimously agreed that favorite local fishing spots should not be put on the trail map.

Access for fishermen to the shoreline on the western part of the island and along the south shore has become more restricted by the landowners. Future open space acquisitions should include easements that will allow increased access on the west side of the island, including land west of the Gosnold Monument.

Access to Barges Beach requires trekking over uneven surfaces and cobbles. There is a need for easier beach access for the elderly and disabled. The future acquisition of a beach wheelchair has strong support. The current CPA funds can easily afford a \$1,500 beach wheelchair or two.

Installing more benches with shade trees is a popular idea. This also can be done with existing CPA funds.

The harbor area is not equipped to accommodate the increased popularity of paddleboarding and kayaking. Racks for the watercraft can bring order at relatively minimal cost.

There are ongoing negotiations that could lead to an expansion of the playground at Cuttyhunk School, and the deal for the land could close by July 2019. However, because of liability issues, there will not be a swing set on the school playground. The idea of a swing set on town property, at the top of Lookout Hill, was suggested and favorably received at the June 29 meeting.

Some long-time seasonal residents were not aware that Westend Pond was reopened for shellfishing in 2014. Shellfishing, a popular New England family activity, can be better promoted and increase town revenue with increased purchases of shellfishing permits.

For indoor activities, The Friends of the Cuttyhunk Public Library is looking to private funding to cover the cost of constructing a new library. People have expressed an interest in having more social events and concerts at the church and making more use of the Coast Guard building at the harbor for cultural and social events.

Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan

(see Map 22 Action Plan)

1. Address climate change impacts on open space and recreational land

>>Action 1A: Complete coastal climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan, including a long-term beach management plan. As part of that plan, sources of beach nourishment, including offshore sand mining, to be explored.

Responsible Party: Long range planning committee, selectmen, conservation commission.

Timeline: 2018 - 2022

Possible Funding: CPA, CZM, FEMA

>>Action 1B: Acquire funding for engineering study for groin construction off Barges Beach.

Responsible Party: Selectmen, conservation commission, property owners.

Timeline: 2018 – on going

Possible Funding: Economic Development Bill to be introduced by Senator Cyr.

>>**Action 1C**: Seek sources for beach nourishment, including sand mining off the coast of Cuttyhunk.

Responsible Party: conservation commission, selectmen.

Timeline: 2019 - 2023

Possible Funding: various state and federal agencies.

>>**Action 1D**: Educate public on potential impact of climate change and adaptive measures

Responsible Party: selectmen, conservation commission

Timeline: ongoing

Possible Funding: N/A

2. *Open space acquisition*

>>**Action 2A**: File Open Space and Recreation Plan with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Responsible Party: Martha's Vineyard Commission, selectmen

Timeline: Draft filed on July 12, 2018; Final filed late April 2020

Possible Funding: N/A

>>**Action 2B**: Purchase 67 acres of open space

Responsible Party: Buzzards Bay Coalition

Timeline: June 2020

Possible Funding: Fundraising by Buzzards Bay Coalition including private donations, MA and federal grants, Town funds, and MA DCS.

>>**Action 2C**: Prioritize parcels for future open space acquisition including Church's Beach

Responsible Party: selectmen, Buzzards Bay Coalition, long range planning

committee, conservation committee

Timeline: 2018 – on going

Possible Funding: see Action 2B

3. Improve access to open space

>>**Action 3A**: Negotiate easements with property owners that will allow hiking trails to connect and will allow more places to access the shoreline for fishermen.

Responsible Party: town counsel, selectmen

Timeline: 2018 - 2022

Possible Funding: CPA, MA DCS

>>**Action 3B**: Title searches to clarify land ownership and existing public accessible easements

Responsible Party: selectmen, planning board, private citizens

Timeline: on-going

Possible Funding: CPA

>>**Action 3C**: Purchase beach wheelchair(s) to facilitate beach access for the elderly and disabled.

Responsible Party: selectmen, conservation commission

Timeline: on-going

Possible Funding: CPA, MA DCS

4. Improve recreational facilities

>>**Action 4A**: Town playground by lease agreement with Buzzards Bay Coalition

Responsible Party: selectmen, town counsel

Timeline: 2020 - on

Possible Funding: DCS PARC grant, MA department of education, Buzzards

Bay Coalition, Private Donations

>>**Action 4B:** Improve hiking trail wayfaring by creating signage and trail map

Responsible Party: Buzzards Bay Coalition, conservation commission

Timeline: 2019 - on

Possible Funding: Buzzards Bay Coalition, MA DCS

>>**Action 4C:** Installing more benches with shade trees.

Responsible Party: selectmen, conservation commission, private citizens

Timeline: 2019 - 2020

Possible Funding: CPA, MA DCS

>>**Action 4D:** Locate of kayak storage at the harbor.

Responsible Party: harbor commission

Timeline: 2020-2021

Possible Funding: Harbor Commission



Map 22: Action Plan

Section 10: Public Comments

A.- Local Review

The first draft of the Gosnold's Open Space & Recreation Plan was uploaded to the MVC's website to provide review by town boards and the public on June 28, 2018. Feedback was received verbally from the Selectmen, town boards, and the public at the June 29th public meeting on Cuttyhunk.

The revised draft was provided to the Selectmen, who wear many hats in the Town and all members sit on several town boards, on July 6, 2018. Feedback was received by July 9 and their modification suggestions and additions were incorporated into the draft plan.

Letters of approval of the Draft Plan can be found in Appendix C from the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Long-Range Planning Committee.

B.- Division of Conservation Services Approval

The Town of Gosnold is submitting the Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan to DCS by July 12, 2018 so the town can be eligible for certain State grants (i.e. LAND and PARC). After submission of the draft, the town will continue to work on the plan, with the assistance of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, and submit a final Open Space & Recreation Plan to DCS for final approval.

Update April 2020

The Gosnold Board Selectmen and the Martha's Vineyard Commission revised the draft Plan per feedback from DCS. The Selectmen reviewed the revisions the weekend of April 24th. Their feedback was incorporated, and the 'final' draft was made available to residents for review and comment on April 29th. Residents were notified via the Cuttyhunk/Gosnold email list. The MVC submitted the Plan for final approval to DCS on May 4, 2020.

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31. Savebuzzardsbay.org
32. Beth Colt, trustee, Naushon Trust Inc.
33. <https://www.massmoments.org/moment-details/first-lepers-arrive-on-penikese-island.html>
34. <https://www.metroparks.com/importance-leisure-recreation-health/>
35. https://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CHS-Research_Timeline.pdf
36. Rare Species Viewer – MESA & NHESP <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-viewer>

Appendix A: ADA Evaluation & Facility Inventory

Appendix B: Tables

1. Conservation Land Matrix
2. Anticipated Future Acquisitions

Appendix C: Supporting Documents

1. June 11 Meeting Announcement
2. Survey Announcement
3. June 29 Meeting Announcement
4. Letter of Endorsement from Board of Selectmen
5. Letter of Endorsement from Conservation Commission
6. Letter of Endorsement from Long Range Planning Committee
7. Letter of Endorsement from the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Appendix D: Survey Results

Appendix E: Acknowledgements

Appendix A - Table of Contents

Self-Evaluation Report	
Part 1: Administrative Requirements	A-1
Part 2: Program Accessibility	A-1
Part 3: Employment Practices	A-1
ADA Coordinator Statement	A-2
Grievance Policy	A-2
ADA Signage	A-4
Lookout Park Photos	A-4 thru A-6
Lookout Park Facility Inventory	A-7

Town of Gosnold

CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

TOWN OF GOSNOLD ADA SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

The Head Selectman of the Town of Gosnold is designated as the ADA Coordinator. Official designation signed by the Selectmen is attached.

2. Grievance Procedures The procedure for the general public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made is attached.

3. Public Notification Requirements

Employees and the public are notified that the Town of Gosnold does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Notification is provided by the following signage on the Town Hall bulletin board and on the town website. An "EEO" clause is included in all recruitment materials or publications. See attached the most recent job posting from the Collins Center for Public Management webpage.

4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

No individuals with disabilities were available on Cuttyhunk Island to complete the self-evaluation.

Part II: Program Accessibility

Facility Inventory

Lookout Park is the only public park facility in the Town of Gosnold. It is managed by the Board of Selectmen.

Transition Plan for Lookout Park

(1) Identify physical obstacles: Stairs to the lookout platform, Picnic tables (2) Describe necessary changes: Stairs to be replaced with a ramp, Accessible picnic table to be provided (3) Schedule: FY2021, and (4) Responsible individual: Seth Garfield, Highway Department.

Part III: Employment Practices

The Town of Gosnold ADA Coordinator attests that the Town of Gosnold employment practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sarah Berry
Sarah Berry, ADA Coordinator

4/23/2020
Date

Attachments:

Attach ADA Coordinator statement:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Gosnold designate the Head Selectman as the ADA Coordinator for the town.

Sarah Berry
Sarah Berry, Head Selectman

4/23/2020
Date

Gail Blout
Gail Blout, Selectman

4/23/2020
Date

Stewart Young
Stewart Young, Selectman

4/23/20
Date

Attach Grievance Policy:

**TOWN OF GOSNOLD GRIEVANCE POLICY (For the General Public)
EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES (adopted May 1, 2020)**

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1: The Town Clerk will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours. When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation, or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation, or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may. A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation, or clarification will be responded to within fourteen (14) working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc). Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation, or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (e.g. conservation commission, highway department). If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2: A written grievance will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within fourteen (14) working days by the Board of Selectmen in a format that is sensitive to the

needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.). If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3: If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

Attach ADA Signage:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Town of Gosnold does not discriminate on the basis of disability. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Head Selectman who is designated as the ADA Coordinator, or the Town Clerk. (April 17, 2020)

Attach Job Posting Example:

**TOWN OF GOSNOLD
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
PART TIME**

The Town of Gosnold seeks a part time Town Administrator to assist with the administration, management, and coordination of Town departments, commissions, boards, and officers as assigned by and under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. The Town seeks an experienced Town Administrator and welcomes applications from retired Town Administrators for this part time, flexible position. Expertise in intergovernmental relations, municipal finance is essential. The Town of Gosnold, the smallest of the 351 towns in Massachusetts, is made up of the Elizabeth Islands; Nonamesset, Uncatena, Weepecket, Gull, Naushon, Pasque, Nashawena, Penikese and Cuttyhunk. Town government is located on Cuttyhunk. Travel to Cuttyhunk is via ferry from New Bedford. For more information, please visit the Collins Center for Public Management webpage at www.umb.edu/cpm. AA/EEO employer.

Lookout Park and observation deck (photo 1)





Lookout Park and observation deck (photo 2)



Lookout Park Picnic Tables (photo 1)



Lookout Park Picnic Tables (photo 2)

Facility Inventory

LOCATION: Lookout Park

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
✓ Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches 2	Located adjacent to accessible paths ✓
		Access to Open Spaces ✓
	Grills	Back and Arm Rests NO ✓ need accessible table
	Trash Cans	Adequate number ✓
	Picnic Shelters	Height of Cooking Surface Located adjacent to accessible paths
✗ Trails		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
✗ Swimming Facilities	Pools	Signage (for visually impaired)
		Entrance
	Beaches	Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
		Location from accessible path into water
✗ Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Handrails
	Access Routes	Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
✗ Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Same experience provided to all
	Equipment	Located adjacent to accessible paths
✗ Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
✗ Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Height
		Dimensions
	Equipment	Spectator Seating
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
✗ Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
✗ Services and Technical Assistance		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings

LOCATION

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	✓		Plenty of space
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.		✓	No vans - only golf carts
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)	✓		hard pack, some uneven
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		✓	no curb
Curbcut 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			to be installed to replace stairs
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			

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	✓		hard pack some uneven
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"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances	N/A		Outdoors
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			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

NOTES

LOCATION

STAIRS and DOORS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			to be replaced with ramp
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			no doors
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

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

None

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

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			

None

None

NOTES

LOCATION

None

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

None

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		✓	<i>Add accessible table between the two existing tables</i>
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			<i>None</i>

Appendix B - Table of Contents

Table 1: Gosnold Conservations Lands	B-1
Table 2: Anticipated BBC Lands	B-4

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Gosnold Conservation Land (last updated 4/24/2020) NOTE: No parcels within Gosnold have Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs)											
2	Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Acquisition Method	Physical Description	Level of Protection	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition	Thumbnail Image (Google 2016)
3	1	Bayberry Hill Road (CR) Conservation Restriction	9.3	Privately Owned Ames Jr Oliver F and Worth Thomas B Trustees of the Ponzecchi Massachusetts Real Property Trust	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Steep 30ft cliss along Vineyard Sound. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Erosional cliff w/Cobble Beach at base and Shrubland upland.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Unknown	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public	
4	2	Gosnold WMA	4.1	Department of Fish and Game	Article 97 - EEA Funded	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> NsC Nantucket-Plymouth complex, rolling, very stony. Abuts Atlantic Ocean & West End Pond. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Cobble Beach, Grassland & Maritime Shrubland.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access	Property provides view of Gosnold Monument located on small island in Westend Pond. Property is challenging for public to get to since they must first traverse the beach at low-tide to circumnavigate Westend Pond. The public may not use the private road along the southside of the island.	Fair	
5	3	Tarpaulin Cove Sanctuary	3.9	Department of Fish and Game	Article 97 - EEA Funded	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PtC & PtD Plymouth-Montauk complex, (C-0 to 15% slopes) (D-15 to 35% slopes), extremely bouldery.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access by Island Residents	Property located on privately-owned island. No public infrastructure improvements. Property surrounds lighthouse.	Fair	
6	4	Penikese Island Sanctuary	88.4	Department of Fish and Game	Article 97 - EEA Funded	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PtC & PtD Plymouth-Montauk complex, (C-0 to 15% slopes) (D-15 to 35% slopes), extremely bouldery. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Grassland & Shrubland	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access by Island Residents	Infrastructure improvements made for therapeutic residential facility and outbuildings.	Good	

Table 1: Gosnold Conservation Land pg B-1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Acquisition Method	Physical Description	Level of Protection	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition	Thumbnail Image (Google 2016)
7	5	Nashawena Island (CR) Conservation Restriction	1,790.0	Privately Owned Forbes Stephen H	No EEA involvement	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> Northeast section of island - Enc Eastchop-Montauk complex, 0 to 15% slopes, very bouldery; West end of island - PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex rolling, very bouldery; South side of island - PtC Plymouth-Montauk complex, 0 to 15% slopes, extremely bouldery. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Heathland & Shrubland	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access by Island Residents Only	Infrastructure improvements made as needed by Island Residents	Good	
8	6	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction & held in-fee	35.5	Massachusetts Audubon Society	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> Beach and PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Northern arm which encloses Cuttyhunk Pond. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Dune, Shurb, & Salt Marsh.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	This property is probably easier for the public to access via boat, as it abuts Cuttyhunk Pond and Channel, and Buzzards Bay, rather than by golf cart since they would have to traverse semi-private roads to get to the property.	Fair	
9	7	Cuttyhunk Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary	8.2	Massachusetts Audubon Society	No EEA involvement	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> NsC Nantucket-Plymouth complex, rolling, very stony. Abuts Atlantic Ocean & West End Pond. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Cobble Beach, Grassland & Maritime Shrubland.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access	This property has a walking trail and provides a view overlooking Vineyard Sound.	Good	
10	8	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	2.9	Privately Owned Ponzecchi Muriel W	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Shrubland & Maritime Forest.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public	

Table 1: Gosnold Conservation Land pg B-2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L																																			
2	Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Acquisition Method	Physical Description	Level of Protection	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition	Thumbnail Image (Google 2016)																																			
11	9	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	3.6	Privately Owned Ponzecchi Muriel W	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Property abuts Buzzards Bay. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Shrubland & Grassland.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public																																				
12	10	Ponzecchi (CR) Conservation Restriction	2.7	Privately Owned Ponzecchi Muriel W	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> PwD Plymouth-Nantucket complex, hilly, extremely bouldery. Property abuts development. <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Shrubland, Grassland, & Maritime Forest.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public																																				
13	11	West End Sanctuary	2.7	Massachusetts Audubon Society	No EEA involvement	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> NsC Nantucket-Plymouth complex, rolling, very stony <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Shoreline & Maritime Shrubland	Perpetuity	Conservation	No Public Access	No public infrastructure improvements as property is presently closed to the public.	Not applicable - closed to public																																				
14	12	Pasque Island (61B) (Chapter 61B)	858.0	Pasque Island Trust	No EEA involvement	<u>Primary Soil & Topography:</u> EnC Eastchop-Montauk complex & PtD Plymouth-Montauk complex ("C" area has 0 to 15% slope, very bouldery; "D" area has 15 to 35% slope, extremely bouldery) <u>Primary Vegetation:</u> Maritime Shrubland	Non-perpetuity	Open Space - Passive	No Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public																																				
15	Total Acres 2,809.3																																														
16	Overview of Gosnold Conservation																																														
17	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Island</th> <th>Acres</th> <th>Acres Conserved</th> <th>Percent of Island Conserved</th> <th>Percent of Town Conserved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cuttyhunk</td> <td>563.0</td> <td>69</td> <td>12%</td> <td>0.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nashawena</td> <td>1,790.0</td> <td>1,790</td> <td>100%</td> <td>21.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Naushon</td> <td>5,205.3</td> <td>4</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pasque</td> <td>870.0</td> <td>858</td> <td>99%</td> <td>10.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penikese</td> <td>88.4</td> <td>88</td> <td>100%</td> <td>1.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Town of Gosnold Total</td> <td>8,516.7</td> <td>2,809.3</td> <td></td> <td>33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>												Island	Acres	Acres Conserved	Percent of Island Conserved	Percent of Town Conserved	Cuttyhunk	563.0	69	12%	0.8%	Nashawena	1,790.0	1,790	100%	21.0%	Naushon	5,205.3	4	0%	0.0%	Pasque	870.0	858	99%	10.1%	Penikese	88.4	88	100%	1.0%	Town of Gosnold Total	8,516.7	2,809.3		33%
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Table 1: Gosnold Conservation Land pg B-3

Anticipated Buzzards Bay Coalition Conservation Lands - on Cuttyhunk Island, Gosnold MA

ID	Map and Lot	Current Owner	Current Restriction	Acres Currently Conserved	Additional Acres Conserved under BBC
A	67-10	Ponzecchi Massachusetts Real Property Trust	Conservation Restriction*	9.3	1.8
B	67-19	Ponzecchi Massachusetts Real Property Trust	Conservation Restriction*	6.5	1.8
C	95-7	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	2.1
D	95-5	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	20.4
E	95-4	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	2.6
F	95-2	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	20.0
G	95-8	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	1.1
H?	95-9	Joint Owners**	None	0.0	1.5
Total				15.8	51.2

Location of H? is still under research.

*These properties would convert from no public access to having public access on the total property.

**Joint Owners are:

- a) Ponzecchi Massachusetts Real Property Trust
- b) Ridgely Farm Limited Partnership
- c) The Heirs of the Guardabassi Family

<i>Anticipated</i> Total BBC on Cuttyhunk	67
Other Conserved Land on Cuttyhunk	53
<i>Anticipated</i> Total Conserved Land on Cuttyhunk	120

Current Total Conserved Land on Cutthunk	69
Acreage of Cuttyhunk	563
Current Percent Conserved	12%
Percent Conserved with BBC Acquisitions	21%

Appendix C – Table of Contents

June 11, 2018 Public Meeting Announcement	C-1
June 11, 2018 Public Meeting Attendees List	C-2
Survey Announcement – via Email/Facebook to Cuttyhunk Chatter List 6/15/18	C-3
June 29 Meeting Announcement - via Email/Facebook to Cuttyhunk Chatter List	C-4
June 29, 2018 Public Meeting Attendees List	C-5
Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Selectmen 2018.....	C-6
Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Conservation Commission 2018.....	C-7
Letter of Endorsement – Long Range Planning Committee 2018	C-8
Letter of Endorsement – Martha’s Vineyard Commission – April 2020.....	C-9
Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Selectmen 2020.....	C-10
Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Conservation Commission 2020.....	C-11
Letter of Endorsement – Long Range Planning Committee 2020	C-12

June 11, 2018 Public Meeting Announcement

Chris Seidel <seidel@mvcommission.org>

5/31/2018 9:58 AM

RE: Cuttyhunk - June 11th

To Sarah Berry <sbgberry@gmail.com> • Gail Blout erb1010@comcast.net <erb1010@comcast.net> • Stewart Young (youngstew@comcast.net) <youngstew@comcast.net> Copy
Dan Doyle <ddoyle@mvcommission.org> • Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org> • Jo-Ann Taylor <taylor@mvcommission.org>

Hi Sarah, Gail, and Stewart – Perhaps you guys can help with this piece ...I'm trying to figure out our meeting schedule for June 11th. There are 3 meetings going on that day and some people need to attend at least two of them. So, we can't have overlapping meeting times.

Here's what I'm proposing. Please speak up if you think any of the times need to be adjusted or if any of the meetings need to be shorter or longer. The MVP and Open Space both involve the Public. So, I thought it would be good to try and limit the total of those two sessions to 2 hours.

Monday June 11

- 9:30AM MVC arrives (probably a little earlier since we're leaving Menemsha at 8:30am)
- 10:00AM to 10:30AM is the **MVP Listening Session** (MVP Results are Presented to Public) – Seth or Gail will present and MVC will provide materials
- 10:45AM to Noon is **Open Space & Recreation Plan Kickoff and Public's Vision**
- Noon to 1:00PM – Lunch Break
- 1:00PM to 2:30PM – Broadband Meeting
- 3:30pm MVC departs

*Posted @ Town Hall
June 7, 2018
L Wright - Clerk*

June 11, 2018 Public Meeting Attendees List

Cattyhawk

Audience Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: 6/11/18

Meeting #:

NAME	
Jo Ann Taylor	
Dan Doyle	
Brendan Spangolano	
Chris Seidel	
Gaw Blout	
Sally Berry	
Dix Wilson	
Beth Garfield	
Tim Bickeridge	
George Shaw	
Dillon Storek	I
Jeff Spear	

Survey Announcement – via Email/Facebook to Cuttyhunk Chatter List 6/15/18

Greetings,

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is developing an Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Gosnold. The creation of an Open Space and Recreation Plan serves several purposes. It requires a community to establish a concrete plan for the future and assist the Town in qualifying for state funding that might finance those goals. A Massachusetts community with an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Funds and a number of other grant programs administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Open Space and Recreation Plans also help to coordinate with ongoing acquisition efforts of state environmental agencies, and local and regional land trusts. We are pleased to be doing this on an accelerated schedule, and your quick response to this request will be very helpful!

The Buzzards Bay Coalition recently announced intentions to apply to the Commonwealth for funding to purchase seven parcels on Cuttyhunk, totally 63 acres, to be preserved for open space. To obtain that funding, a draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan must be completed by early July.

We are conducting a survey as a critical step in creating the *Open Space and Recreation Plan for Gosnold*. Your input is critical. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GosnoldOpenSpace> and take the survey on-line. Results will be tabulated and used in developing future goals and programs. **Please complete the survey by the end of Friday June 22nd.**

There will be a public hearing on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan on June 29th at the Gosnold Town Hall.

Thanks for your help!

June 29 Meeting Announcement - via Email/Facebook to Cuttyhunk Chatter List

Date: June 27, 2018 at 12:35:34 PM EDT

To: Cuttyhunk Chatter <195326167502147@groups.facebook.com>

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN PRESENTATION BY MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 29 – 10 AM, TOWN HALL
PLEASE JOIN MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION STAFF AND CUTTYHUNK LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR A PRESENTATION ON:
SUMMARY OF RECENT SURVEY RESULTS
KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN
COMMUNITY SETTING
ENVIRONMENTAL & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY
COMMUNITY'S OPEN SPACE & RECREATION VISION/GOALS
WHAT'S NEEDED TO MEET THE GOALS
5-YEAR ACTION PLAN
OPPORTUNITY FOR FEEDBACK - DID MVC GET IT RIGHT?

June 29, 2018 Public Meeting Attendees List

Town of Goswold

Open Space and Recreation Plan Open Meeting - 6/29/18

Attendance

Gail Blout
SARAH Berry
Barry Stringfellow
Dix Nelson
Charlotte Hill
Jay Morrison
Jim Barry
Ned Pursant
Bob Elmore
Owain Mark
Jeff Spear
George Shaw
Pam Baldwin
Rusca Lofel
Emily Anderson
Jenny Hart
Dix Nelson
Wendy Gantner
Paula Dillan
Ann Conway
Paul H. Lehner
Sara Lehner

Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Selectmen 2018

Town of Gosnold
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

June 29, 2018

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

The Gosnold Board of Selectmen endorses this Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within.

Sincerely,



Gail Blout
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Conservation Commission 2018

Town of Gosnold
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

June 29, 2018

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

The Gosnold Conservation Commission endorses this Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within.

Sincerely,



David Warr
Chairman
Conservation Commission

Letter of Endorsement – Long Range Planning Committee 2018

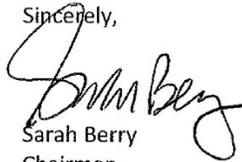
Town of Gosnold
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

June 29, 2018

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

The Gosnold Long-Range Planning Committee endorses this Open Space and Recreation Plan and support all the goals and policies contained within.

Sincerely,



Sarah Berry
Chairman
Long-Range Planning Committee

Letter of Endorsement – Martha’s Vineyard Commission – April 2020

April 23, 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 Gosnold Open Space and Recreation Plan and supports all the goals and policies contained within. We are honored to work with the community of Gosnold 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

P.O. BOX 1447 • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE • OAK BLUFFS • MA • 02557
508.693.3453 • FAX: 508.693 7894 • INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG • WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG
REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DUKES COUNTY • SERVING: AQUINNAH, CHILMARK, EDGARTOWN, GOSNOLD, OAK BLUFFS TISBURY, & WEST TISBU

Letter of Endorsement - Board of Selectmen - 2020

Town of Gosnold

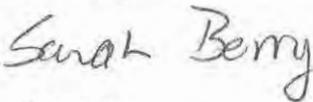
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

April 23, 2020

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

The Gosnold Board of Selectmen reconfirm their endorsement of the Gosnold 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,



Sarah Berry
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Town of Gosnold

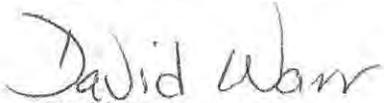
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

April 23, 2020

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

The Gosnold Conservation Commission reconfirms their endorsement of the Gosnold 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,



David Warr
Chairman
Conservation Commission

Town of Gosnold

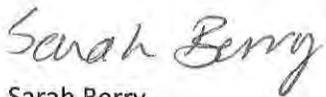
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

April 23, 2020

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

The Gosnold Long-Range Planning Committee reconfirms their endorsement of the Gosnold 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,



Sarah Berry
Chairman
Long-Range Planning Committee

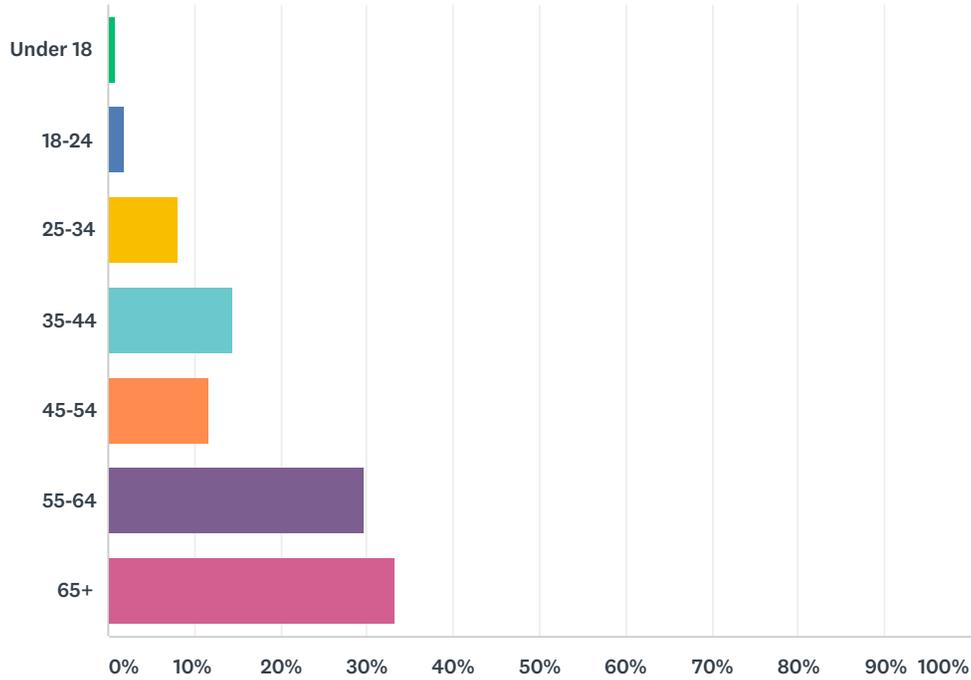
Appendix D - Table of Contents

Gosnold Open Space Survey

D-1 thru D-28

Q1 What is your age

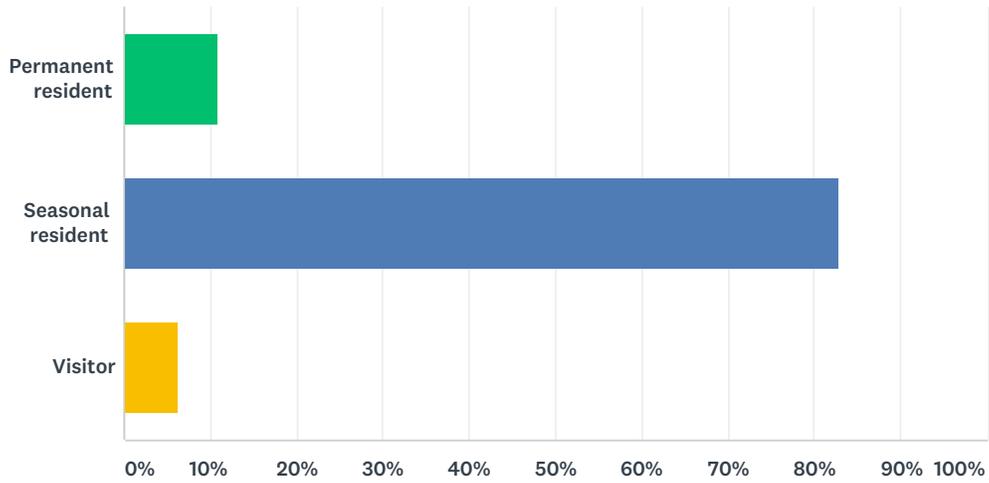
Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.90%	1
18-24	1.80%	2
25-34	8.11%	9
35-44	14.41%	16
45-54	11.71%	13
55-64	29.73%	33
65+	33.33%	37
TOTAL		111

Q2 What type of resident are you?

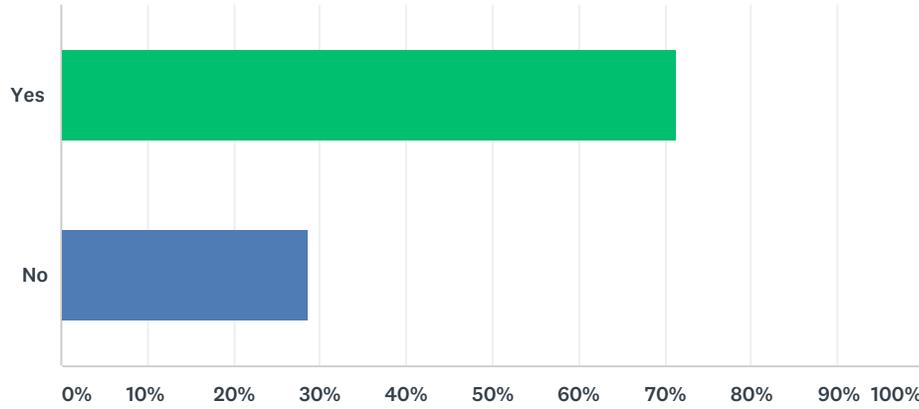
Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Permanent resident	10.81%	12
Seasonal resident	82.88%	92
Visitor	6.31%	7
TOTAL		111

Q3 Do you own property in Gosnold?

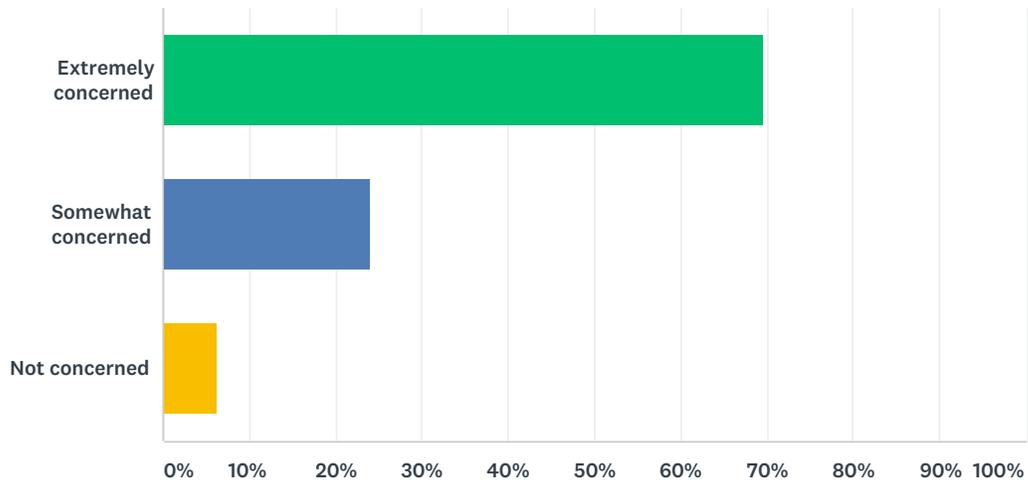
Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	80
No	28.57%	32
TOTAL		112

Q4 Open space can be acquired to protect aquifers. How concerned are you about the state of the aquifer that supplies Cuttyhunk with its water?

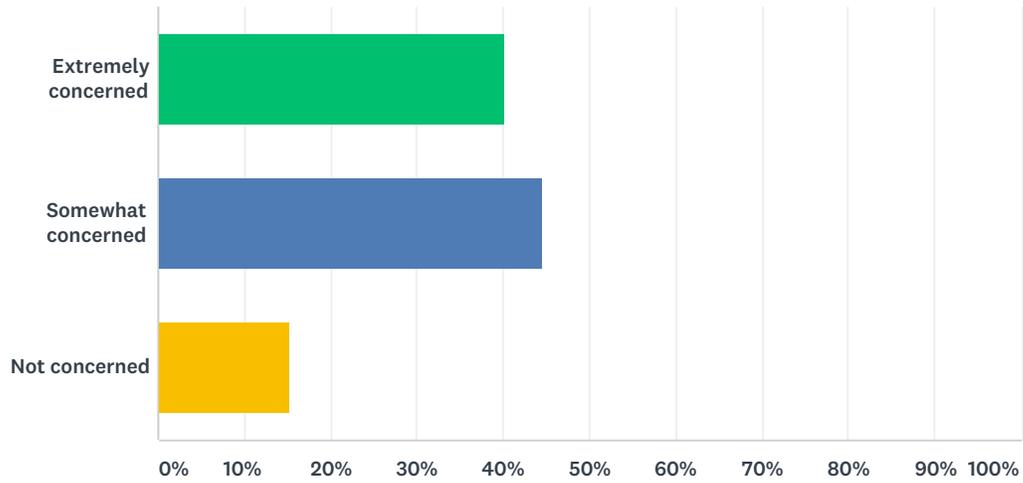
Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	69.64%	78
Somewhat concerned	24.11%	27
Not concerned	6.25%	7
TOTAL		112

Q5 How concerned are you about wildlife protection on the Island?

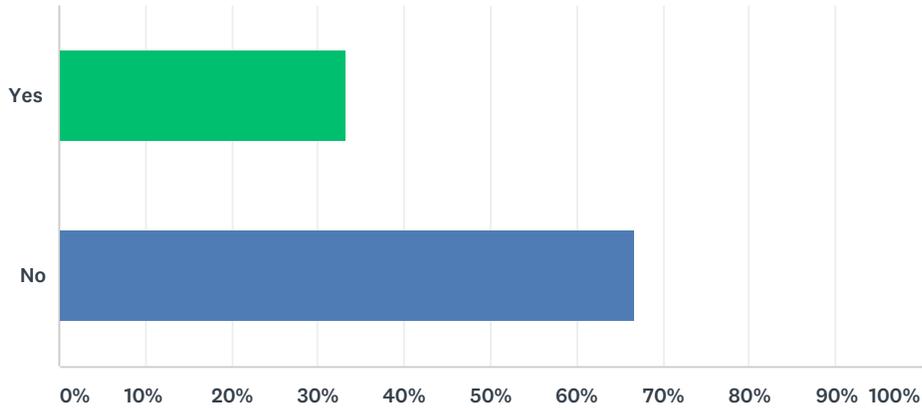
Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	40.18%	45
Somewhat concerned	44.64%	50
Not concerned	15.18%	17
TOTAL		112

Q6 Do you have any objections/concerns about non-profit organizations like the Buzzards Bay Coalition or the Audubon Society purchasing land on Cuttyhunk to be preserved for open space in perpetuity?

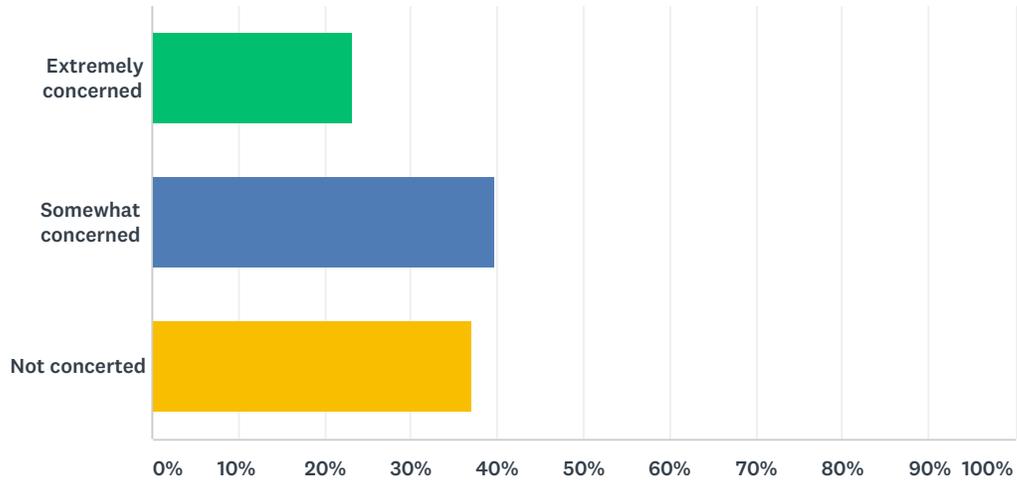
Answered: 108 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.33%	36
No	66.67%	72
TOTAL		108

Q7 How concerned are you that the impending 63-acre land purchase by the Buzzards Bay Coalition will restrict public access to that land?

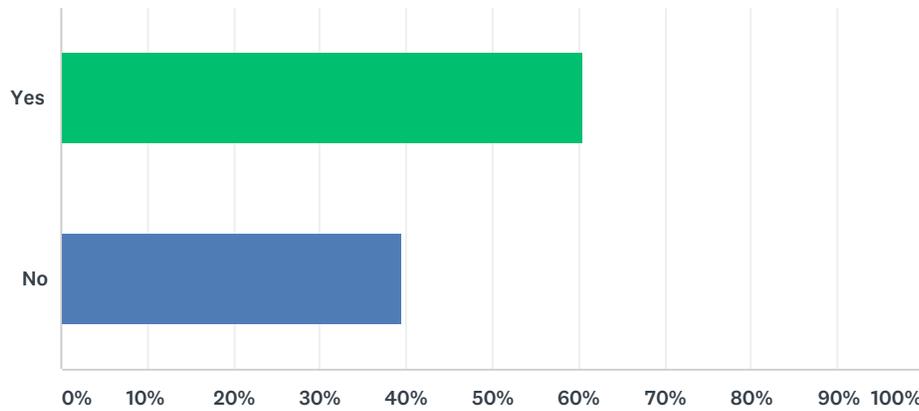
Answered: 108 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	23.15%	25
Somewhat concerned	39.81%	43
Not concerned	37.04%	40
TOTAL		108

Q8 Do you feel the public has adequate access to the shoreline and to West End Pond?

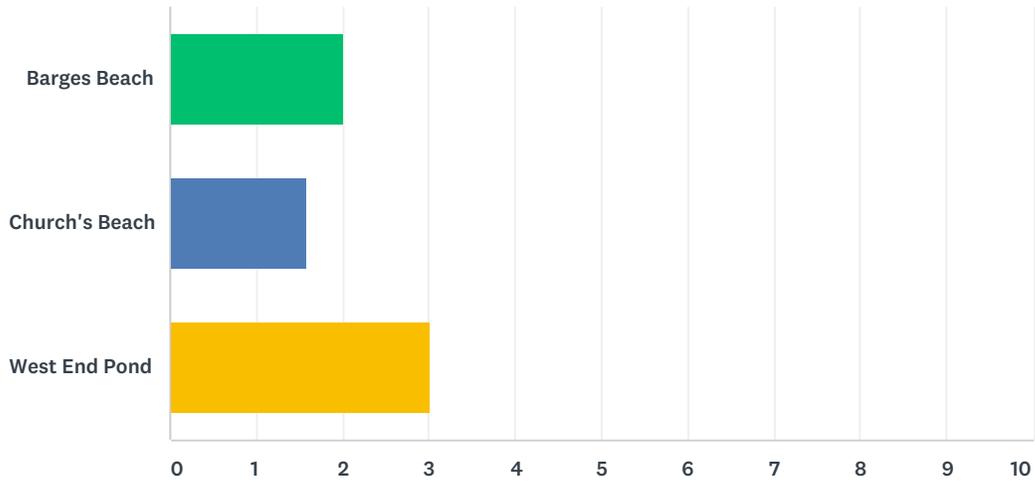
Answered: 109 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.55%	66
No	39.45%	43
TOTAL		109

Q9 How often do you go to the following public beaches?

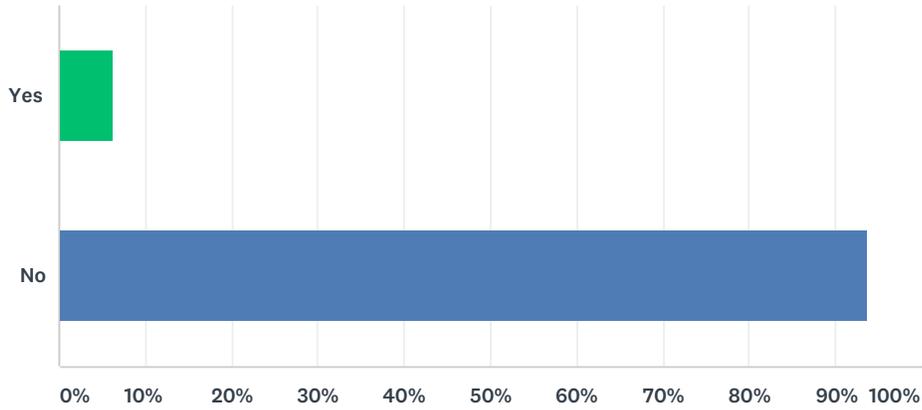
Answered: 109 Skipped: 3



	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Barges Beach	27.10% 29	54.21% 58	10.28% 11	8.41% 9	0.00% 0	107	2.00
Church's Beach	55.05% 60	34.86% 38	6.42% 7	2.75% 3	0.92% 1	109	1.60
West End Pond	4.63% 5	34.26% 37	23.15% 25	30.56% 33	7.41% 8	108	3.02

Q10 Have you, or has someone you know, experienced harassment from a waterfront homeowner while legally fishing from the shore between the low tide and high tide mark?

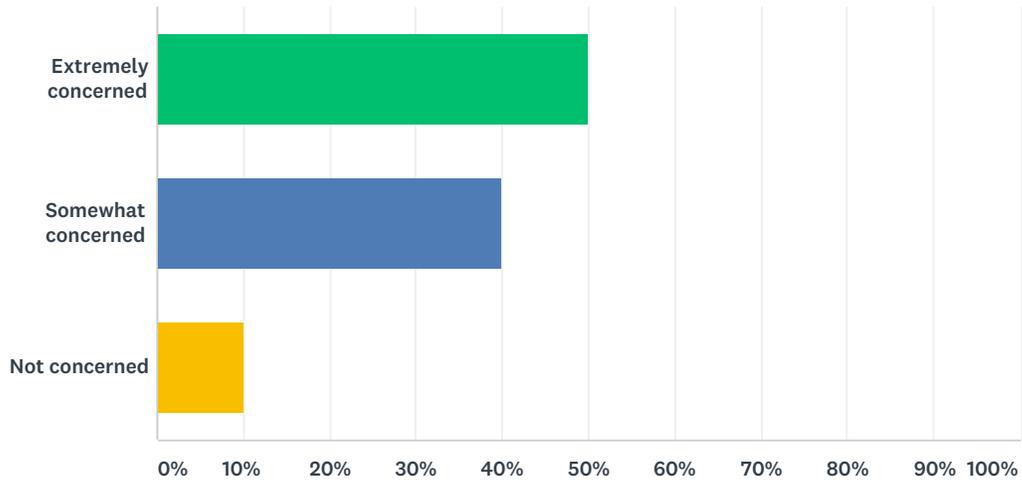
Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	6.31%	7
No	93.69%	104
TOTAL		111

Q11 How concerned are you about sea level rise?

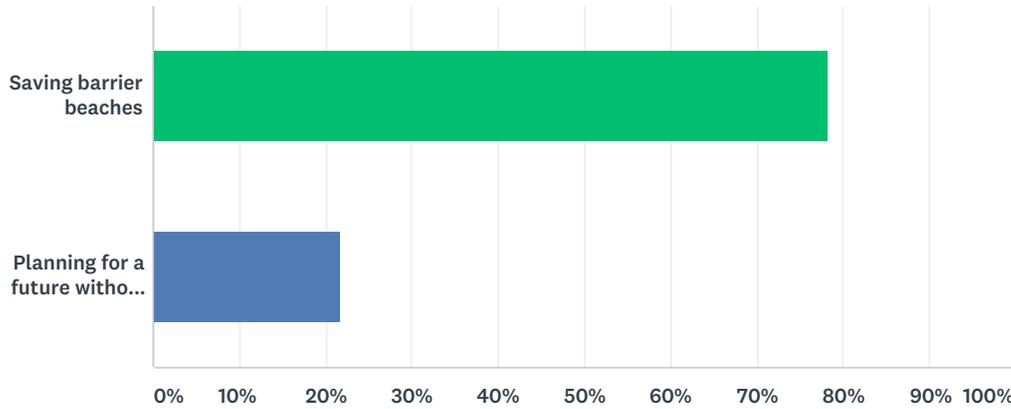
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	50.00%	55
Somewhat concerned	40.00%	44
Not concerned	10.00%	11
TOTAL		110

Q12 Do you think money is better spent on saving barrier beaches or planning for a future without them?

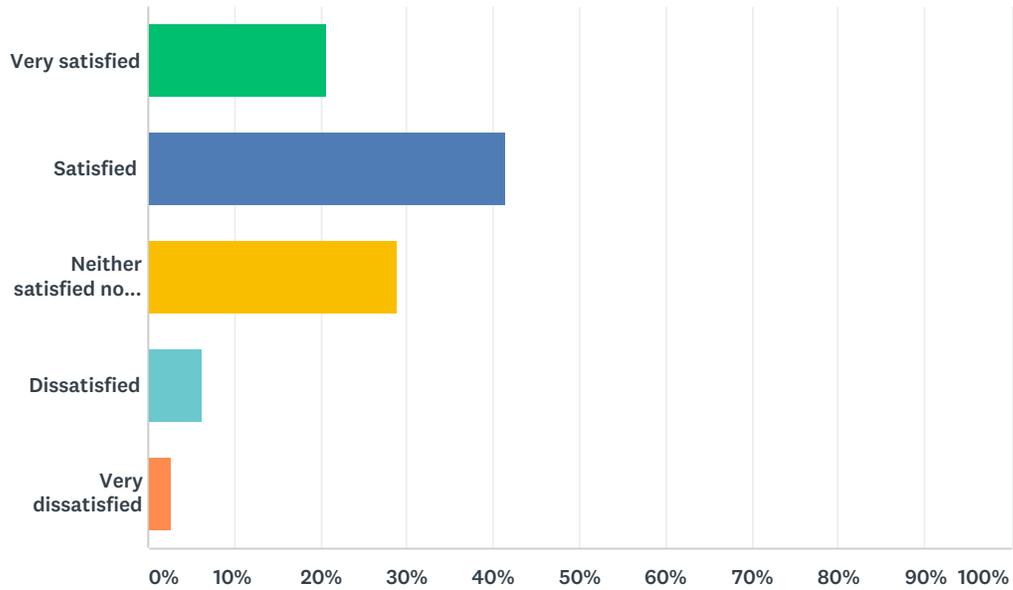
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Saving barrier beaches	78.18%	86
Planning for a future without barrier beaches	21.82%	24
TOTAL		110

Q13 How satisfied are you with the management of the Harbor?

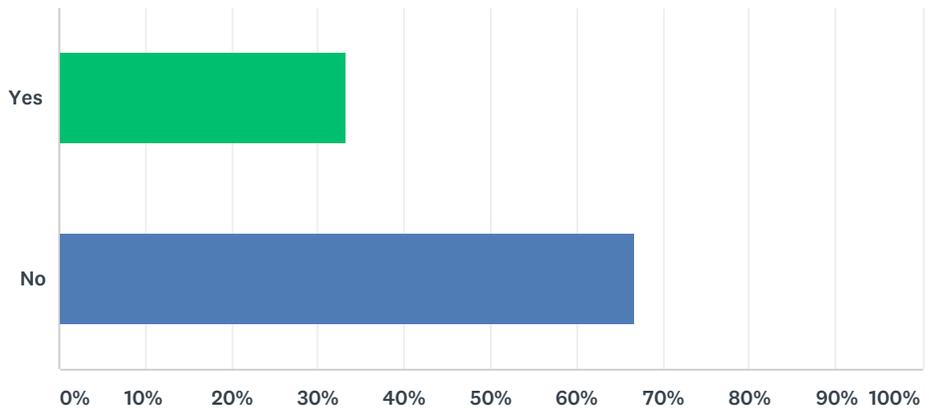
Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	20.72%	23
Satisfied	41.44%	46
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	28.83%	32
Dissatisfied	6.31%	7
Very dissatisfied	2.70%	3
TOTAL		111

Q14 Do you think there should be public showers available at or near the Harbor?

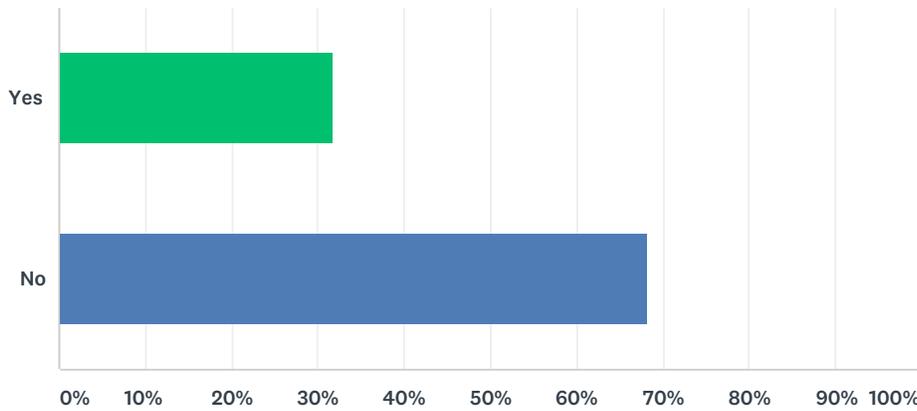
Answered: 108 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.33%	36
No	66.67%	72
TOTAL		108

Q15 Do you think there should be more public bathrooms at or near the Harbor?

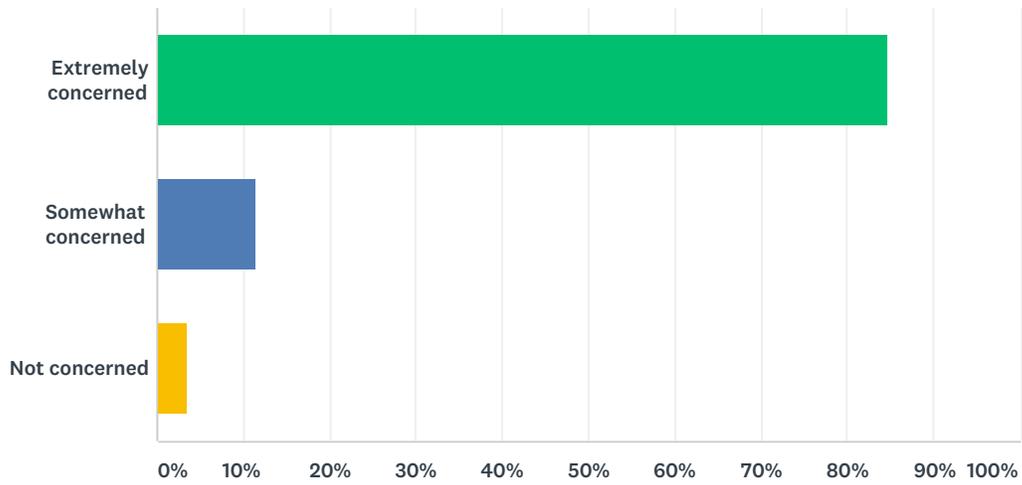
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.82%	35
No	68.18%	75
TOTAL		110

Q16 How concerned are you about the preservation of scenic beauty and character of Cuttyhunk?

Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



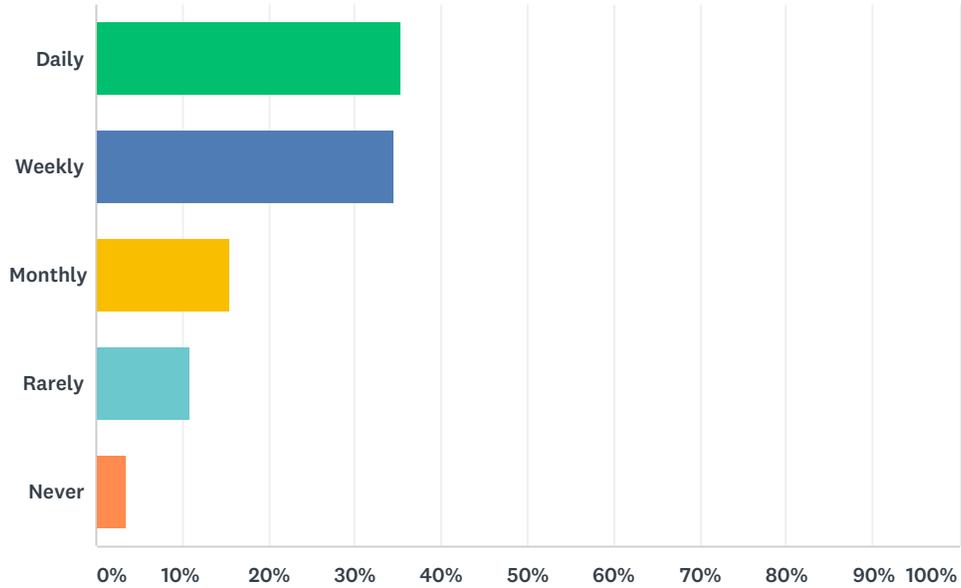
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	84.82%	95
Somewhat concerned	11.61%	13
Not concerned	3.57%	4
TOTAL		112

Q17 Are there any particular areas that you feel are threatened?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 44

Q18 How often do you use the hiking trails?

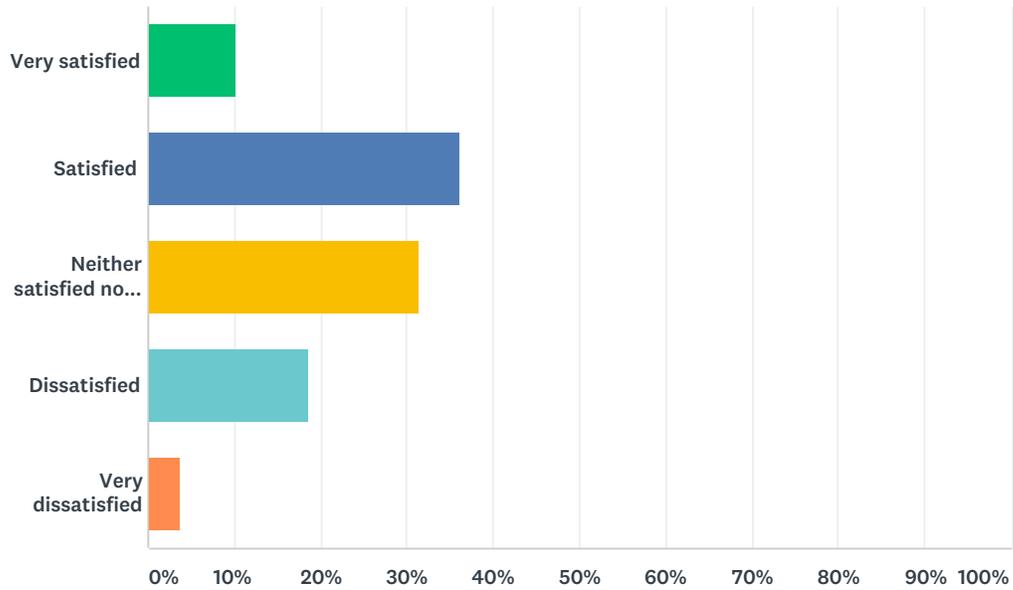
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	35.45%	39
Weekly	34.55%	38
Monthly	15.45%	17
Rarely	10.91%	12
Never	3.64%	4
TOTAL		110

Q19 How satisfied are you with the conditions of the hiking trails?

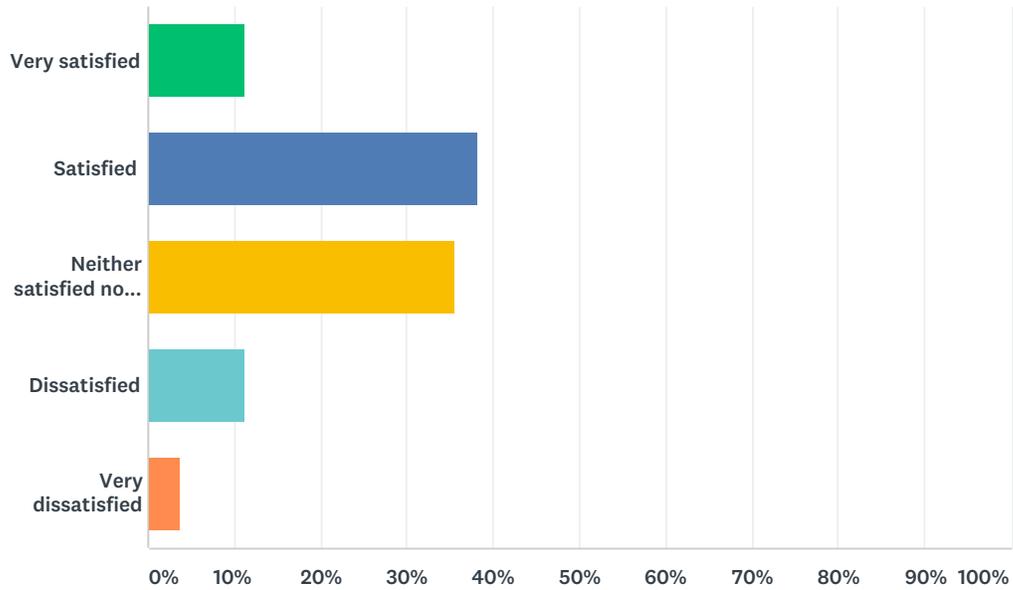
Answered: 108 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	10.19%	11
Satisfied	36.11%	39
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	31.48%	34
Dissatisfied	18.52%	20
Very dissatisfied	3.70%	4
TOTAL		108

Q20 How satisfied are you with the public recreational facilities?

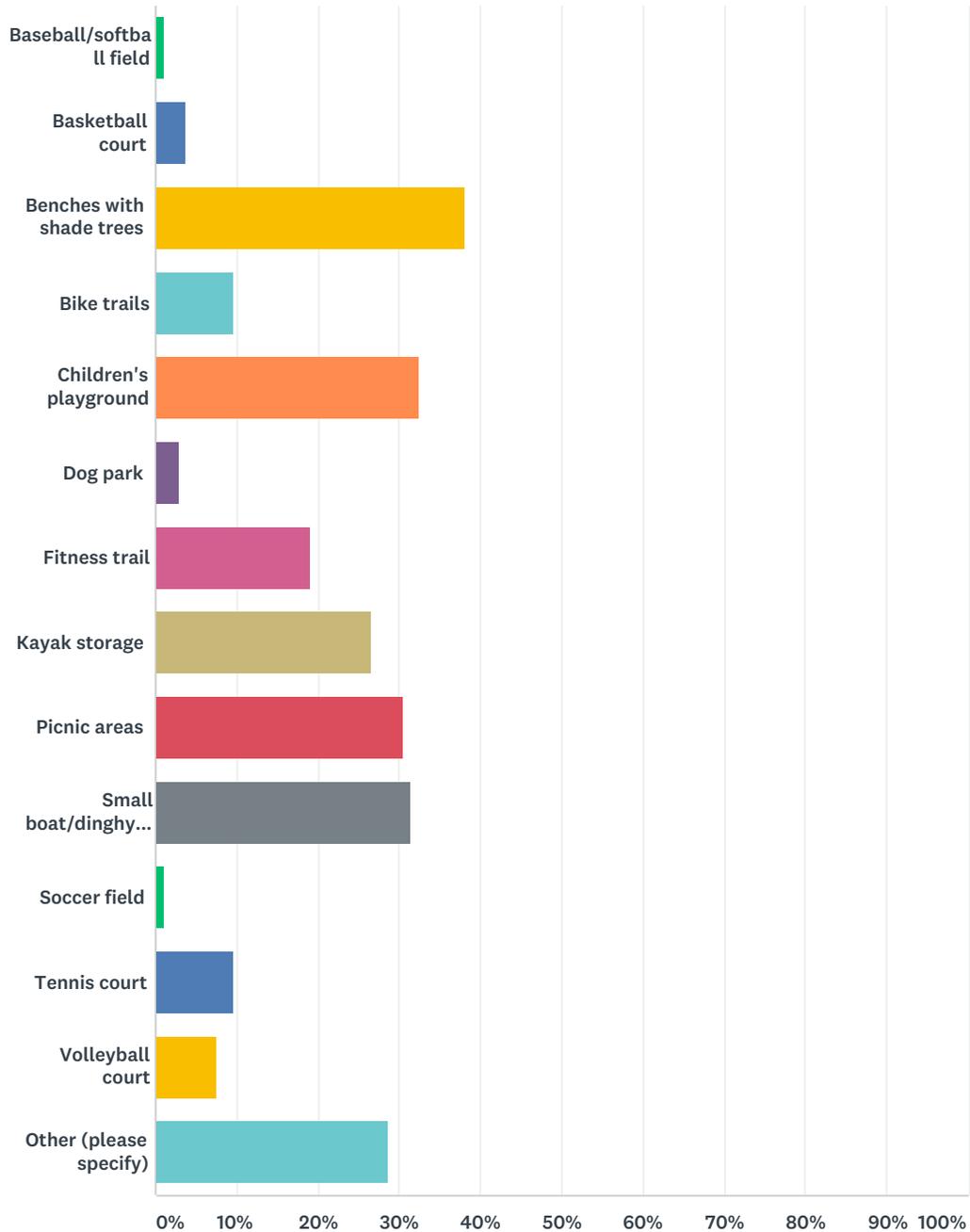
Answered: 107 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	11.21%	12
Satisfied	38.32%	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	35.51%	38
Dissatisfied	11.21%	12
Very dissatisfied	3.74%	4
TOTAL		107

Q21 Check the top three recreational resources that you think are needed:

Answered: 105 Skipped: 7



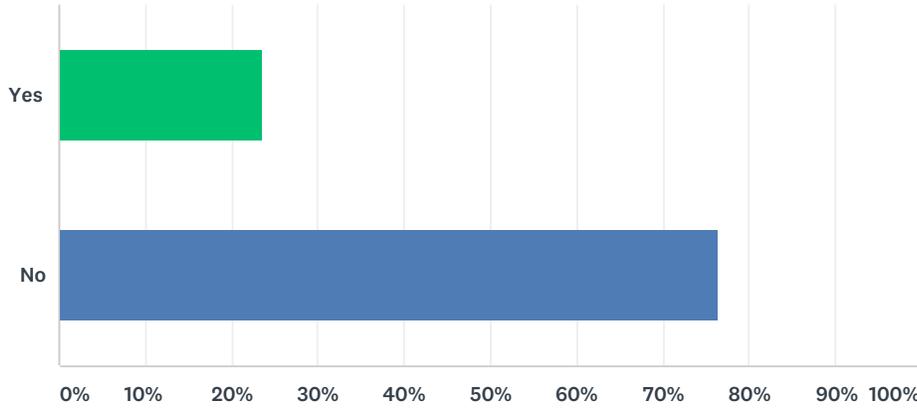
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Baseball/softball field	0.95% 1
Basketball court	3.81% 4
Benches with shade trees	38.10% 40
Bike trails	9.52% 10

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Children's playground	32.38%	34
Dog park	2.86%	3
Fitness trail	19.05%	20
Kayak storage	26.67%	28
Picnic areas	30.48%	32
Small boat/dinghy storage	31.43%	33
Soccer field	0.95%	1
Tennis court	9.52%	10
Volleyball court	7.62%	8
Other (please specify)	28.57%	30
Total Respondents: 105		

Q22 Do you ride a bike on Cuttyhunk?

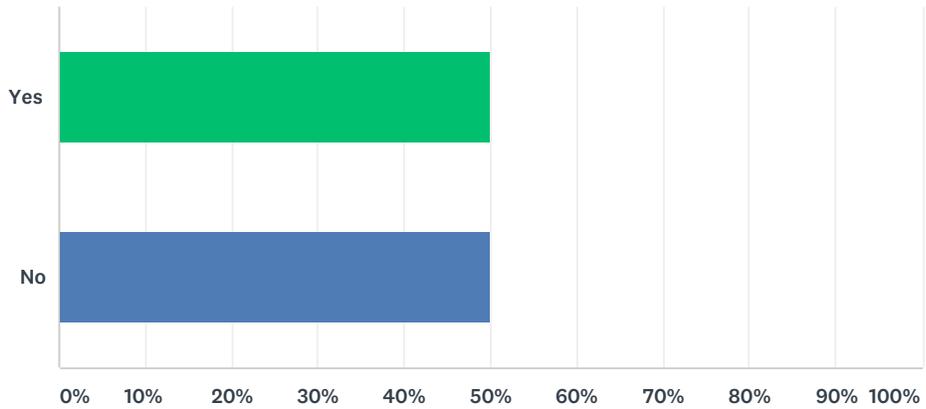
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.64%	26
No	76.36%	84
TOTAL		110

Q23 Do you think there should be more regulations for golf cart parking?

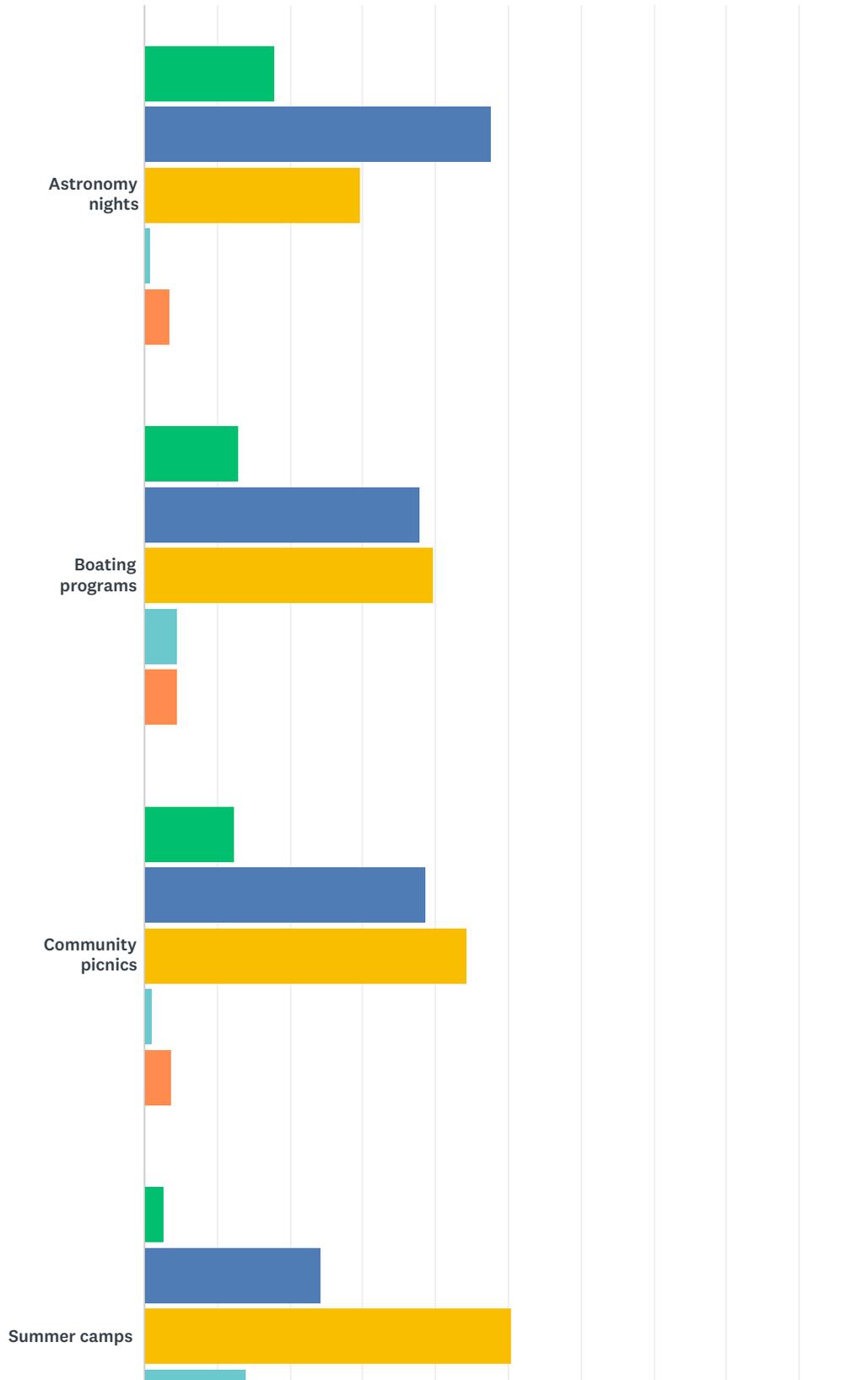
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



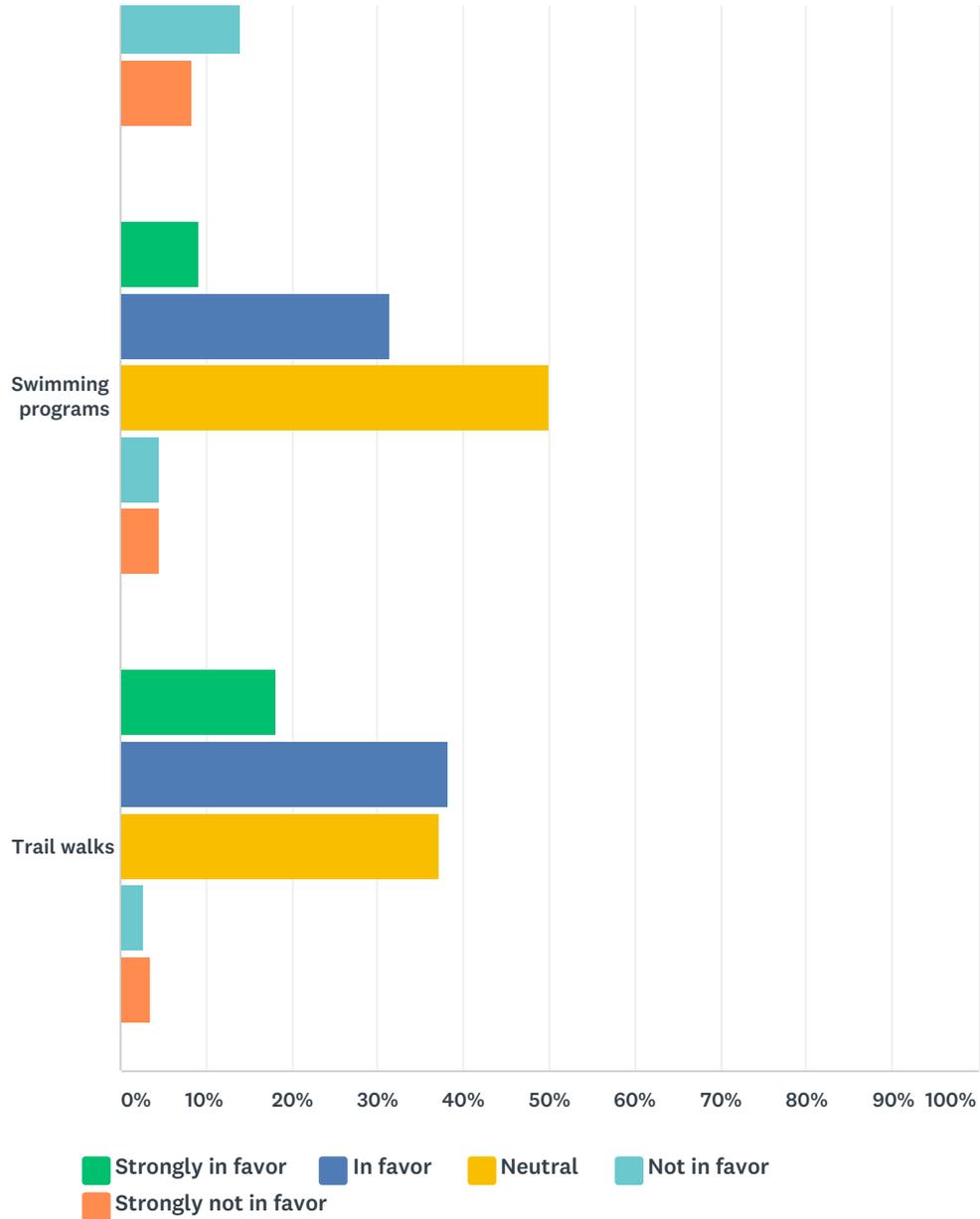
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	55
No	50.00%	55
TOTAL		110

Q24 How in favor would you be of having more of the following social programs?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



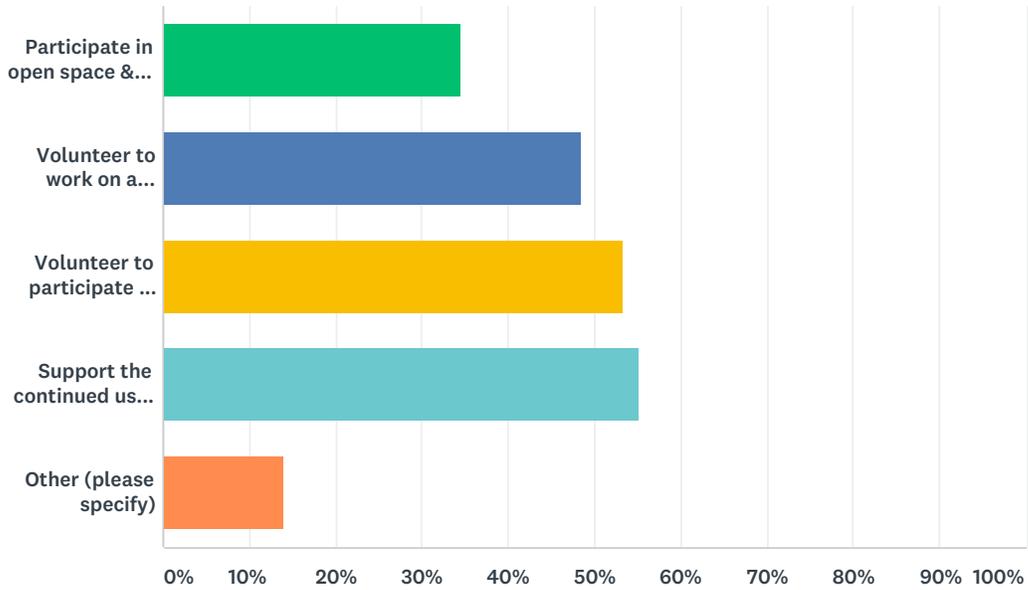
Gosnold Open Space Survey



	STRONGLY IN FAVOR	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	STRONGLY NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL
Astronomy nights	18.02% 20	47.75% 53	29.73% 33	0.90% 1	3.60% 4	111
Boating programs	12.96% 14	37.96% 41	39.81% 43	4.63% 5	4.63% 5	108
Community picnics	12.26% 13	38.68% 41	44.34% 47	0.94% 1	3.77% 4	106
Summer camps	2.80% 3	24.30% 26	50.47% 54	14.02% 15	8.41% 9	107
Swimming programs	9.26% 10	31.48% 34	50.00% 54	4.63% 5	4.63% 5	108
Trail walks	18.18% 20	38.18% 42	37.27% 41	2.73% 3	3.64% 4	110

Q25 How would you be willing to support or contribute to the Town's open space, and parks and recreation program?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Participate in open space & parks and recreation planning	34.58%	37
Volunteer to work on a specific project	48.60%	52
Volunteer to participate in a park clean-up day	53.27%	57
Support the continued use of Community Preservation Funds for improvements	55.14%	59
Other (please specify)	14.02%	15
Total Respondents: 107		

Q26 Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 70

This Plan would not have been possible without the time and talent of Barry Stringfellow. In 2018, The Martha's Vineyard Commission was given a short time frame in which to produce the draft Plan. To meet the deadline, the MVC contracted with Barry as our writing consultant. On behalf of the Town of Gosnold, thanks for becoming engrossed in all things Gosnold for several weeks in May/June of 2018.

The revisions to the Plan in 2020 were crafted by the Gosnold Selectmen and Chris Seidel of the Martha's Vineyard Commission. As the MVC's liaison to Gosnold, Ms. Seidel is forever in awe of these Selectmen – Sarah Berry, Gail Blout, and Stewart Young. They work tirelessly for Gosnold and their love and commitment to the Town is ever-present.

All cartography within the plan was produced by Chris Seidel.