



**DRAFT**

## **Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Gosnold**

Prepared by the Martha's Vineyard Commission

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## **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 312 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 a 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 of 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 also 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 five years. A five year action plan is being formulated, with public officials consulted for comment and revision.

### **B.- Planning Process and Public Participation**

The MVC held a public meeting on Monday, June 11 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 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. 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.

## **Section 3: Community Setting**

### **A.- Regional Context**

(see Appendix A: 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*

### **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.

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 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.

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 Sylvia. He was instrumental in introducing electricity with underground power lines, sewerage, town water, telephone, and harbor improvements.

On September 21, 1938 the great Hurricane of '38 struck a direct blow to Cuttyhunk, with recorded wind gusts of 185 mph, but somehow the Coast Guard Boathouse survived.

### **C.- Population Characteristics**

(see Appendix A: 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.

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.

#### **D.- Growth and development patterns**

(see Appendix A: Map 4 Development Over Time)

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.

The table below shows the slow and minimal grown 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>

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

## **Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis**

### **A.- Geology, Soils and Topography**

(see Appendix A: Map 5 Surficial Geology & Map 6 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.

### **B.- Landscape Character**

(see Appendix A: Map 7 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.

### **C.- Water Resources**

(see Appendix A: Map 8 Water Resources & Map 9 Flood Zones)

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.

#### **D.- Vegetation**

(see Appendix A: Map 10 Vegetation & Map 11 Land Use/Cover)

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.

#### **E.- Fisheries and Wildlife**

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.

Cuttyhunk is a popular destination for migrating birds and for birders. A variety of 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.

## **F.- Scenic Resources and Unique Environments**

(see Appendix A: Map 7 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.

## **G.- Environmental Challenges**

In the future, rising sea level, storms increasing in frequency and severity, and beach erosion are critical environmental challenges facing Cuttyhunk. 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.

The cliffs behind Churches Beach are also eroding rapidly.

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 last year. 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.

Because of the extensive shrub growth, Cuttyhunk is vulnerable to wildfire. There is a Wildfire Management Plan and controlled burns are scheduled for the fall.

## **Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**

(see Appendix A: Map 12 Conservation Lands & Map 13 Possible Future Acquisitions)  
"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.

### **A.-B.- Private, 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 66 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.

There is also wellhead protection land owned by the town to guard the island's sole source aquifer. Zone 1 creates a 10 acre buffer around the wellhead. The Interim Wellhead Protection Area extends over an additional 147 acres of land.

In all, there are seven 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. Article 97 of the state constitution protects lands acquired for natural resources purposes, meaning "conservation, development, and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air, and other natural resources". The land cannot be converted to any other use without undertaking an onerous process including a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote at town meeting and  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in both houses of the state legislature. Lands protected by Article 97 are often owned by the municipal conservation commission, recreation commission, water department, or by a state conservation agency. Lands purchased for general municipal purposes are not protected by Article 97. Private lands can also be permanently protected lands if the deed is restricted by a Conservation Restriction, Agricultural Preservation Restriction, Historic Restriction, or Wetlands Restriction.

The non-profit Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) recently announced intentions to apply to the Commonwealth for the funding to purchase seven more parcels on Cuttyhunk, totaling 67 acres. If the purchase goes through, it will almost double the amount of open space on Cuttyhunk to roughly 20 percent of the Island. According to the BBC, the purchase 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.

Currently, the public does not have access to 16 acres of the 66 acres of conserved land on Cuttyhunk. If the BBC purchase/transfers are completed, then 13.5 acres of the 18 acres will open to the public, leaving 4.5 acres closed to the public. The BBC is a non-profit organization. Conservation and recreation lands held by non-profits are protected under Article 97.

## **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**

- 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.

- 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.

### **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 beach 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**

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 fresh water 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 number of 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.

## **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 also 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: Five-Year Action Plan**

(see Appendix A: Map 14 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 breach 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 of Barges Beach.

Responsible Party: Selectmen, conservation commission, property owners.

Timeline: 2018

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 Environmental Affairs

Responsible Party: Martha's Vineyard Commission, selectmen

Timeline: file by July 12, 2018

Possible Funding: N/A

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

Responsible Party: Buzzards Bay Coalition

Timeline: 2019

Possible Funding: Buzzards Bay Coalition

**>>Action 2C:** Prioritize parcels for future open space acquisition

Responsible Party: selectmen, long range planning committee, conservation commission

Timeline: 2018

Possible Funding: N/A

## *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 - 2020

Possible Funding: CPA

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

Responsible Party: selectmen, planning board, private citizens

Timeline: 2019

Possible Funding: CPA

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

Responsible Party: selectmen, conservation commission

Timeline: 2019

Possible Funding: CPA

#### *4. Improve recreational facilities*

**>>Action 4A:** Expand school playground with land purchase

Responsible Party: selectmen, town counsel

Timeline: 2018

Possible Funding: MA department of education

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

Responsible Party: conservation commission

Timeline: 2019

Possible Funding: CPA

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

Responsible Party: selectmen, conservation commission, private citizens

Timeline: 2019 - 2020

Possible Funding: CPA

**>>Action 4D:** Construction of kayak/dinghy storage at the harbor.

Responsible Party: harbor commission

Timeline: 2020

Possible Funding: CPA

## **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.

## Section 11: References

1. *The Open Space Planner's Workbook*  
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/tx/osrp-workbook08.pdf>
2. Buzzards Bay Coalition - communication regarding benefits of open space acquisition
3. *Cuttyhunk Island - A Plan to Plan* - The Cecil Group, Inc. 12/2012
4. *Gosnold Community Development Strategy* - Gosnold's Long Range Planning Committee, 10/20/17
5. *Gosnold Open Space & Recreation Survey* - Martha's Vineyard Commission and Town of Gosnold, 6/2018
6. National Geographic Society
7. MassGIS
8. Massachusetts Department of Revenue
9. United States Census Bureau
10. U.S. Geological Survey
11. The County of Dukes County
12. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
13. Massachusetts Cities & Towns, Comprehensive Information
14. Massachusetts Audubon Society
15. Boston Business Journal
16. CZM publications — Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
17. Brendan Annett, Buzzards Bay Coalition
18. Gosnold selectmen Gail Blout, Sarah Berry
19. Cuttyhunk Historical Society

20. Cuttyhunk.net
21. Allie Thurston — board member, Cuttyhunk Historical Society
22. Vineyard Gazette — January 26, 2017; June 6, 2013
23. Martha's Vineyard Times — March 11, 2015; June 25, 2015
24. Cape Cod Times — May 7, 2018
25. New York Times — August 3, 2012
26. South Coast Today — January 12, 2011
27. NECN — February 27, 2017
28. Martha's Vineyard Magazine — June 20, 2016
29. Orion Magazine — November 6, 2011
30. Striped-bass.com
31. Savebuzzardsbay.org
32. Beth Colt, trustee, Naushon Trust Inc.

## **Appendix A: Maps**

1. Overview
2. Zoning
3. Population
4. Development Over Time
5. Surficial Geology
6. Soils
7. Unique Features
8. Water Resources
9. Flood Zones
10. Vegetation
11. Land Use/Cover
12. Conservation Land
13. Possible Future Acquisitions
14. Action Plan

## **Appendix B: Tables**

1. Conservation Land Matrix
2. Possible Future Acquisitions

## **Appendix C: Supporting Documents**

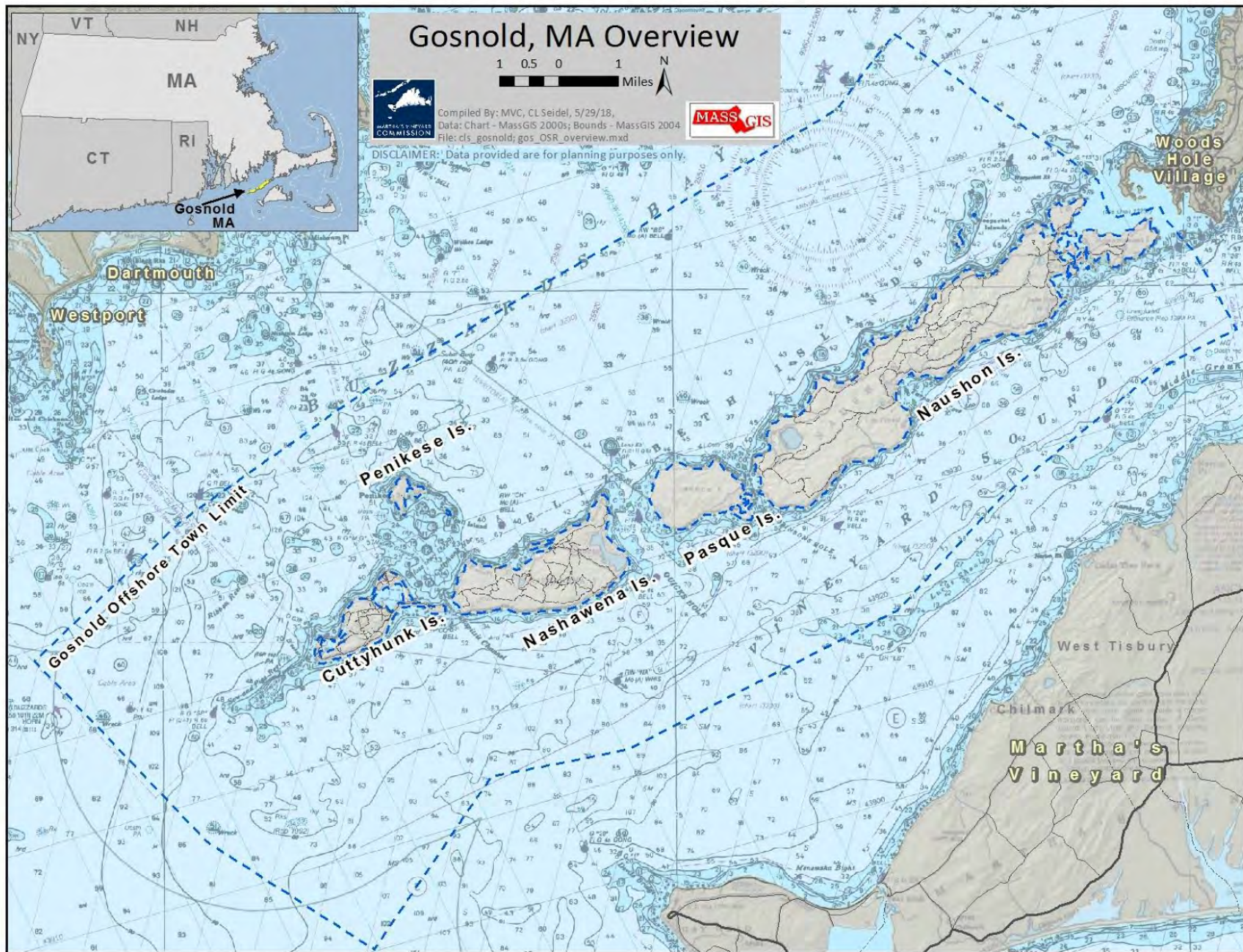
1. June 11 Meeting Announcement
2. Survey Announcement
3. June 29 Meeting Announcement
4. Letter of Endorsement from Board of Selectmen
5. Letter of Endorsement from Conservation Commission
6. Letter of Endorsement from Long Range Planning Committee

## **Appendix D: Survey Results**

## **Appendix E: Acknowledgements**

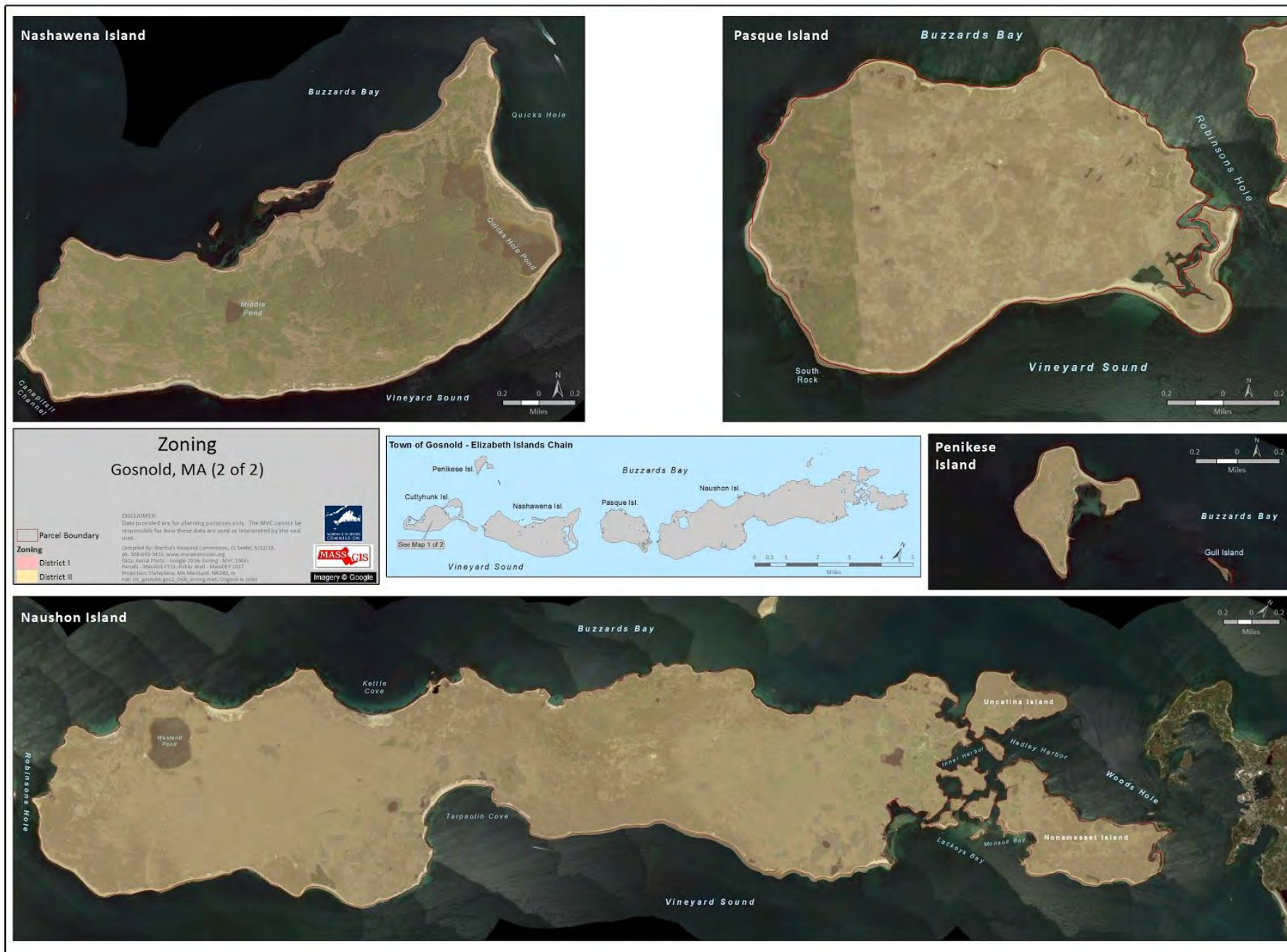
## **Appendix A – Maps**

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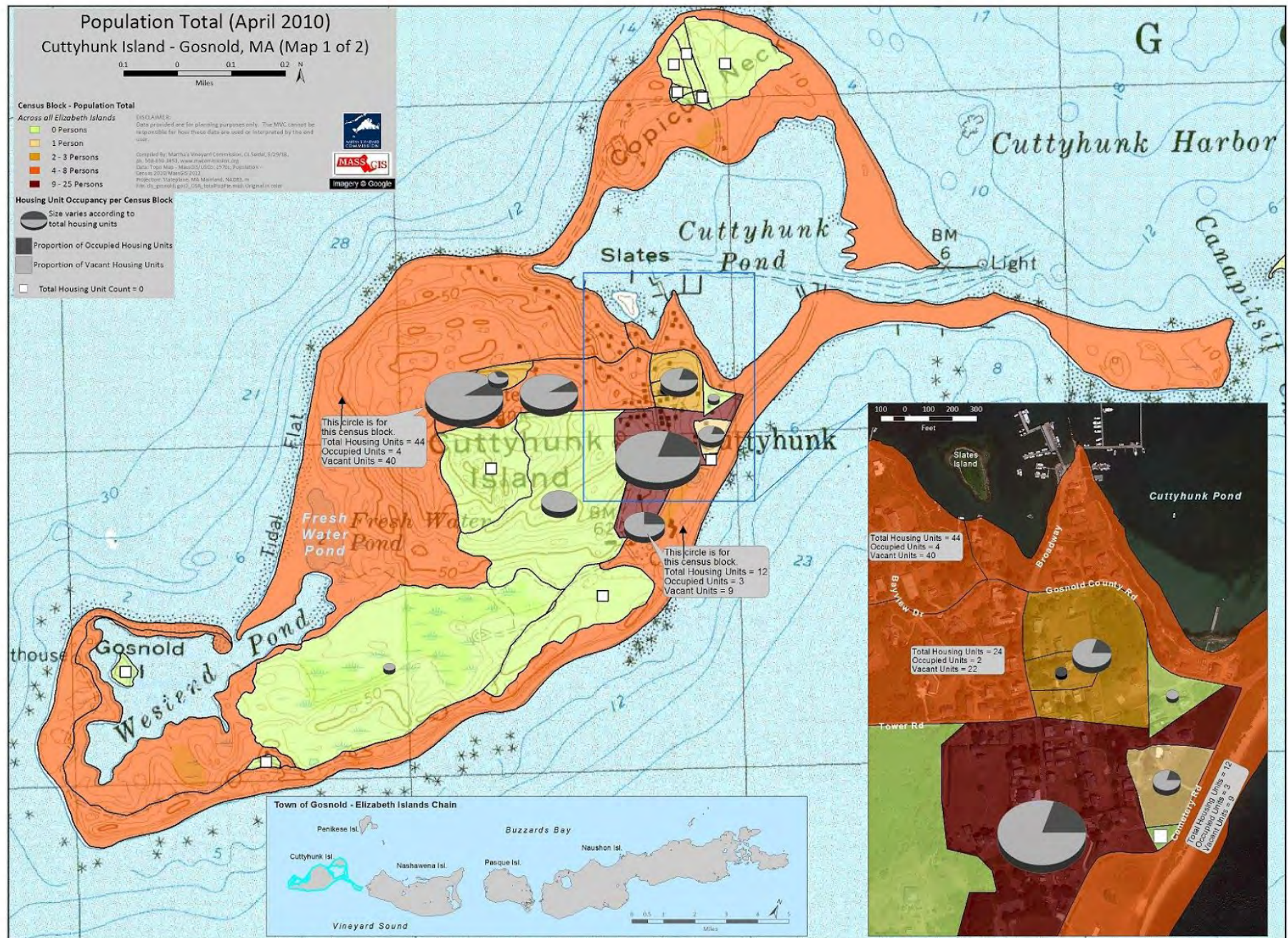


**Map 1**

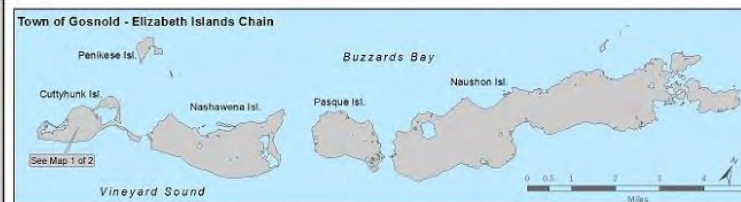
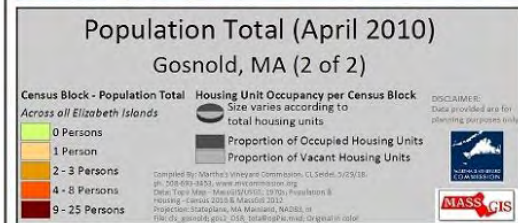
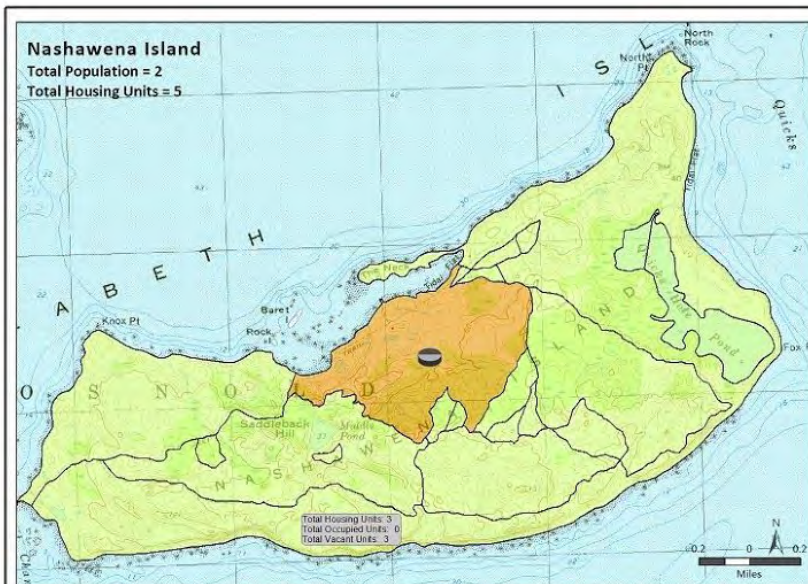




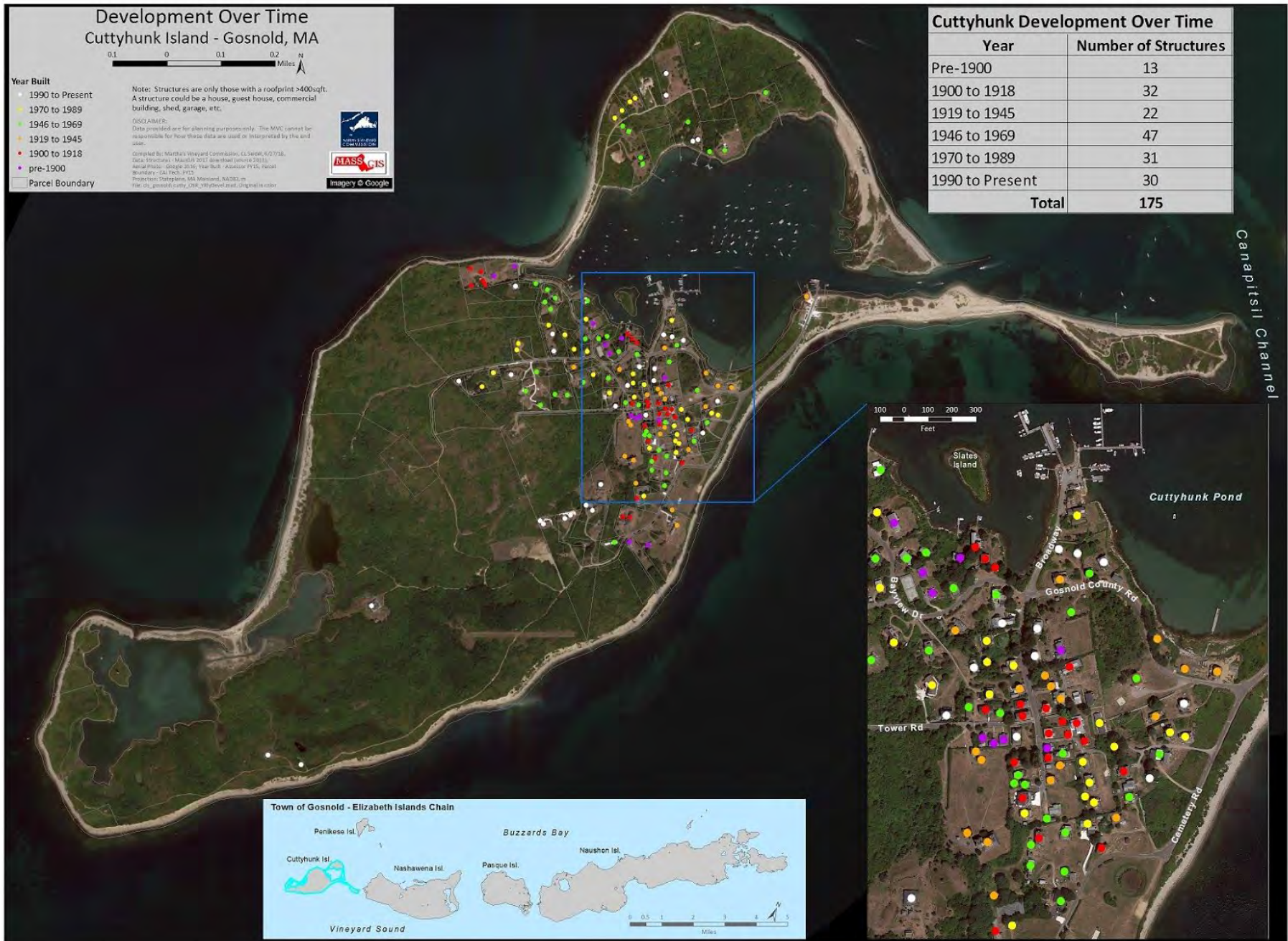
Map 2b



Map 3a

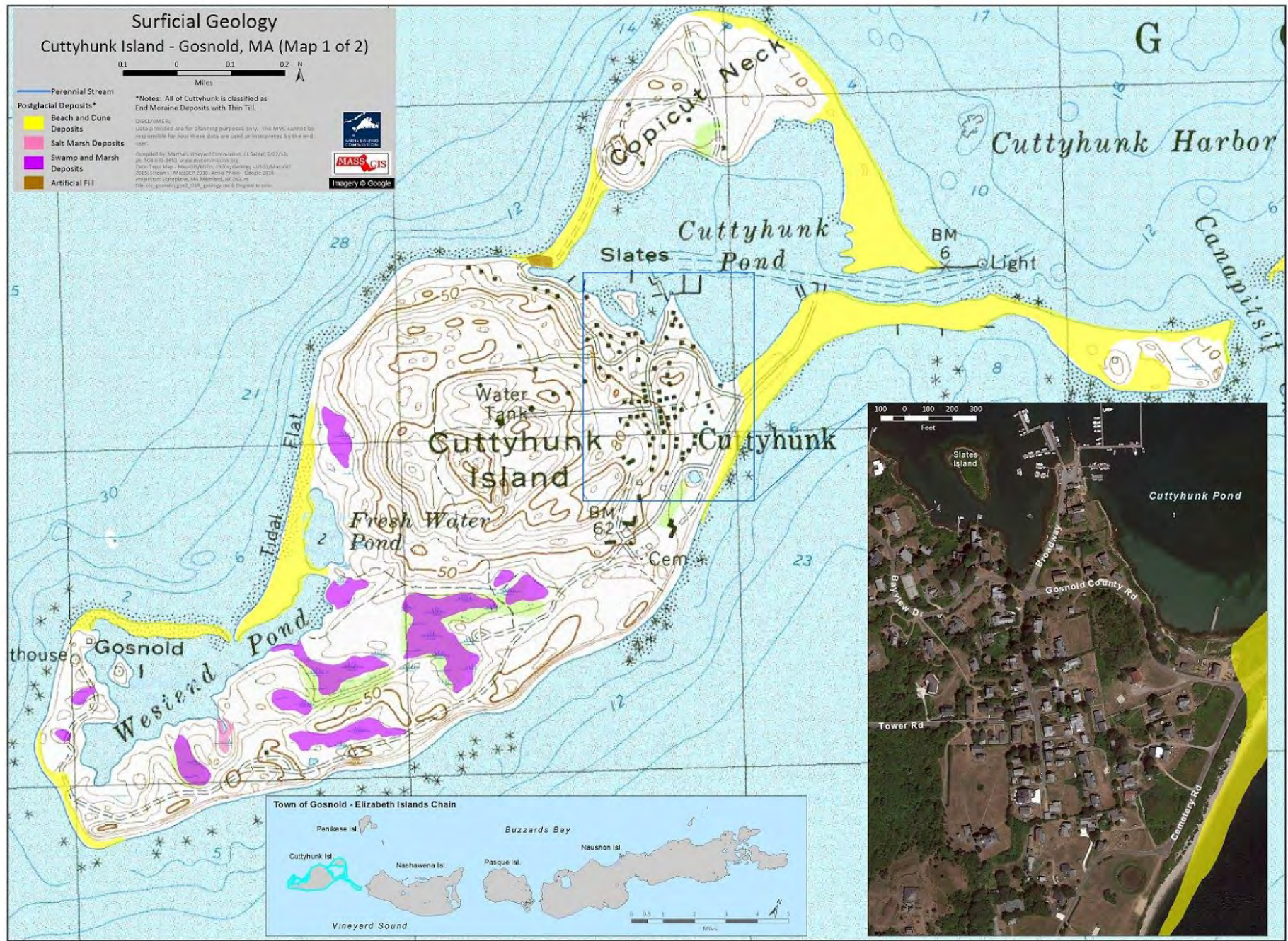


Map 3b

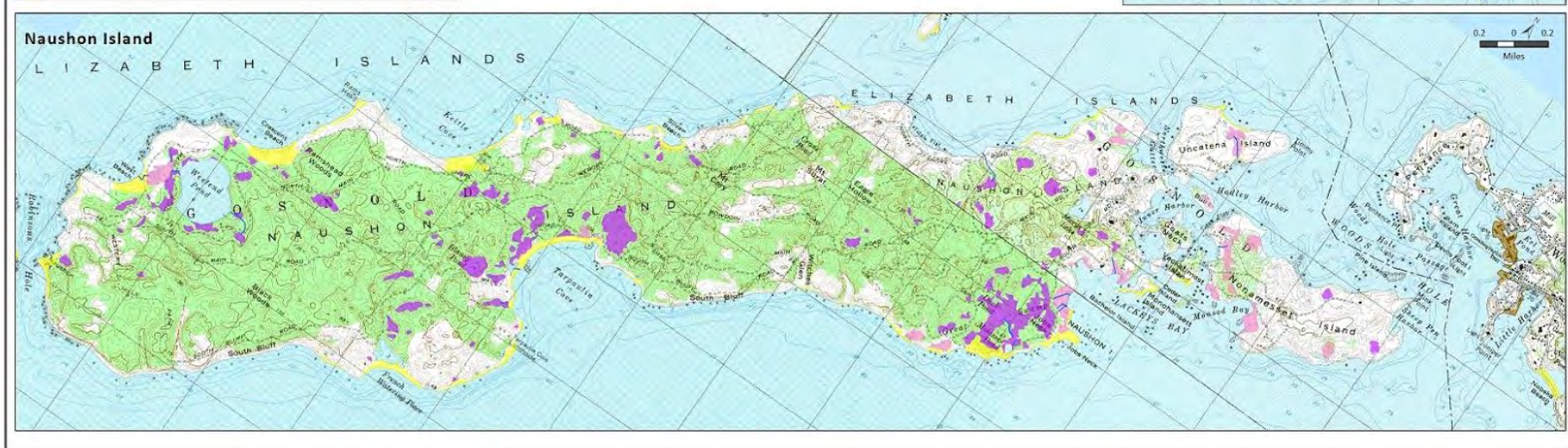
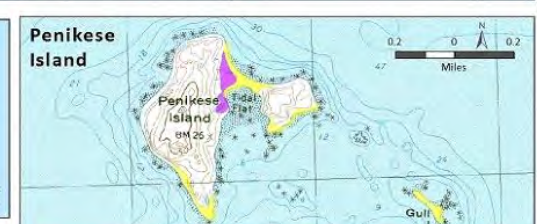
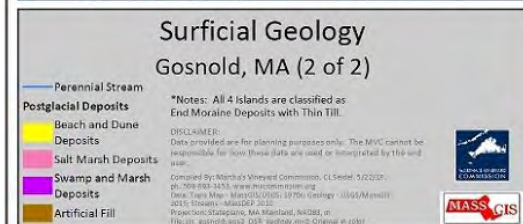
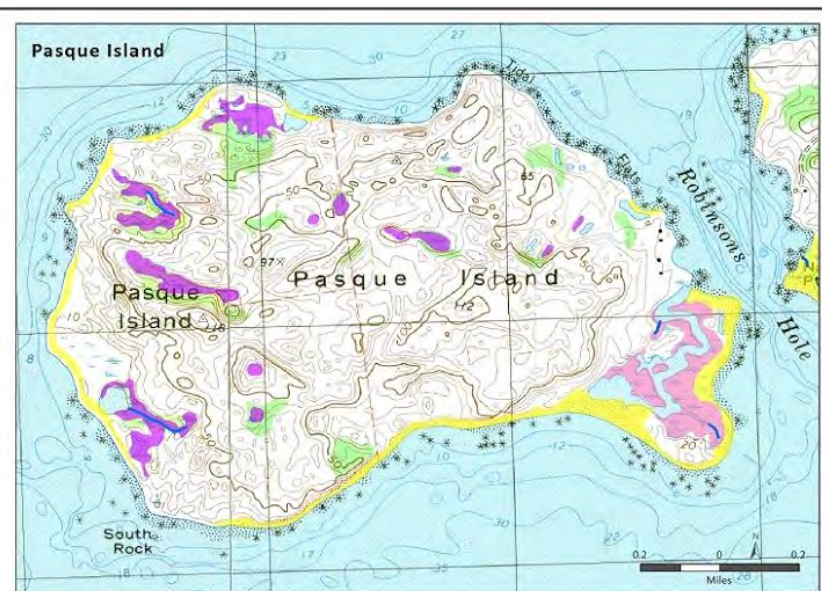
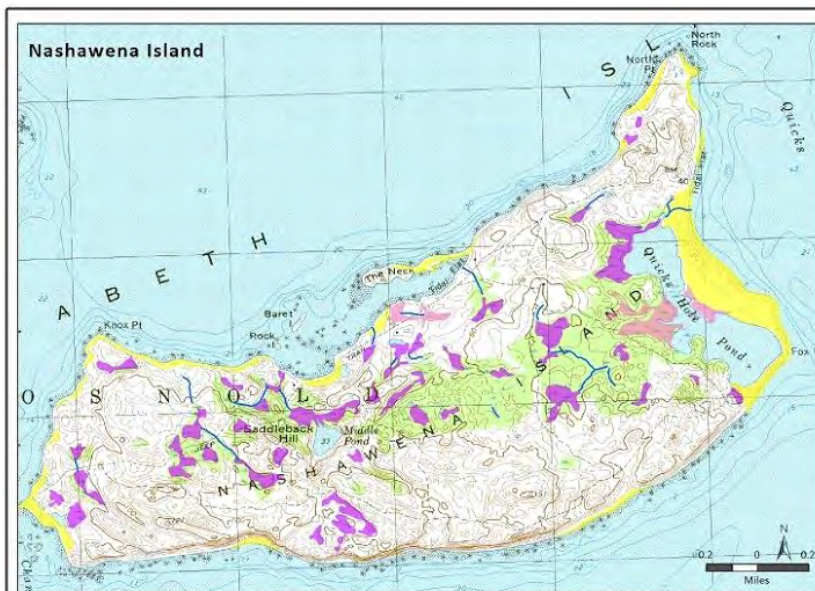


Cuttyhunk Development Over Time	
Year	Number of Structures
Pre-1900	13
1900 to 1918	32
1919 to 1945	22
1946 to 1969	47
1970 to 1989	31
1990 to Present	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>

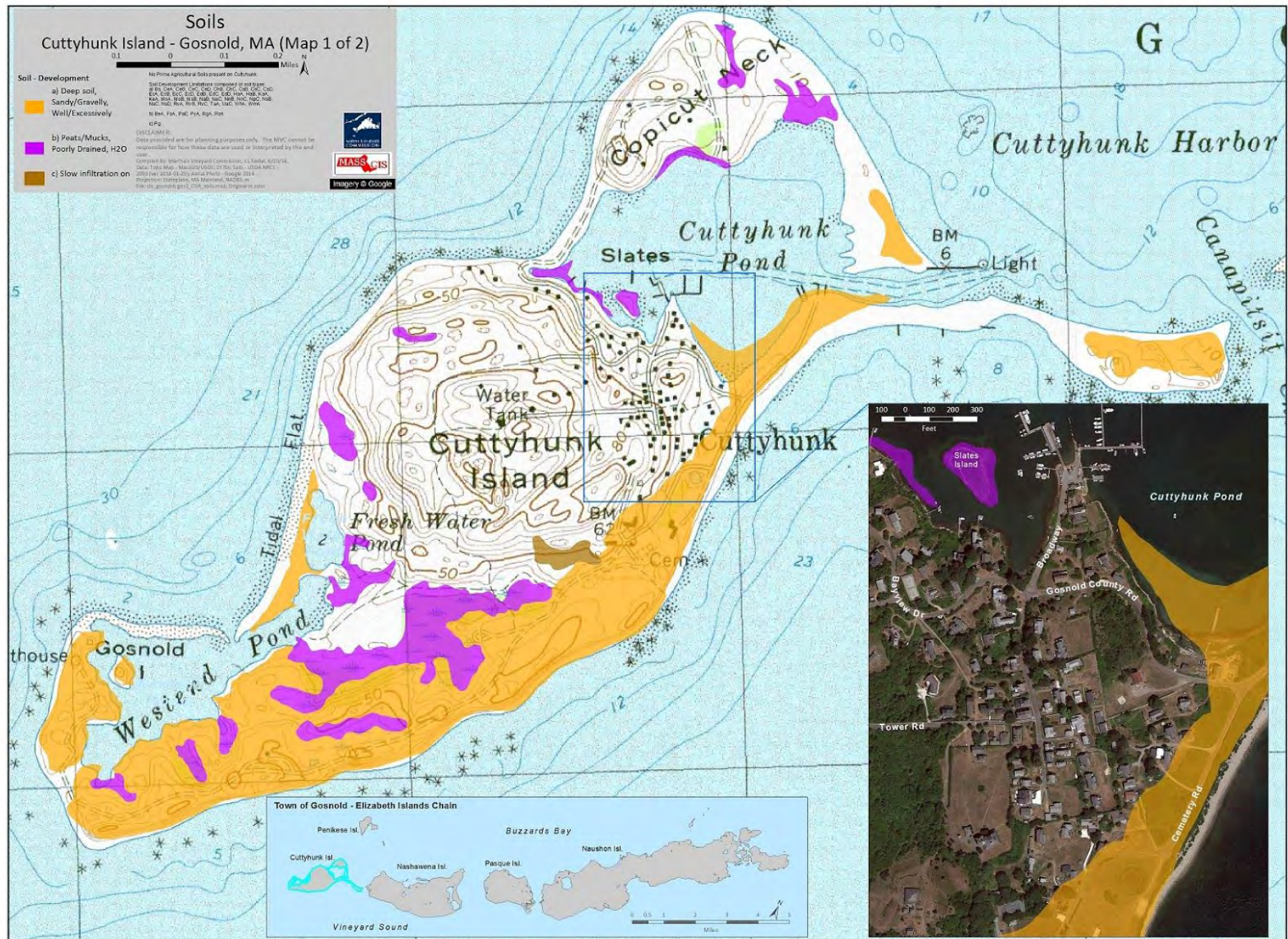
**Map 4**



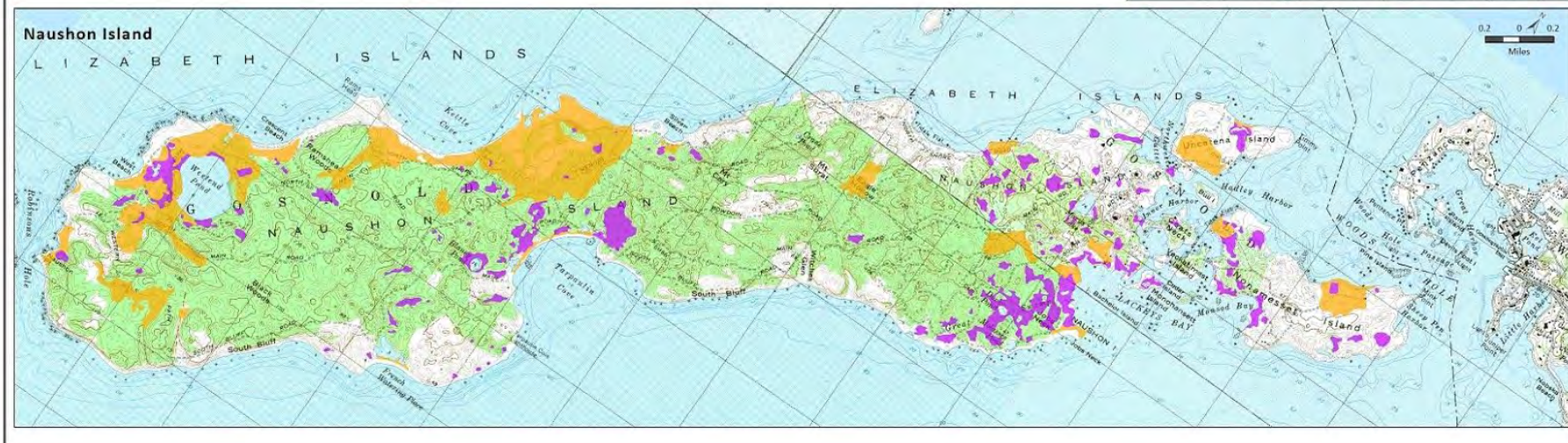
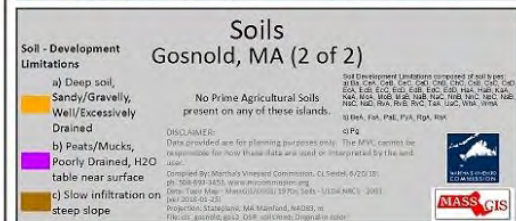
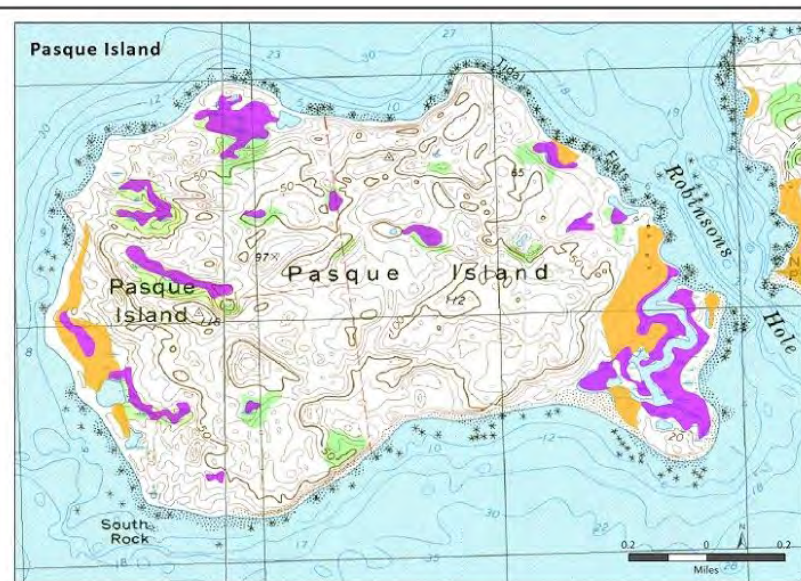
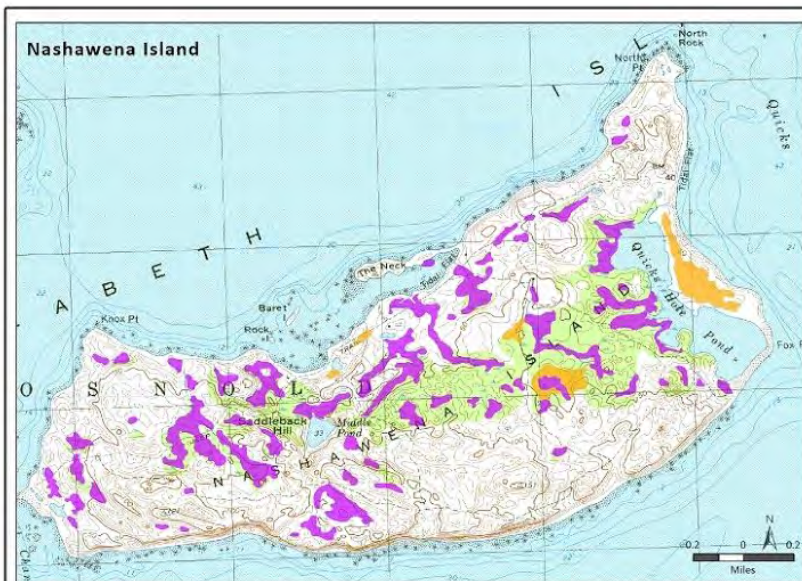
Map 5a



### Map 5b



### Map 6a



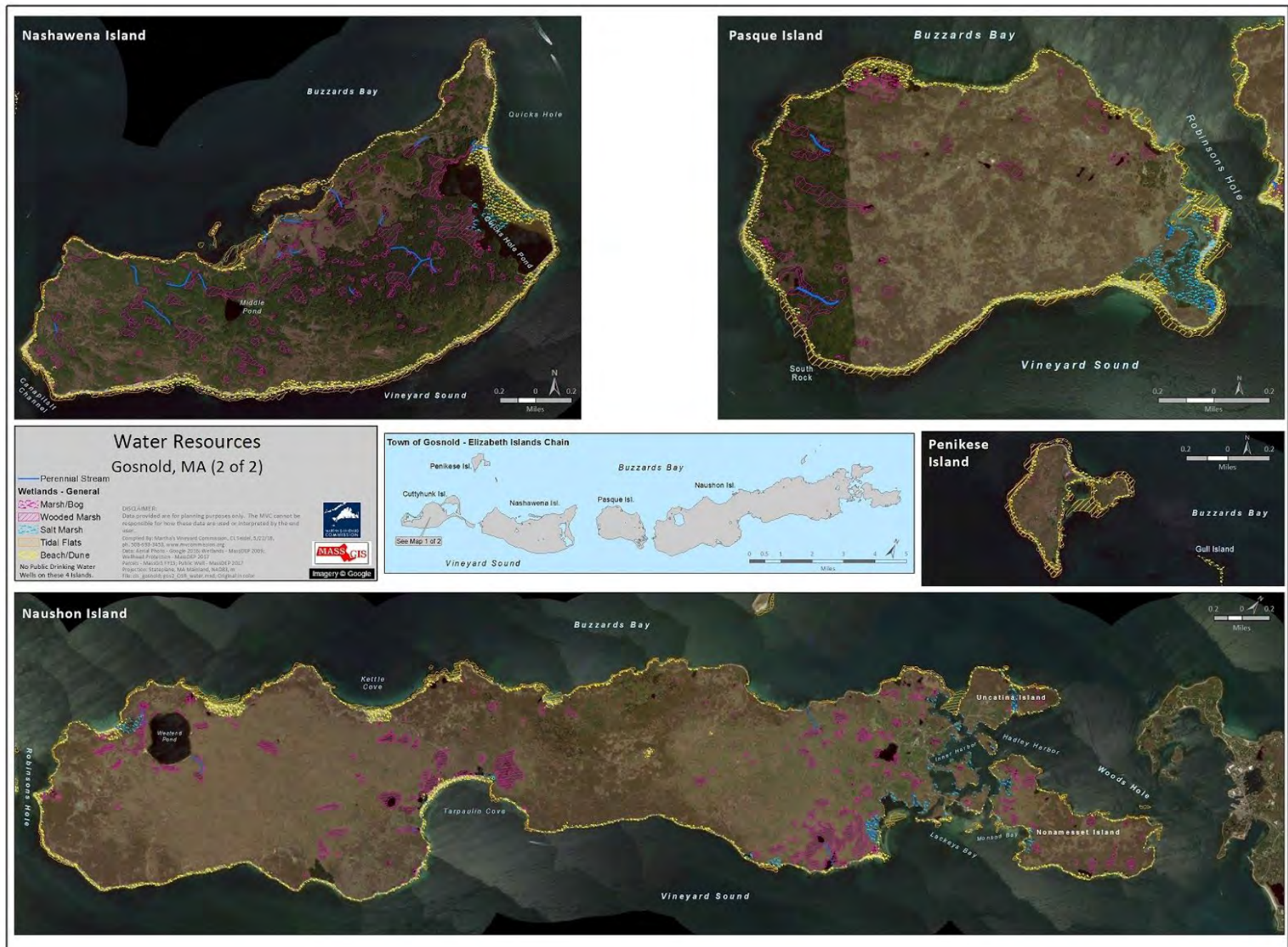
### Map 6b



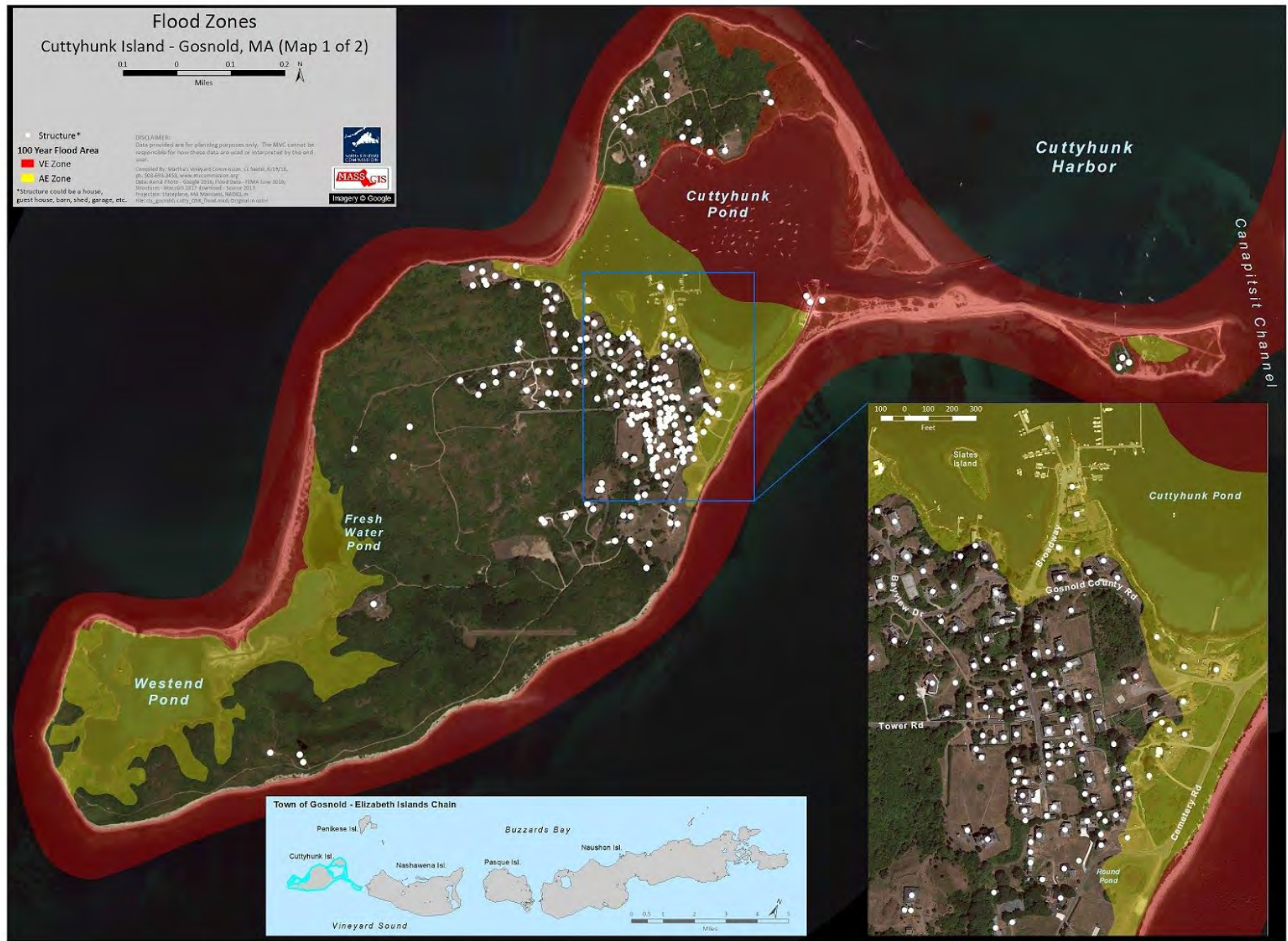
**Map 7**



Map 8a



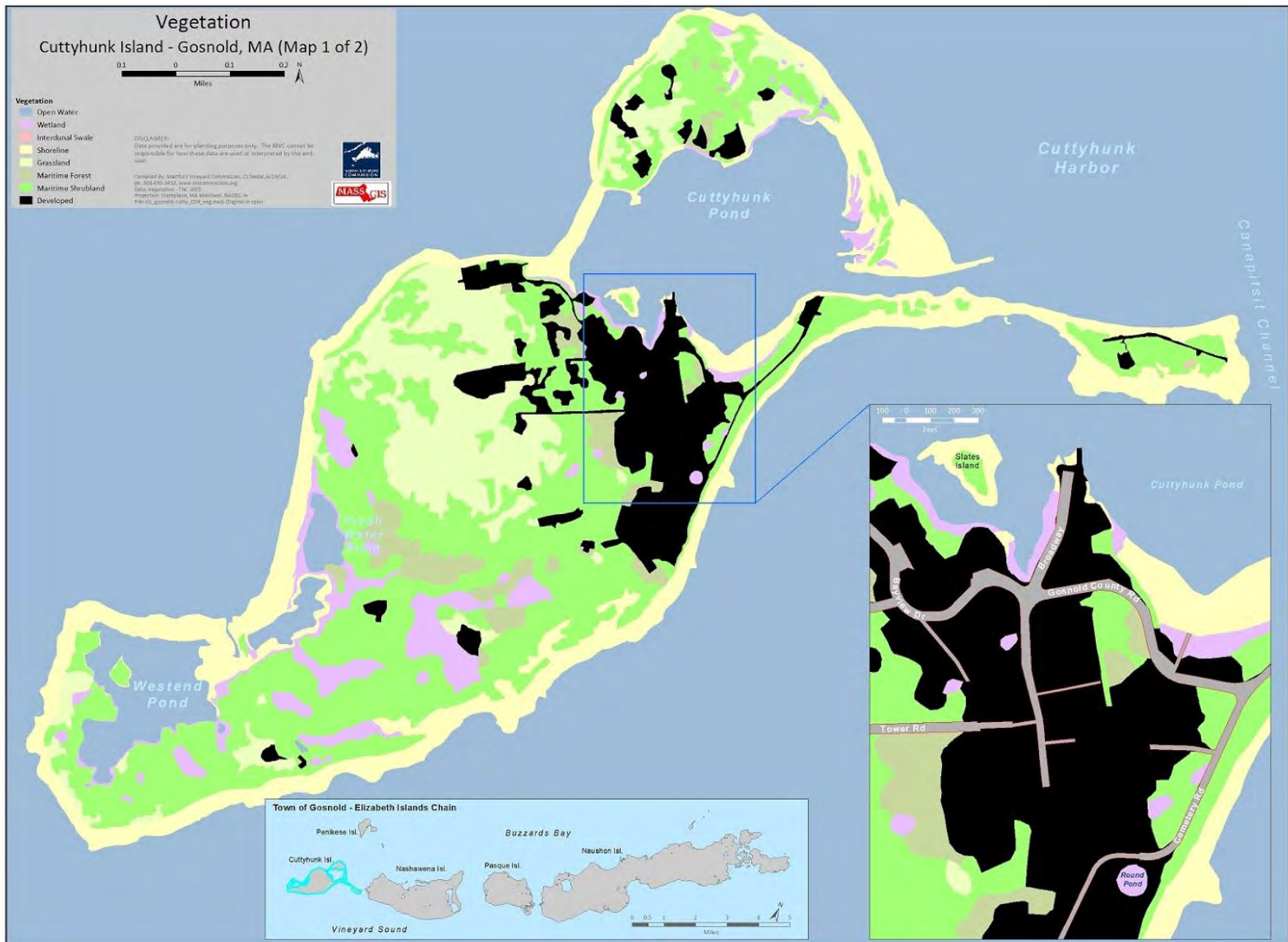
Map 8b



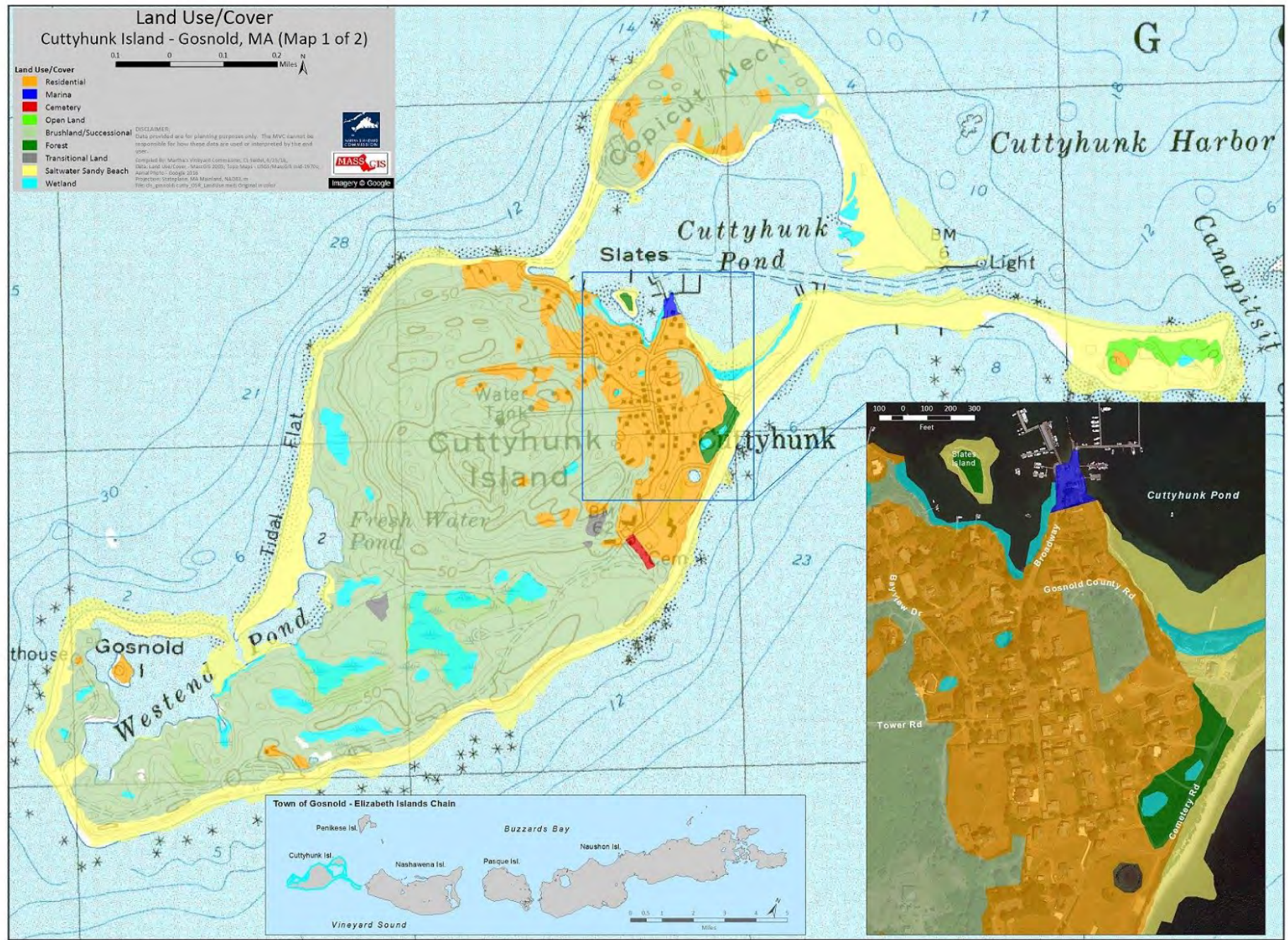
Map 9a



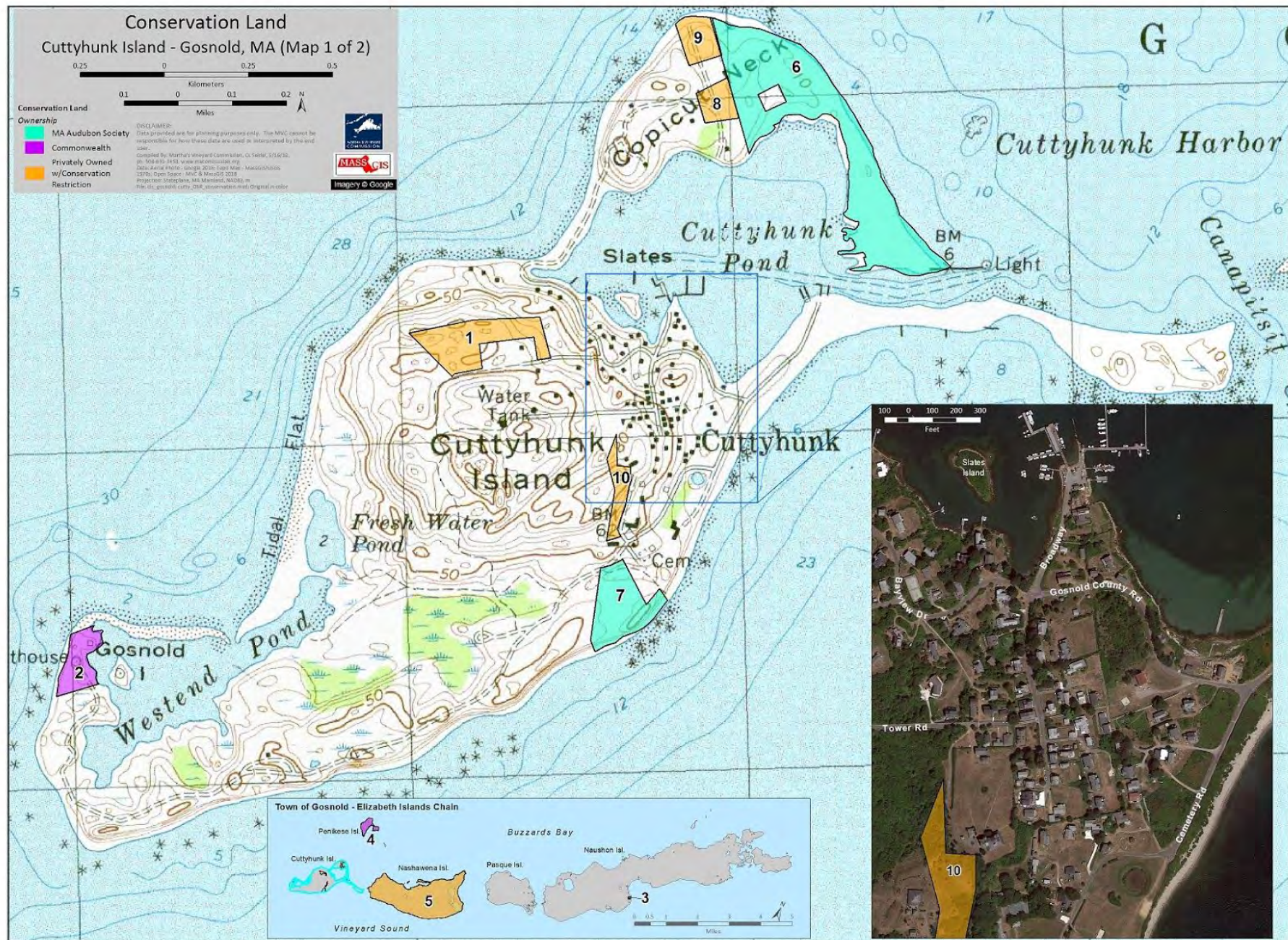
Map 9b



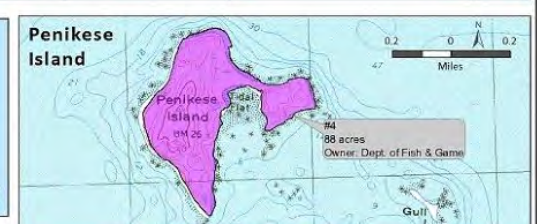
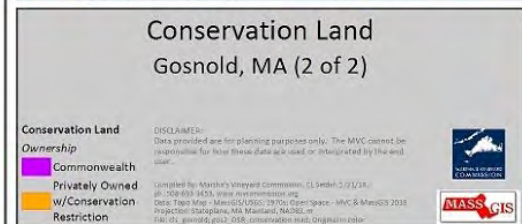
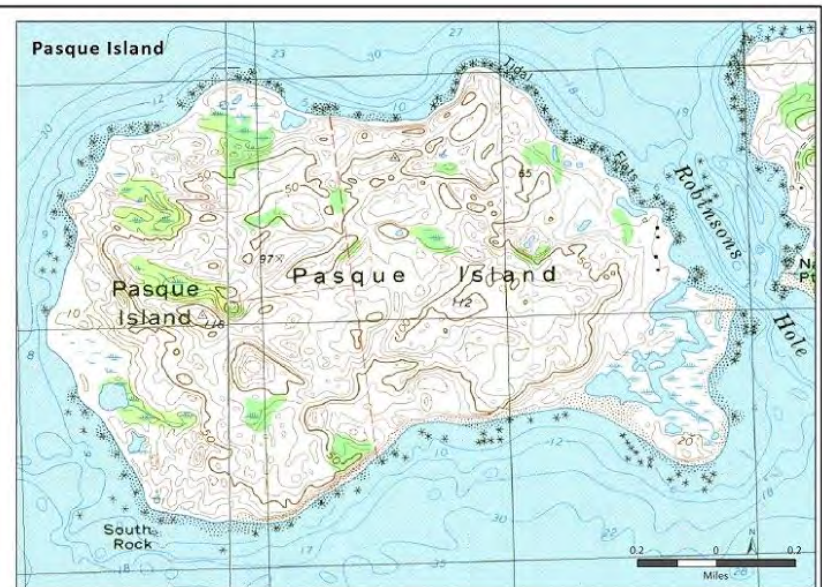
Map 10



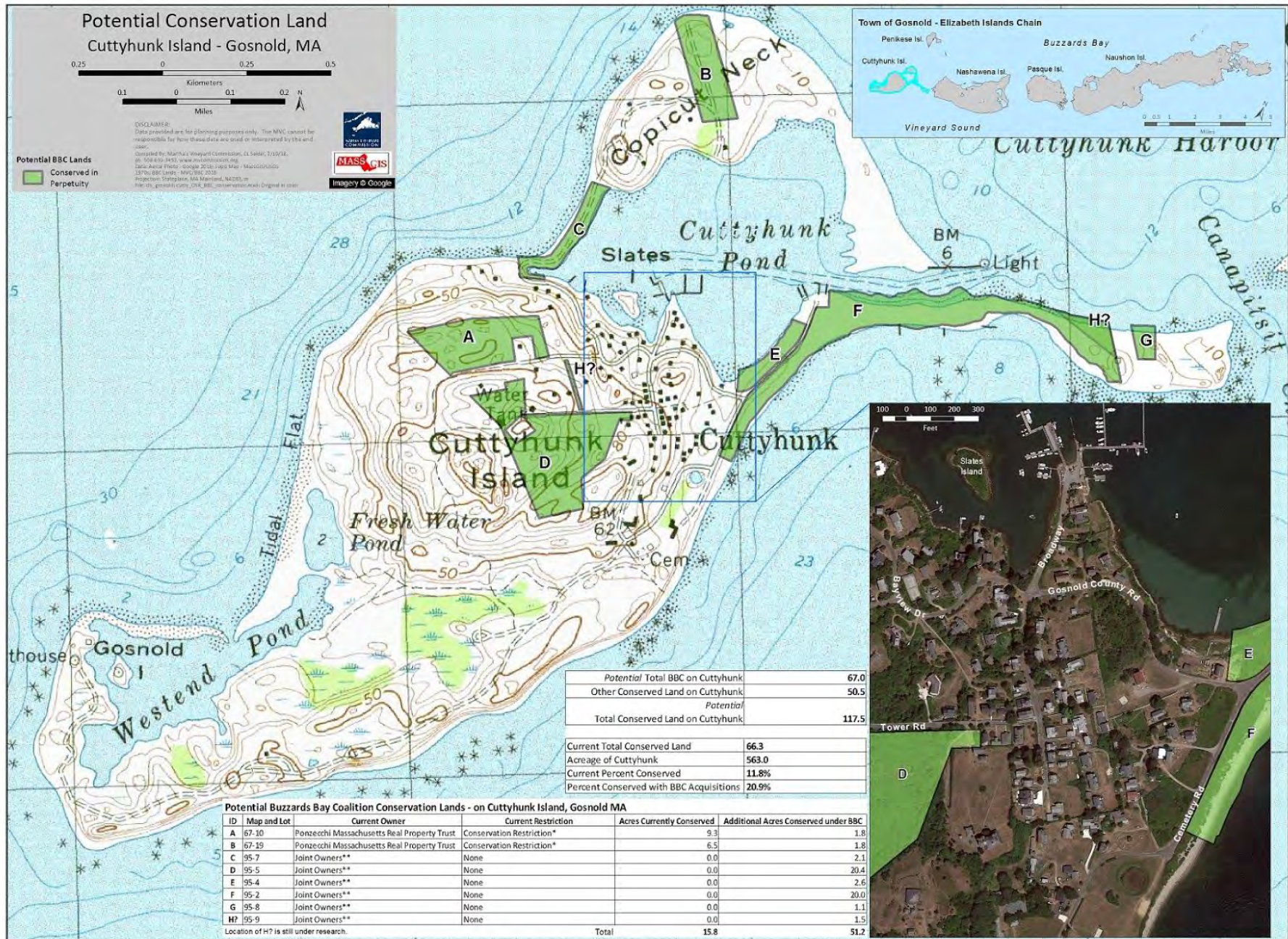
**Map 11**



**Map 12a** (see table in Appendix B)



**Map 12b** (see table in Appendix B)



**Map 13**



**Map 14**

## **Appendix B – Tables**

1. Conservation Land Matrix
2. Possible Future Acquisitions




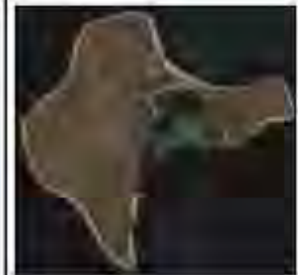
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	<b>Gosnold Conservation Land</b>											
2	Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Acquisition Method	Physical Description	Level of Protection	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition	Thumbnail Image (Google 2016)
3	1	Bayberry Hill Road CR	9.3	Ames Jr Oliver F and Worth Thomas B Trustees of the Ponzecchi Massachusetts Real Property Trust	EEA administered	<u>Primary Soil &amp; Topography:</u> PtC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Steep 30ft cliff 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 Matix (pg 1 of 3)


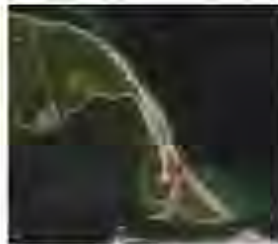




	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
2	Site Number	Name	Acres	Owner(s)	Acquisition Method	Physical Description	Level of Protection	Purpose	Public Access	Infrastructure	Site Condition	Thumbnail Image (Google 2016)
7	5	Nashawena Island (TR)	1,790.0	Forbes Stephen H.	No EEA involvement	Primary Soil & Topography: Northeast 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. Primary Vegetation: Heathland & Shrubland	Perpetuity	Conservation	Full Public Access by Island Residents Only	Infrastructure improvements made as needed by Island Residents	Good	
8	6	Ponzeccchi CR	35.5	Massachusetts Audubon Society	EEA administered	Primary Soil & Topography: Beach and PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Northern arm which encloses Cuttyhunk Pond. Primary Vegetation: 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	Primary Soil & Topography: NsC Nantucket-Plymouth complex, rolling, very stony. Abuts Atlantic Ocean & West End Pond. Primary Vegetation: 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	Ponzeccchi CR	2.9	Ponzeccchi Muriel W	EEA administered	Primary Soil & Topography: PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Primary Vegetation: 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 Matix (pg 2 of 3)

	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	Ponzeccchi CR	3.6	Ponzeccchi Muriel W	EEA administered	Primary Soil & Topography: PnC Plymouth-Canton-Nantucket complex, rolling, very bouldery. Property abuts Buzzards Bay. Primary Vegetation: Shrubland & Grassland.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public	
12	10	Ponzeccchi CR	2.7	Ponzeccchi Muriel W	EEA administered	Primary Soil & Topography: PwD Plymouth-Nantucket complex, hilly, extremely bouldery. Property abuts development. Primary Vegetation: Shrubland, Grassland, & Maritime Forest.	Perpetuity	Conservation	Limited Public Access	Property is privately owned. No public infrastructure improvements.	Not applicable - closed to public	
13	Total Acres 1,948.6											
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												
21												

Island	Acres	Acres Conserved	Percent of Island Conserved	Percent of Town Conserved
Cuttyhunk	563.0	66.3	11.8%	0.8%
Nashawena	1,790.0	1,790.0	100.0%	21.1%
Naushon	5,205.3	3.9	0.1%	0.0%
Pasque	851.5	0	0.0%	0.0%
Penikese	88.4	88.4	100.0%	1.0%
Town of Gosnold Total	8,498.1	1,948.6		23%

Table 1 - Gosnold Conservation Land Matix (pg 3 of 3)

Potential 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

Potential Total BBC on Cuttyhunk	67.0
Other Conserved Land on Cuttyhunk	50.5
Potential Total Conserved Land on Cuttyhunk	117.5
Current Total Conserved Land	66.3
Acreage of Cuttyhunk	563.0
Current Percent Conserved	11.8%
Percent Conserved with BBC Acquisitions	20.9%

Table 2 - Possible Future Acquisitions

## **Appendix C – Supporting Documents**

1. June 11 Meeting Announcement
2. Survey Announcement
3. June 28 Meeting Announcement
4. Letter of Endorsement from Selectmen
5. Letter of Endorsement from Conservation Commission
6. Letter of Endorsement from Long Range Planning Committee

## 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 <doyale@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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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*

Cathy husk

Meeting Date: 6/11/18

[illegible]

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

There will be a public hearing on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan on June 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Blount  
Sarah Berry  
Barry Stringfellow  
Dix Hesson  
Charlotte Kull  
Joy Maserini  
Jim Barry  
Ned Puvion  
Bob Elmore  
Quinn Hark  
Jeff Spear  
George Shaw  
Pam Baldwin  
Renee Carter  
Emily Anderson  
Jenny Hart  
Doree Hesson  
Weenie Cartier  
Paula Duffin  
Ann Conway  
Paul H. Johnson  
Sara Lehner

## Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Selectmen

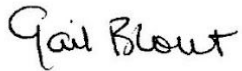
**Town of Gosnold**  
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND  
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Blout". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Blout  
Chairman  
Board of Selectmen

## Letter of Endorsement – Gosnold Conservation Commission

### 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Warr", written in a cursive style.

David Warr  
Chairman  
Conservation Commission

## Letter of Endorsement – Long Range Planning Committee

### Town of Gosnold

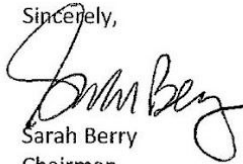
CUTTYHUNK ISLAND  
MASSACHUSETTS 02713

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Berry", is written over the printed name.

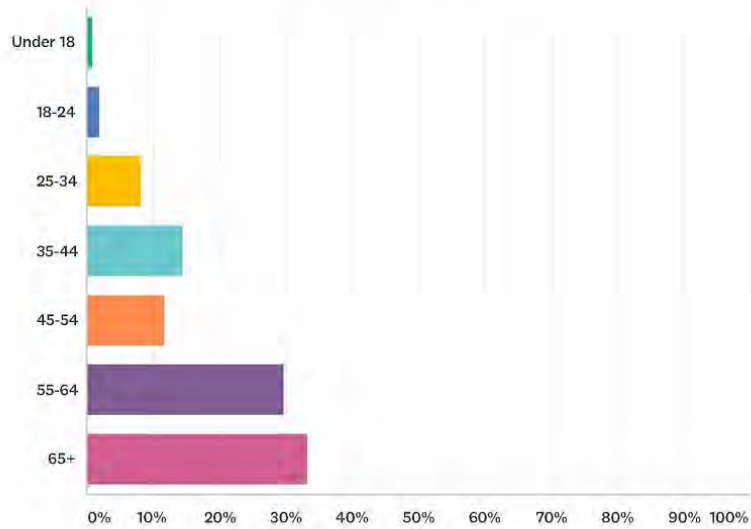
Sarah Berry  
Chairman  
Long-Range Planning Committee

## **Appendix D – Survey Results**

## Gosnold Open Space Survey

### Q1 What is your age

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1

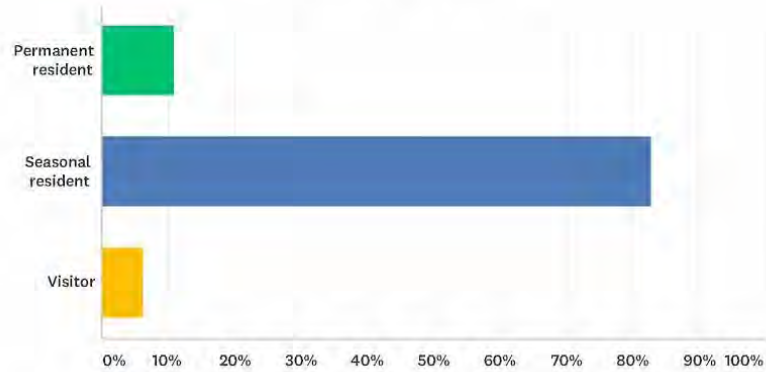


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.90%	1
18-24	1.80%	2
25-34	8.11%	9
35-44	14.41%	16
45-54	11.71%	13
55-64	29.73%	33
65+	33.33%	37
TOTAL		111

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Q2 What type of resident are you?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1

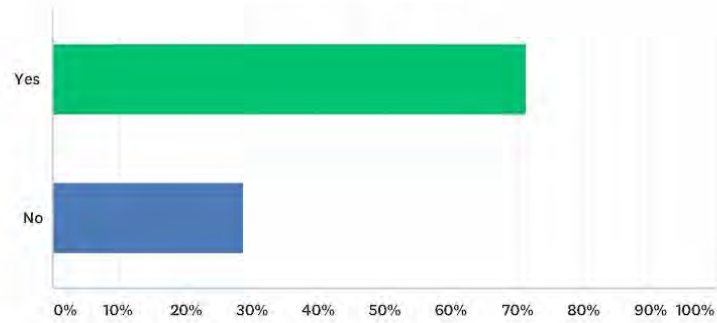


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Permanent resident	10.81%	12
Seasonal resident	82.88%	92
Visitor	6.31%	7
TOTAL		111

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Q3 Do you own property in Gosnold?

Answered: 112 Skipped: 0

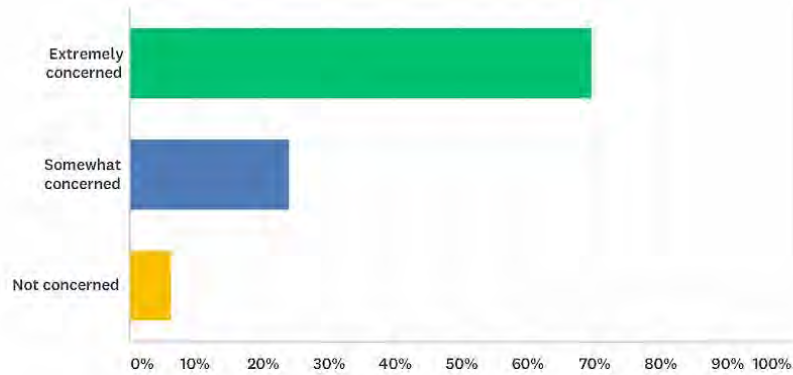


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	80
No	28.57%	32
TOTAL		112

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

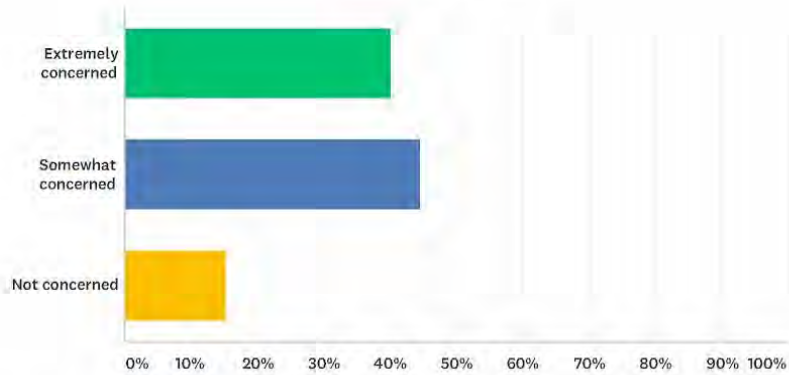


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	69.64%	78
Somewhat concerned	24.11%	27
Not concerned	6.25%	7
TOTAL		112

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 112 Skipped: 0

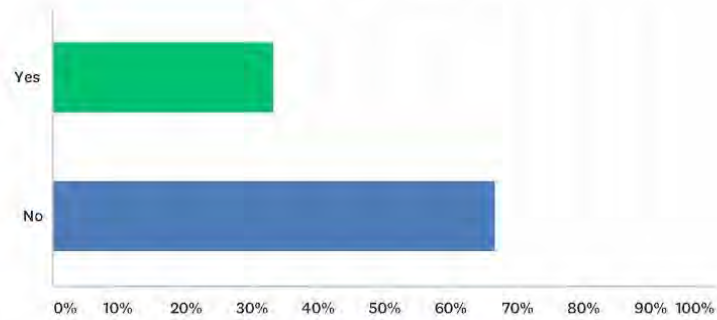


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	40.18%	45
Somewhat concerned	44.64%	50
Not concerned	15.18%	17
TOTAL		112

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

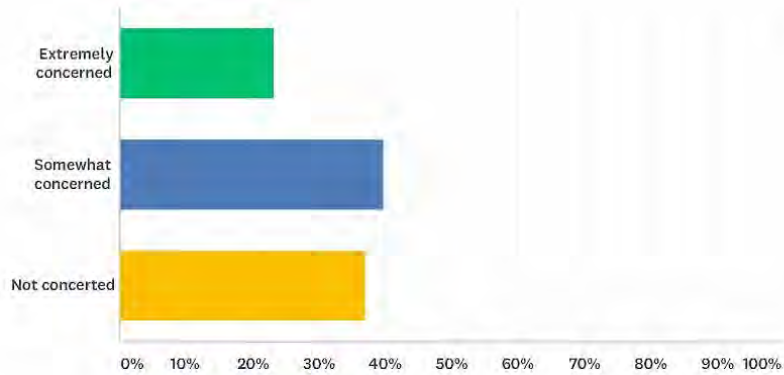


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.33%	36
No	66.67%	72
TOTAL		108

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

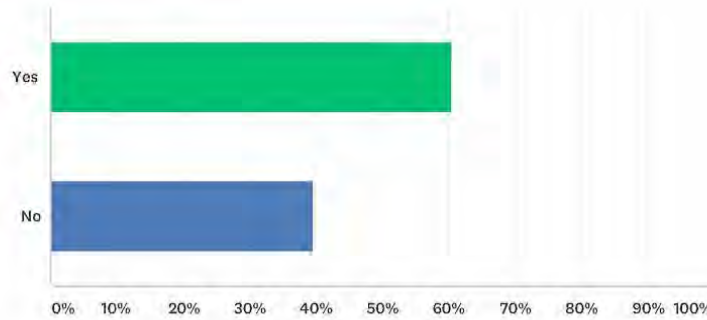


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	23.15%	25
Somewhat concerned	39.81%	43
Not concerned	37.04%	40
TOTAL		108

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 109 Skipped: 3

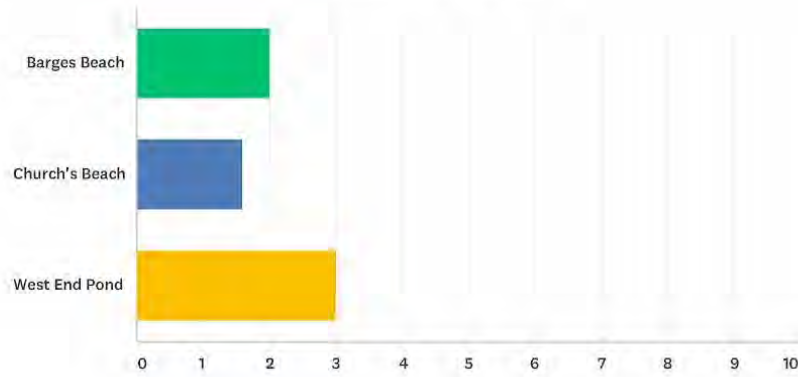


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		60.55%	66
No		39.45%	43
TOTAL			109

# Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 109 Skipped: 3

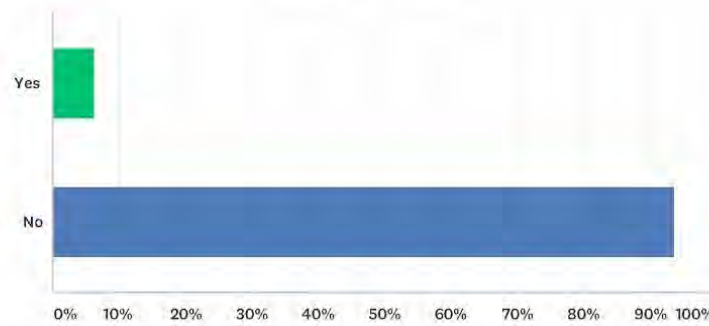


	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Barges Beach	27.10% 29	54.21% 58	10.28% 11	8.41% 9	0.00% 0	107	2.00
Church's Beach	55.05% 60	34.86% 38	6.42% 7	2.75% 3	0.92% 1	109	1.60
West End Pond	4.63% 5	34.26% 37	23.15% 25	30.56% 33	7.41% 8	108	3.02

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

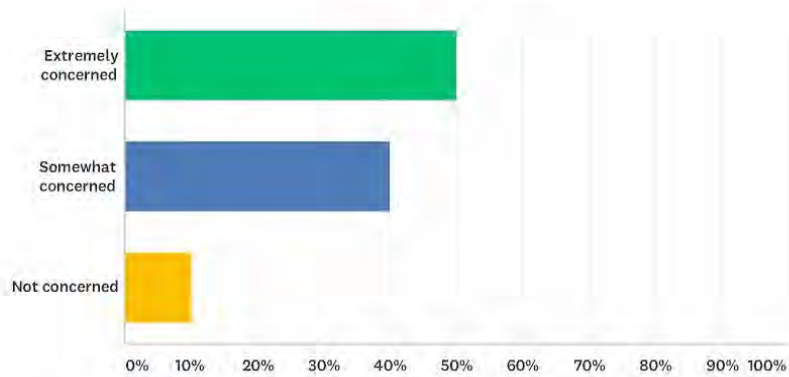


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	6.31%	7
No	93.69%	104
TOTAL		111

## Gosnold Open Space Survey

### Q11 How concerned are you about sea level rise?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

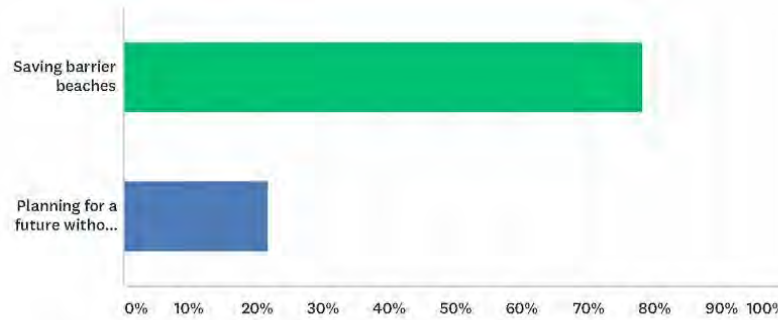


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely concerned	50.00%	55
Somewhat concerned	40.00%	44
Not concerned	10.00%	11
TOTAL		110

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

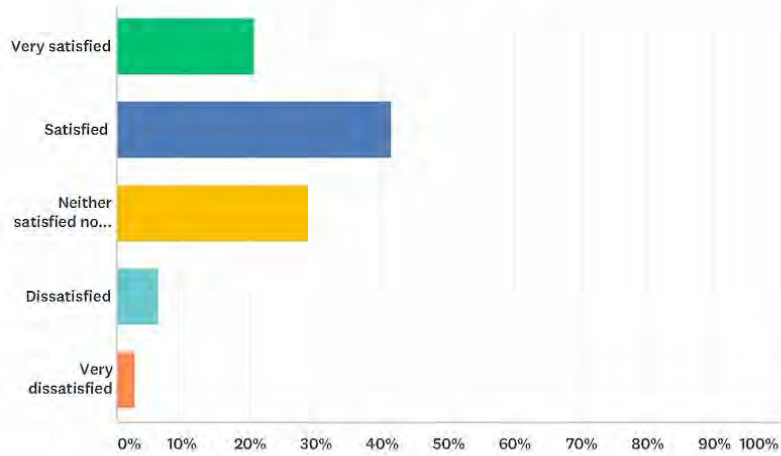


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Saving barrier beaches	78.18%	86
Planning for a future without barrier beaches	21.82%	24
TOTAL		110

# Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1

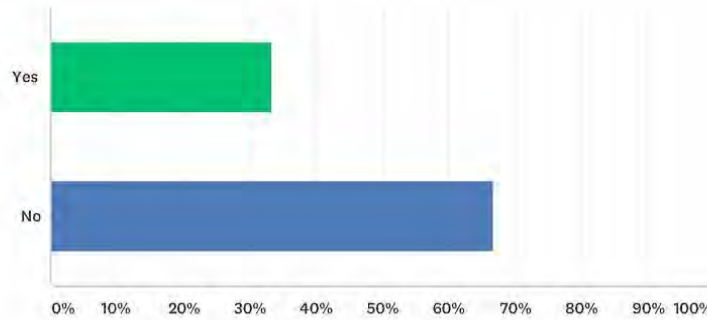


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	20.72%	23
Satisfied	41.44%	46
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	28.83%	32
Dissatisfied	6.31%	7
Very dissatisfied	2.70%	3
TOTAL		111

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 108 Skipped: 4

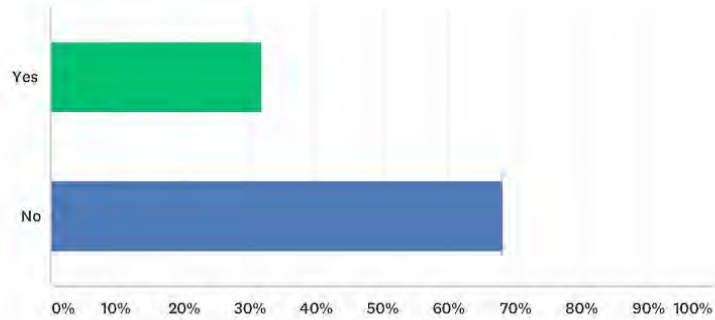


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		33.33%	36
No		66.67%	72
TOTAL			108

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

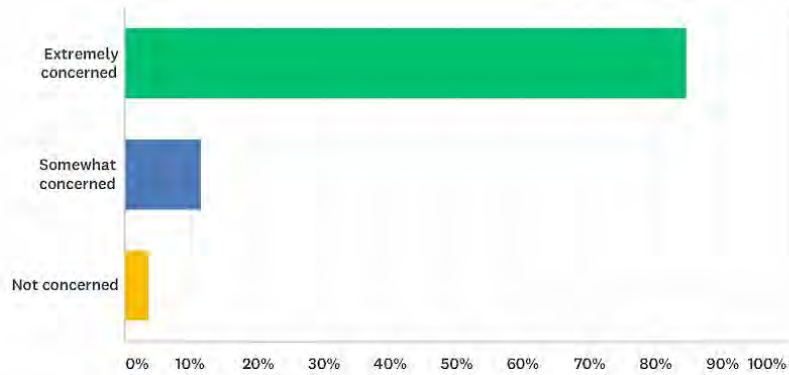


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		31.82%	35
No		68.18%	75
TOTAL			110

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Gosnold Open Space Survey

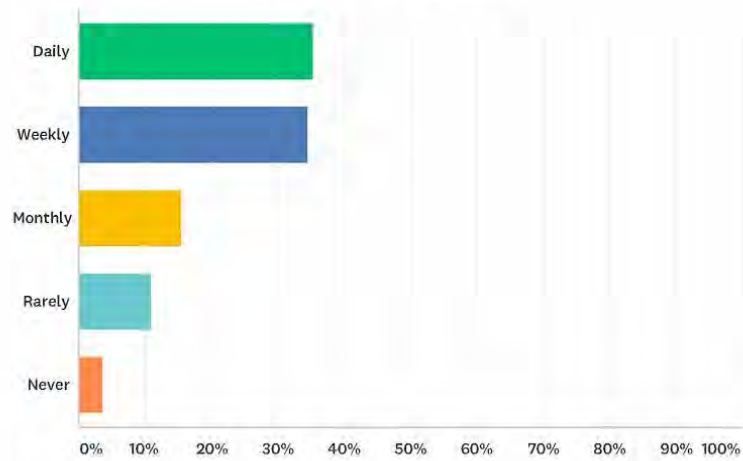
Q17 Are there any particular areas that you feel are threatened?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 44

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Q18 How often do you use the hiking trails?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

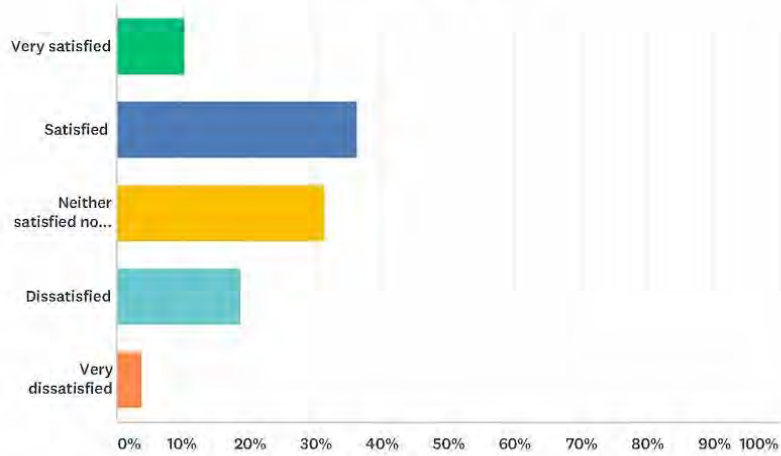


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	35.45%	39
Weekly	34.55%	38
Monthly	15.45%	17
Rarely	10.91%	12
Never	3.64%	4
TOTAL		110

# Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 108 Skipped: 4

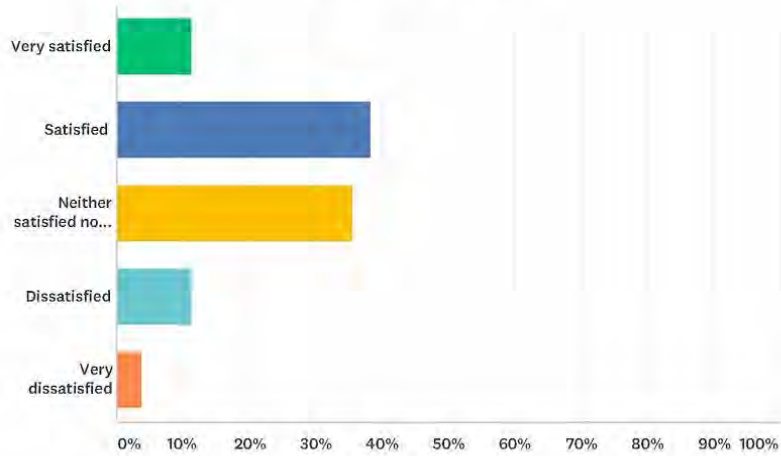


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	10.19%	11
Satisfied	36.11%	39
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	31.48%	34
Dissatisfied	18.52%	20
Very dissatisfied	3.70%	4
TOTAL		108

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Q20 How satisfied are you with the public recreational facilities?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 5

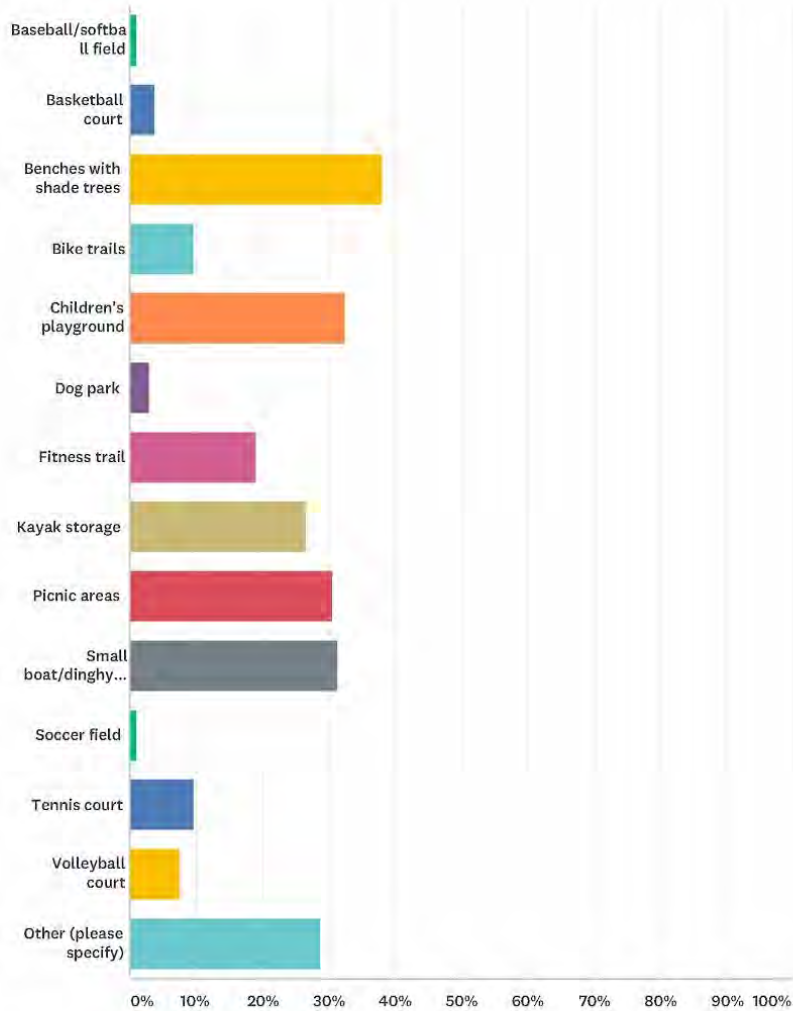


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	11.21%	12
Satisfied	38.32%	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	35.51%	38
Dissatisfied	11.21%	12
Very dissatisfied	3.74%	4
TOTAL		107

# Gosnold Open Space Survey

## 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

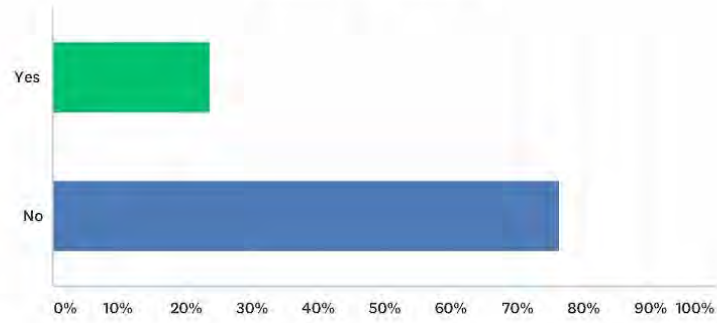
### Gosnold Open Space Survey

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		

Gosnold Open Space Survey

Q22 Do you ride a bike on Cuttyhunk?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

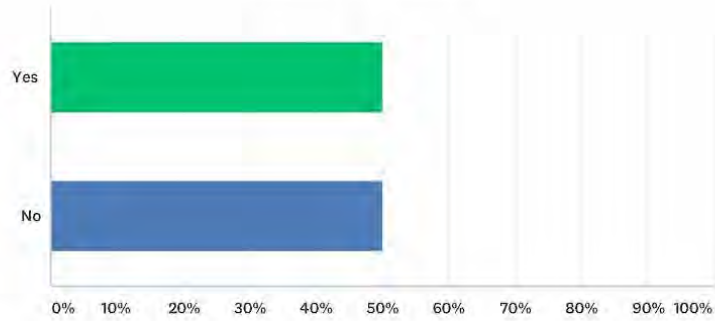


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.64%	26
No	76.36%	84
TOTAL		110

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2

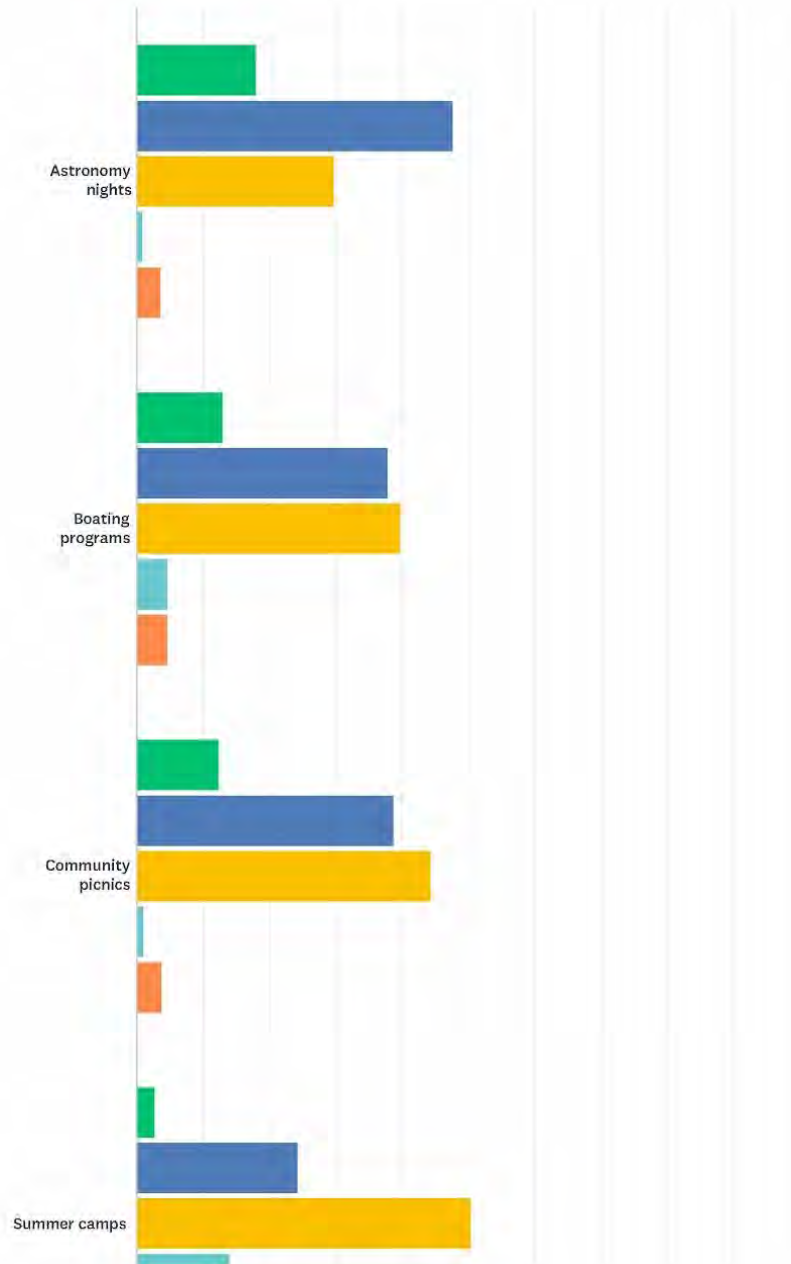


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		50.00%	55
No		50.00%	55
TOTAL			110

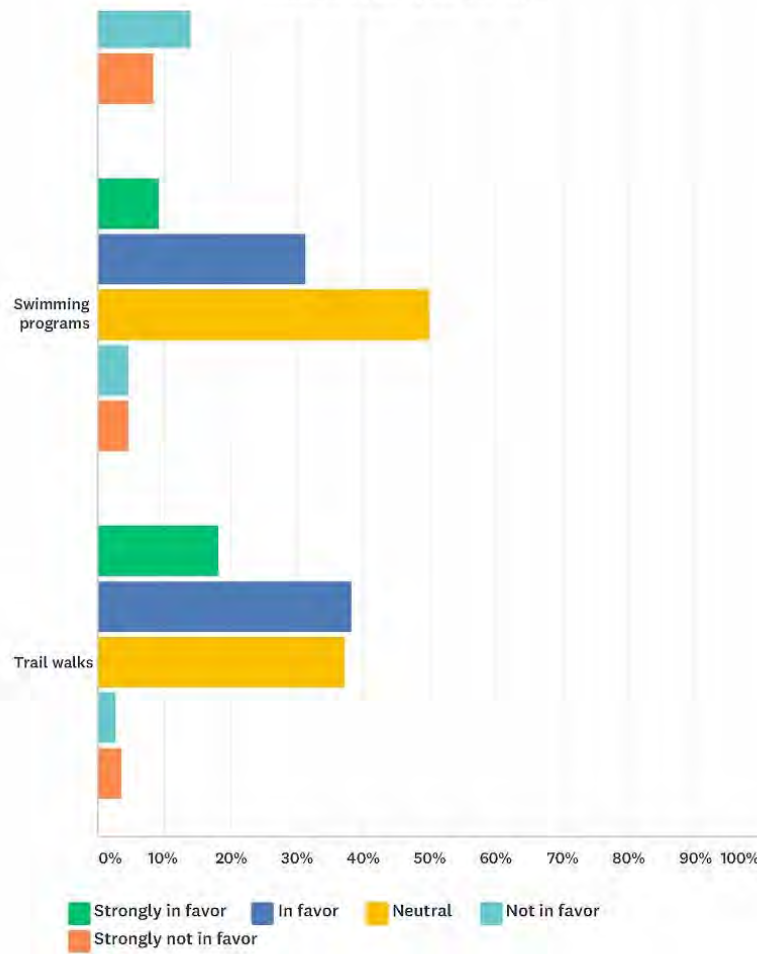
Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



# Gosnold Open Space Survey

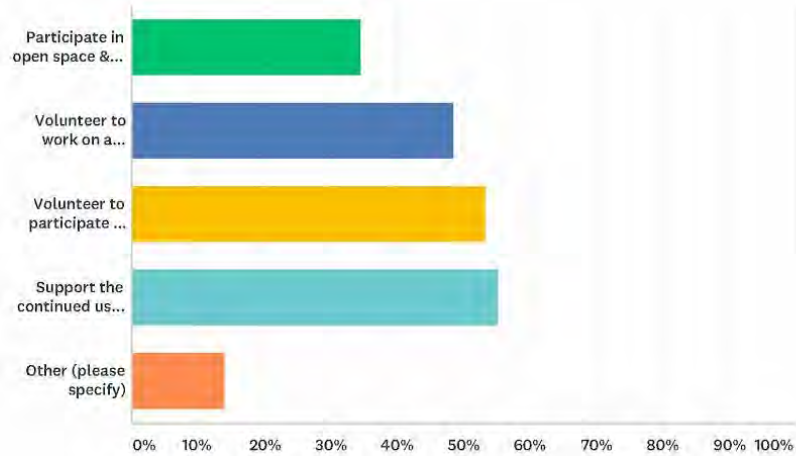


	STRONGLY IN FAVOR	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	STRONGLY NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL
Astronomy nights	18.02% 20	47.75% 53	29.73% 33	0.90% 1	3.60% 4	111
Boating programs	12.96% 14	37.96% 41	39.81% 43	4.63% 5	4.63% 5	108
Community picnics	12.26% 13	38.68% 41	44.34% 47	0.94% 1	3.77% 4	106
Summer camps	2.80% 3	24.30% 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

# Gosnold Open Space Survey

## 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		

Gosnold Open Space Survey

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

Answered: 42 Skipped: 70

## **Appendix E – Acknowledgements**

This Plan would not have been possible without the time and talent of Barry Stringfellow. The Martha's Vineyard Commission was given a short time frame in which to produce this 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 these last few weeks.