

## **Causeway Park**

The Vineyard Haven Causeway is a narrow stretch of publicly owned land that links Vineyard Haven to Oak Bluffs. With as much as three-quarters of a mile waterfront in the heart of town, it has long been considered as a possible site for a new public park. Within that space, there are three clearly defined sections that complement each other but could be developed independently:

- A. **The Lagoon Harbor Park** – from Wind’s Up to and including the Boat Launch.
- B. **The Drawbridge Park**. connecting to the bike path and to an underpass to the Harbor side.
- C. **The Harbor Walk** – a promenade along the Vineyard Haven harborside.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee would focus funds received from Vineyard Wind on developing the **Lagoon Harbor Park**.

## **Lagoon Harbor Park – Wind’s Up to the Boat Launch**

The Lagoon Harbor Park lies along a very narrow strip of land between the Wind's Up sailboat and kayak rentals and the town's main Boat Launch. The road is very busy and there are few places to stop. The bike path alongside Beach Road is not a very pleasant ride and the views of the Lagoon are obstructed by overgrown shrubs and trees and a generally uninviting landscape.



The Lagoon Harbor Park would include a planned walking path along the Lagoon Pond shore (presently impassable) that would be connected to a new, internal bike path by a system of crisscrossing paths (like a shoelace) that join a new picnic area in the center and parking spaces at the ends of the park with the shellfish beds at the Lagoon edge center. New landscaping and shrubbery would be planted, and present greenery pruned and cut back if worthy of being retained.

A clearing by the Shellfish Beds would continue to serve as a picnic area, now upgraded and inviting, as well as providing safe access to the shellfish beds themselves. This area would continue to be the entry site for Family Shellfish Day.



Family Shellfish Day

Since vehicle access is so problematic, this plan works to accommodate visitors arriving some other way, i.e. walk, ride a bike, take the bus, or paddle a boat. Parking spaces are very limited and should be reserved for handicapped visitors and families with small children. A few spaces would be located by Wind’s Up and then, in the parking area at the Town Boat Launch. Cars would no longer be able to pull in and park by the picnic area, but there would be a small pullout for drop-off.

The Park will also provide an access stop for the new kayak and canoe “Blue Trail” planned for the Lagoon, which would effectively make the entire Lagoon a part of the Park.

In addition, crosswalks, spaced about a city block apart, could connect the Park paths to the harborside walkway along Beach Road. There are four groins on the north side of Beach Road that are often used for fishing. They might be further developed as fishing piers that could in the future be connected by an extended harbor walk.

The crosswalks may also serve as traffic calming devices since businesses on Beach Road often complain about cars speeding into town.



Lagoon Pond and the Museum from the Boat Launch