

Draft Beach Management Summaries and Descriptions

Examining Local and National Public State Beaches as Potential References and Models for Boston

Dukes County/Martha's Vineyard

1. Joseph Sylvia State Beach

- Public, state owned
- County managed
- Overseen by Friends of Sengekontacket, and the Barrier Beach Task Force
- Funded by DCR and the county, as well as major donations toward the FOS and BBTF

State Beach is a public, state-owned, county managed and maintained beach technically managed by the Manuel F. Correllus Management Facility. It's comprised of two miles of beach between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs, and also fronts Sengekontacket Pond. The management and maintenance are closely overseen and basically run by the Barrier Beach Task Force, and Friends of Sengekontacket. These are two groups comprised entirely of volunteer citizens, including people from 15 agencies and government groups, who meet quarterly and represent all constituent agencies, with a primary goal being to analyze the beach's needs and make recommendations that can be successfully and realistically applied. Their efforts and programs have included studying water quality and advocating for protection and restoration of the pond waters relating to nitrogen loading, runoff, and oxygen levels; restoring essential beach grass and developing comprehensive educational programs on beach grass; dealing with practical issues such as fencing, parking, and maintenance; and collaborating with a local Audubon center, the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, in order to create curriculum for kids about the significance of beach grass and coastal ecosystems. They are essentially responsible for the management and maintenance of the beach and the pond, with help from the County and financial support from the state.

The first stage of their management plan, revised November 2005, reviews and articulates recommended procedures for the task force. A draft of the beach management plan can be found at http://www.dukescounty.org/Pages/DukesCountyMA_NaturalResources/sylvia

The Action Plan lists several "Priority Areas of Concern", and summarizes these on Page 8 of the Draft Beach Management Plan:

"These concerns range from those of lesser importance to a significant number that constitute elements of risk to the barrier beach. The BBTF evaluated these factors and made some tentative suggestions on their relative priority. On August 27, I organized all (now) 47 factors by four categories of priority: (A) maintain the structural integrity of the beach, (B) protect water and beach quality, including vegetation and protection of rare species, (C) provide for the comfort and convenience of users of the beach and the pond, and (D) establish regulations and controls, and educate the public about the beach and the pond."

Friends of Sengekontacket/Barrier Beach Task Force contact: Albert (Hap) Hamel (508) 696-0961

2. South Beach State Park/Norton Point Beach

- Public state owned beach, county/non-profit partnership and management

- Special written agreement between non-profit and town
- Funded and managed by non-profit, April 2006

South Beach is state owned by DCR and managed by the town of Edgartown. This 1.25 mile long beach fronts on the Atlantic Ocean, so there is often fairly heavy surf. Norton Point is three miles of barrier beach on the south shore in Edgartown with surf on one side with protected salt pond on the other. public, county owned beaches. It is owned and managed by the county of Dukes County and the Trustees of Reservations, a non-profit conservation organization actively owning and managing many properties on the island. This recent partnership developed in April 2006 and is a written agreement based on a five year contract. The agreement was prompted by both surfcasters advocating for a better management plan, and the coastal waterbird program, which annually monitors and manages the beach for nesting species of special concern such as the Piping Plover, Least Tern, and American Oystercatcher. The county and the Trustees reached an agreement and the Trustees now staff the beach, and in the bird nesting season, has shorebird monitors working twenty four hours a day. They are also responsible for maintaining the habitat of the beach, rules and regulations, and ecological preservation. They fund all of these operations and share the profits of overland vehicle permits, which once were received only by the county. At this early stage of the agreement, there are no special educational or social events planned for this beach, however, there will be educational shorebird tours of Katama bay in the future, which will further enhance the communication and relationship with the public, an essential component of successful beach management.

This agreement evolved out of 10 years of negotiations with the public, initiated by the surfcasters and the general public who opposed the closings of the beach due to the shorebird nesting requirements, yet had no significant information about why this was happening and were receiving very little feedback from the county about what was going on. The county had very few resources to staff the beach, provide signage, monitor shorebirds, or manage the overland vehicle traffic and revenues. The Trustees, who are responsible for neighboring properties Wasque beach and Cape Pogue on Chappaquiddick (Norton Point connects to the other side) decided to take on this project as an extension of their other beach management responsibilities, and after ten years of negotiations and attempts at written agreements, they have finally embarked on this project and are making tremendous progress in improving the beach. The county is partnered with the Trustees, but it is the Trustees who are primarily responsible for everything from beach rangers and signage across the beach to shorebird monitoring, environmental education, overland vehicle permits and revenues, and enforcing regulations such as a ten o'clock curfew on the beach, which excludes fishermen. The only revenue the Trustees receive for this service is from the sale of overland vehicle permits to compensate their expenses (\$60-100 for the season, \$20-30 for a day pass.) Their presence, maintenance and enforcement is essential to the continued health of the beach and the community, and is now well received by the public as an excellent solution to a previous problem. Prior to the Trustees assuming responsibility, there was vandalism, noise, a lack of a ranger presence, and issues with a lack of signage and communication with the public about beach closings. Now the results are favorable and the partnership is a success so far, with more improvements planned.

Trustees of Reservations contact: Dave Belcher (508) 627-7689

Trustees office: (508) 693-7662

Rhode Island

- Public State run beaches are managed and maintained primarily by DEM, but maintenance and permitting, such as for cleanup and structures, is coordinated by CRMC. CRMC's responsibilities to the beaches are primarily regulatory, but also includes some beach nourishment, dredge reuse and eelgrass replenishment at certain sites.
- The Coastal Resources Center and RI SeaGrant also play a role in beach management, protection, and restoration, as well as programs and events. (more info)

Department of Environmental Management Parks and Recreation Department:

<http://www.riparks.com/>

<http://www.riparks.com/organizationalchart.htm>

From the [CRMC- Coastal Resources Management Council](#) website:

“The Coastal Resources Management Council is a management agency with regulatory functions. Its primary responsibility is for the preservation, protection, development and where possible the restoration of the coastal areas of the state via the issuance of permits for work with the coastal zone of the state.

The CRMC is administered by a [council](#) who are appointed representatives of the public and state and local government, and a staff of professional engineers, biologists, environmental scientists, and marine resources specialists. It is a state agency created by the General Assembly that balances economic considerations with environmental protection. The decision-making process of the CRMC is conducted in the public eye through regular public hearings. In this manner, the public is given regular opportunities to formally input their comments on how the coastal resources of the state should be managed in Rhode Island.

In order to properly manage coastal resources, the General Assembly has given the CRMC explicit powers and duties. Specifically, the CRMC is charged with the primary responsibility for the continued planning and management of the resources of the state's coastal region. It is authorized to formulate policies and plans, to adopt regulations necessary to implement its various [management programs](#); coordinate its functions with local, state, and federal governments on coastal resources issues (including advising the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public on coastal matters, and acting as binding arbitrator in any dispute involving both the resources of the state's coastal region and the interests of two (2) or more municipalities or state agencies. It is also responsible for the designation of all public rights-of-way to the tidal water areas of the state, and carrying on a continued discovery of appropriate public rights-of-way.

The [regulatory authority](#) of the CRMC is generally defined by the area extending from the territorial sea limit, 3 miles offshore, to two hundred feet inland from any coastal feature. In addition, natural features such as coastal beaches, dunes, barriers, coastal wetlands, cliffs, bluffs, and banks, rocky shores, and manmade shorelines all have an extended contiguous area of two hundred feet from their inland borders which is under the authority of the Council. Cultural features of historical or

archaeological significance are also within the jurisdiction of the Council as required by the Federal Government.

In addition to developing coastal management plans and policies and implementing the state coastal regulatory program, the CRMC also has other important functions. It has a coordinating and oversight role for other state agencies and local governments which do not inherently consider coastal zone management issues in their decision-making processes. It has a leadership role in identifying new issues and seeking their resolution. It sponsors coastal zone research that has led to new initiatives in public trust issues, coastal flooding, hazard mitigation, and special area management planning. And it provides the state with a continuing process of public rights-of-way discovery: an issue that is integral to all Rhode Islanders.”

SeaGrant’s Federal-State-University role in Coastal Rhode Island: <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/about/>
“Rhode Island Sea Grant collaborates with federal, state, and local partners to achieve its goals.”
Aquidneck Island

Coastal Resources Center- Jennifer McCann (401) 874-6127 mccann@gso.uri.edu

Narragansett Beach

- Public Beach
- Managed by DEM, Parks and Recreation Department
- Between 15 and 20 management, 5 specific managers for maintenance and staff on the beach.
- Funding from DEM

Contact: Barry Fontaine, Director, Parks and Recreation (401) 782-0658

Tiverton:

Fogland and Grinnell Beaches

- Town beaches, managed by recreation and conservation committee
- Owned by the town, overseen by DEM and CRMC, most regulations enforced by the town.

RI Beach activities and programs <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/Coastweeks/>

Massachusetts/Cape

Mashpee

1. South Cape Beach State Park

- Public, state/federal-run beach and national estuarine research reserve, managed and funded by DCR and NOAA

This beach’s management system is intricately tied to the Waquoit Bay Reserve, which has funding from NOAA to facilitate research with scientists and researchers from Woods Hole and elsewhere, utilizing it as a natural laboratory and education site. The majority of the funding for this beach and the reserve come from NOAA, but it is also funded and staffed by DCR. Washburn Island is also included in the management of the site, which is 300 acres accessible by boat and heavily trafficked

in the summer. South Cape Beach employs a repairer, laborer, lifeguards, and shorebird monitors, who are also responsible for educating the public about nesting shorebirds on the beaches. They also employ a volunteer coordinator who is responsible for managing a year round corps of volunteers, and an interpretive naturalist who splits time between the two properties (the beach and the reserve.) Of the public who attend the beach, the majority are from Mashpee, with a more diverse group of visitors in the summer. It is said that more residents from Mashpee visit the town beach, however, and that beach is more crowded, due to its convenient parking lots steps from the beach, whereas the public state beach has a more distant parking lot. Visitors pay a \$35 fee to Massport in order to park at state beaches for the season. South Cape Beach has experienced problems with vandalism because it is so isolated in a small town, and removed from busy public areas.

From [the DCR website](#):

“South Cape Beach, located between Waquoit Bay and Vineyard Sound, contains a wide variety of coastal environments, including barrier beach and dunes, salt marsh, scrub oak/pitch pine woodland and "kettle" ponds. A magnificent white sand beach stretches for over a mile. Newly constructed over-the-dune boardwalks, a small parking area and bathrooms make this a lovely place to spend a day at the shore. Interpretive programs are offered during the summer months. The Park is a component of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, which is based in Falmouth and managed by the DCR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”

[WBNERR management plan](#)

Primarily focused on environmental protection, sustainable stewardship, and coastal ecosystems management, but also includes details on staffing.

More information on the partnership and Waquoit Reserve at: <http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org/>

Contact: Brendan Annett, Stewardship Coordinator and Acting Manager (508) 457-0495 x108

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/socp.htm>

2. Mashpee Town Beach

- Town beach, managed by Department of Public Works and Leisure Services

Town beach- managed by both DPW and Leisure services. Department of Public Works is responsible for permitting, raking, beach nourishment, habitat restoration. Leisure services is responsible for staff, budget, rule enforcement, and events. A board of selectmen must approve rules and regulation changes. The budget source is property taxes, and money from parking stickers goes back into the general fund for the town.

Contact: Joyce Mason, Town Hall (508) 539-1400 x513

Salisbury beach- Mike Magnifico (978) 462-4481

Chicago

Chicago Park District Programs

- [Nature in the City](#)

A program that has been developed to provide Environmental programs that help you develop an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of Chicago's natural resources and the environment. The programs offered include fishing, gardening, bird watching, camping out, or simply taking a quiet stroll around a lagoon.

[Link to some of the specific programs](#)

[From the Chicago Parks District website:](#)

“Park District Regional Offices:

- [Central Region](#) 312-746-5962

Dedicated to Chicago's near south, near north and west-side parks, the Central Region manages 130 parks for diverse neighborhoods, including Austin, Back of the Yards, Bucktown, China Town, Hyde Park, Lawndale, and Pilsen. Athletic opportunities abound in the Central Region with over three-dozen indoor and outdoor pools, fitness centers, interactive water playgrounds, ball fields, soccer fields, football fields, golf courses and a miniature golf course. Arts and cultural programming reign strong in the Central Region with AlieyCamp and several of the Park District's Cultural Centers. Some of Chicago's most significant park landmarks are located in the region, including landscapes designed by Jens Jensen, such as Columbus Park, Douglas Park, Garfield Park and Humboldt Park. Work from Alfred Caldwell can be found at Riis Park.

- [Lakefront Region](#) 312-742-5239 Jessica Faulkner *Note: Further information may not be available without submitting a formalized request to the Parks Legal Department.

The Lakefront Region is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the city's 24 Miles of shoreline, 18 Miles of Lakefront trail, 48 Lakefront Parks, nine harbors and 31 Beaches. Also included in this region is the Museum campus, two golf driving ranges, Theater on the Lake, Buckingham Fountain, the Lincoln Park Zoo, a conservatory, three cultural centers and Soldier Field.

- [North Region](#)
[Warren Park](#), 773-262-8658

The North Region is responsible for overseeing 190 parks and playgrounds for 26 communities from Edison Park to Logan Square. The 79 staffed locations offer seasonal cultural programming and special events, non-traditional sports, a skate park, water playgrounds, tracks, a flying trapeze and fitness centers. The Region also features a multitude of athletic activities with its 23 pools, four water playgrounds, running tracks, indoor and outdoor skating rinks, a gymnastics center, five boxing centers, the McFetridge Sports Center and the Robert A. Black Golf Course. Other recreational and cultural programming can be found at Kilbourn Park's Organic Greenhouse, Indian Boundary Zoo, the Broadway Armory.

- South Region
Tarkington Park, 312-747-7661

The South Region offers quality recreational and leisure opportunities at more than 100 parks and play lots. Chicagoans from the historic neighborhoods of Chatham, Kenwood, Roseland, Hegewisch and Pullman, as well as the University of Chicago community in Hyde Park partake in the many cultural, physical and recreational opportunities offered by the South Region. The South proudly features nearly 200 ball diamonds, four outdoor ice rinks, eighteen outdoor pools, thirteen natatoriums, a 36-ft water slide, six racquetball and handball courts, and two gymnastic centers. In addition, a state of the art Little League stadium at Jackie Robinson Park, the Marquette Park Golf Course and Golf Driving Range/Learning Center, five boxing centers, a seven station batting cage, one artificial turf soccer field, an art gallery and four lagoons also serve the residents of Chicago. Marquette, Ridge, Hamilton, Tuley and West Pullman Parks are designated as cultural centers, providing unique activities as well as existing quality recreational activities to the highly diverse communities this region serves.”

New Jersey

- Many public state owned beaches charge a daily or seasonal beach fee in season and distribute badges to visitors.
- New Jersey is one state that has emphasized the Public Trust Doctrine’s “inalienability of public common rights” in terms of rights-of-way and beach management, as opposed to state ownership, and partners with other semi-public organizations, “such as the Bay Head Improvement Association, where local property owners cooperate to manage the beaches they own.”
- Some beaches, while public, may be challenging for the public to enjoy, “with restricted or absent public facilities, fees and strange hours, [or local exclusionism].”

From the <http://www.jerseyshorepartnership.com> website:

“An advocate, legislative and regulatory, State and Federal, with respect to those issues that are unique and important to the Jersey Shore coastal communities, focusing attention on stable funding for shore protection and maintaining and active role in tourism, the environment, transportation, infrastructure, technology and economic development.

The Jersey Shore Partnership was created as a result of the devastating Halloween storm of 1991 with the mi guarantee that state and federal funding would be available to protect coastal New Jersey from the damage th can inflict.

Great strides have been made in the 12 years that the not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization, originally base Tinton Falls, has been in existence. With the help of the governor's office, key members of the Legislature, th Partnership's many members, and the public, The Jersey Shore Partnership has been able to make New Jersey among the coastal states in protecting the shore and promoting local business interests.

Equally important, the achievements that have been made in the last decade have helped to preserve a way of is valued by shore residents and visitors alike, and that supports a tourism industry that generates nearly \$16 annually in revenue and taxes in the four shore counties.”

Contact: Bill Dixon, Environmental Engineer, Department of Environmental Protection (732) 255-0767

List of beaches, Monmouth County :

<http://visitmonmouth.com/page.asp?agency=111&Section=896&ID=896>

http://www.asbpa.org/news/news_2005.htm

http://www.asbpa.org/about_us/about_us_history.htm

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/>

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/beaches/ccmp.html>

Washington State

Puget Sound (in progress)

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pugetsound/tour/public_shore.html

“Today, 1,300 miles of saltwater tidelands are state-owned. About 300 miles of beach, including Pacific coastal beaches, are managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission or the Department of Fish and Wildlife. About 1,000 miles of state beaches are managed by the Department of Natural Resources.”

Washington State Parks Department

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/regs.asp>

Parks and Recreation Commission revised codes

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=79A.05>

[Surfrider Foundation:](#)

A wonderful website containing very thorough information on almost all state run beaches across the country, including beach description, access, water quality, erosion response, shoreline structures, management programs and plans, and beach ecology.

http://www.surfrider.org/stateofthebeach/05-sr/state_summary.asp?zone=NE&state=ma

<http://www.surfrider.org/stateofthebeach/05-sr/state.asp?zone=NE&state=ma&cat=bc>

Michigan:

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/coastal/beach-management.html>