

Beach Management Plan Working Group
Session 3 – December 1, 2022 – Public Questions

Question 1: Darci S. said TTOR has numbers for each beach area for what OSV capacity limits can/should be and that they received no pushback on the numbers - where are those numbers to be found and can they be reshared in this context? Also, can the current number of OSV permits sold for Cape Pogue and Norton areas over the past several years be shared?

Answer 1: Thank you for your question. We will discuss visitation numbers at our next working group meeting on January 19, 2023.

Question 2: I'm wondering what has been done in the last 20 years by the Trustees on Martha's Vineyard in terms of improving beach resiliency and habitat. What measures were considered and what was actually implemented and why? Probably more of a question for Chris Kennedy.

Answer 2: Throughout the history of us managing beaches on the islands (and statewide) we've placed an emphasis on protecting and restoring existing habitat and landforms that build resilience. These have included fencing off vulnerable areas where erosion is happening to allow for deposition and beach grass growth. Dunes, beach grass, and marshes are critical for maintaining resilience. Periodically, trails and OSV corridors have been adjusted or moved to protect vulnerable areas along the dune. In 2017 we completed the *Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Coastal Properties* that took a more in-depth look at vulnerabilities and climate change projections on our coastal properties. This report started the conversation around construction of more active resilience projects which led to completion of the *Assessment and Analysis of Adaptive Interventions for Coastal Martha's Vineyard Properties (Woods Hole Group, 2020)*. Wasque and Norton were identified as the highest priorities for potential intervention and The Trustees made the decision to focus on Norton Point beach, which led to the dune restoration project completed in 2021. We continue to seek funding and other opportunities to advance coastal resilience with nature-based solutions. The longevity and stewardship of these exceptional places is of the utmost importance to The Trustees.

Prior to 2016, The Trustees focused on maintaining OSV access as well as the listed shorebird protection program. This included maintaining OSV trails, re-routing trails to protect sensitive areas, fencing dunes to enable dune grass production, and temporarily closing trails due to flooding to prevent further damage. Now that we have the in-depth data on the impact of sea level rise, storm surge, and storm frequency, we are poised to recalibrate our focus on resilience, restoration, and habitat preservation.