

## PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Applicants: Ann Courtney Chair, Beach Advisory Committee and Hannah King and Amy Rogers, co-chairs Commission on Disabilities

Date: October 31, 2024

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Submission

Purpose: (Select all that apply)  Open Space

Community Housing

Historic Preservation

X OutdoorRecreation

Town Committee (if applicable): Jointly Truro Beach Advisory Committee and the Commission on Disabilities

Project Name: **ACCESS TO ACTION** : Corn Hill Beach handicap boardwalk and expanded Accessible recreation improvements

Project Location/Address: Corn Hill Beach

Amount Requested: \$ \$350,000

Project Summary: In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

This proposal requests funding for the planning, design, and building of a replacement boardwalk and railing system that will maintain safety and accessibility to Corn Hill beach as well as to create an expanded recreational area for persons with mobility challenges. The design will be ADA compliant and will remove physical barriers to ensure equal access to our public beach for all Truro citizens and visitors.

Architects, engineers, and accessibility experts will be engaged to develop detailed designs and specifications for boardwalk, railings, sidewalks and other accessibility features that comply with building and conservation codes and ADA accessibility standards.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project. Summer/Fall 2025

Estimated Date for Completion of Project. Spring 2026

**Narrative:**

This is a joint proposal from the Truro Beach Advisory Committee and the Truro Commission on Disabilities. The Beach Advisory Committee and the Commission on Disabilities met together on October 10, 2024, to discuss issues of mutual interest. The issue both committees shared concerns about is the deteriorating accessible ramp at Corn Hill. Simply, the accessible walkway at Corn Hill Beach has outlived its lifespan. The boardwalk was constructed more than 30 years ago and needs constant repair to be used. At this point it is nearly impossible to push a wheelchair on the ramp to the beach. Currently, all Truro citizens and visitors must deal with the hazards of the current walkway. Corn Hill beach is the only year-round accessible beach in Truro for people with mobility or other physical disabilities.

*Enhance Accessibility:* This proposal requests funding for the planning, design, and building of a new ramp and railing system that will provide safe accessibility to the beach. The design will be ADA compliant and will remove physical barriers to ensure equal access to our public beach as well as create an expanded recreational area for everyone.

*Improve Mobility:* The reconstruction project will facilitate smooth and safe movement for all, including those with mobility or other physical disabilities. The new ramp system will provide equal access to Corn Hill and the benches and picnic tables on the beach. Truro has the highest percentage of persons ages 18-64 with ambulatory difficulty of all towns on Cape Cod (11.3%). Additionally, approximately 50% of Truro's population is age 65 or older, resulting in a median age that is about 20% higher than the median age for Barnstable County. As we know, mobility challenges increase with aging, indicating that the percentage of persons with mobility and ambulatory challenges in Truro is one of the highest in the County. Sources:

1. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-ada-improvement-grant> (Under "More info"-->"Resources"-->"Disability Demographics by Municipality (2010-2014)")
2. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2500170605-truro-town-barnstable-county-ma/>

*Promote Inclusivity:* The reconstruction project will foster an inclusive environment where people with mobility or other physical disabilities are valued and respected by having beach access and expanded recreational opportunities. Included in this proposal is the request for 2 beach wheelchairs. Truro currently owns 2 beach wheelchairs (1 at Corn Hill and 1 at Head of the Meadow). Right now, anyone who requests the use of a beach wheelchair must use the chair and then immediately return it to the beach shed for the next person. It is essential that the wheelchair remains with the individual who has borrowed it until they are ready to return it.

**Site Control:** The applicants presented the Community Preservation Act Grant for accessible recreation improvements to the full Truro Select Board on October 22, 2024. The two committees have worked extensively with Town Staff: Assistant Town Manager and ADA Coordinator Kelly Clark Sullivan, Community Services Director Damion Clements, and Public Works Director Jarrod Cabral who coordinated with Health and Conservation Agent Beebe. As the custodians of Town owned property, in accordance with Truro Charter 4-2-6, a final plan for the site would be submitted to the Board for approval if the grant is awarded at Town Meeting. The Select Board unanimously voted to support the CPC application.

**Project Scope:**

This joint proposal requests funds to design and upgrade ramps and sidewalks to meet ADA accessibility standards, including appropriate width, and slip resistant surfaces that ensure seamless transitions for anyone who uses a wheelchair, individuals with mobility or other physical disabilities, all Truro citizens and visitors.

*Design and Engineering:* Engage architects, engineers, and accessibility experts to develop detailed designs and specifications for ramps, railings, sidewalks and other accessibility features that comply with building and conservation codes and ADA accessibility standards.

**Construction and installation:** Execute the construction phase ensuring that a contractor adheres to the approved designs, materials, and timelines.

**Timeline:** Summer/Fall 2025 Permitting and design Spring 2026 Construction

**Cost Estimate:****Planning and Assessment:**

**Design:** **\$60,000**

**Materials and Construction:**

These estimates are based on \$93.00 per square foot. Since the cost of building materials have been so volatile since the pandemic, materials might face supply chain and price increase issues.

|                     |              |                 |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1,000 sq ft         | sitting area | <b>\$93,000</b> |
| 170' x 5' 850 sq ft | walkway      | <b>\$79,050</b> |

**Equipment:**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 wheelchairs at 3,000.00 each | <b>\$6,000</b>  |
| Benches and picnic tables      | <b>\$11,950</b> |

**Feasibility:**

Permits: **\$100,000**

Permitting Pathway and Conservation review

RDA with Truro Conservation Commission for walkway

NOI - Notice of Intent

DEP - Department of Environmental Protection

NHESP- Natural Heritage

Environmental Justice Community Permit

Environmental Impact Report

Total: **\$350,000**

**Maps:**



**Natural resource limitations:** The extended recreational and sitting area is in the middle of a coastal dune thus the trigger of many conservation permits. The permitting pathway is extensive and expensive.