

TOWN OF ORLEANS
MASSACHUSETTS

ORLEANS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS

OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN

2 0 2 5



Weston & SampsonSM



Baker's Pond

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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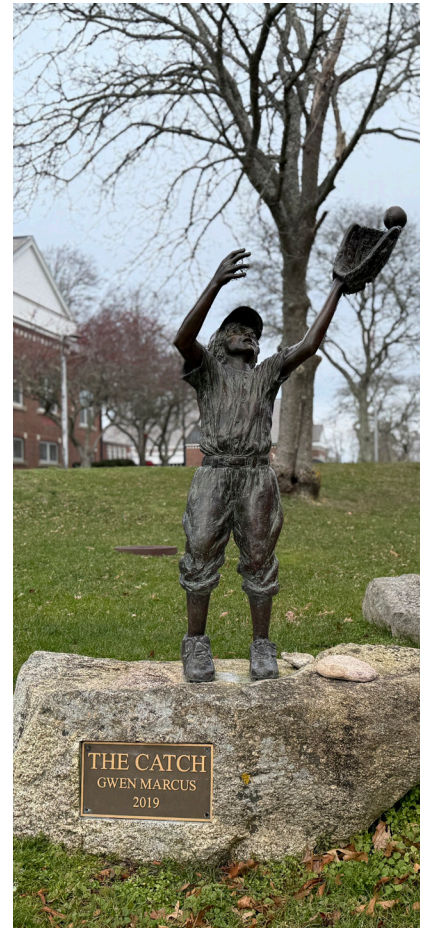
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As with any initiative of this scope, numerous town departments, agencies, commissions, regional organizations, and non-profits contributed invaluable support and insight to the development of the 2025 Orleans Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

Special thanks go to the many Orleans residents who generously shared their time by completing surveys or attending meetings, offering their thoughtful perspectives on the town's exceptional parks, open spaces, and recreational resources.



Eldredge Park

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Rock Harbor

SECTION 1.

PLAN SUMMARY

A. BACKGROUND

A state-approved, Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is required for eligibility for grants and reimbursements administered through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA).

The 2025 update is intended to comply with the EOEEA, as outlined in the 'Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook', and build upon the previous, now expired, editions dating back to 1984. The updated plan, once approved, will continue the town's eligibility for these valuable grants and guide the conservation of and improvement to Orleans' natural resources and open spaces.

B. FEATURES OF THE 2025 OSRP

This update incorporates current information on land use and recent open space acquisitions while reflecting guidance from the committee as well as feedback from residents gathered through the community engagement process. It outlines preservation strategies, including land acquisitions and non-regulatory approaches such as public education. Additionally, it features an updated assessment of the condition and future needs of recreation facilities, and proposes initiatives to address the Town's open space and recreation requirements. Consistent with the 2025 Orleans Comprehensive Plan Update, it sets realistic open space objectives for town agencies and evaluates the impact of the Cape Cod Open Space Land Acquisition Program (Cape Cod Land Bank) and the Community Preservation Act (Community Preservation Plan 2023).

C. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND VISION

Community priorities for open space and recreation are based on the results of a community survey and public workshop that took place in early 2025. There is consistency between the results from 2025 and a similar survey conducted in 2017 that reflect a community concerned with preserving its scenic character, protecting its natural resources, and enjoying active recreational opportunities.

Top preservation priorities for 2025 are:

- Open space
- Shore and water bodies
- Character of town
- Salt marshes
- Wildlife corridors

Top priorities for new recreational amenities are:

- Pickleball and basketball courts
- Health and fitness (outdoor fitness stations)
- Nature and passive recreation
- Dog friendly amenities
- Playgrounds

Top action items are:

- Acquire more properties for open space and conservation land
- Improve pedestrian access to conservation land
- Provide public access to shore and water bodies

Informed by the robust input from the community, the vision of the OSRP acknowledges the unique characteristics of Orleans' landscapes that are infused into the overall experience of the town as well as the residents' quality of life. Orleans has the rare combination of natural resources, open uplands, marshlands, and active recreation open spaces that work together to create a meaningful sense of place. The residents of Orleans continue to show a commitment to protecting these assets, and a willingness to dedicate funding towards open space preservation and improvement.

Orleans is a small town with amazing resources that allow the community to enjoy a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities and take advantage of the abundant opportunities to engage with the sea. The town has made the protection of drinking water a priority through investment in strategic parcels of land. These areas of focus have endured since the last OSRP and remain hallmark qualities of Orleans.

The OSRP envisions that every Orleans resident and visitor will share in the community's commitment to protect and enhance natural resources for the enjoyment of current and future residents.

D. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The OSRP has identified the following goals to meet the Town's needs and priorities.

1. CONSERVATION GOAL

PROTECT ORLEANS' COASTAL, FRESH WATER, AND UPLAND ECOSYSTEMS.

2. OPEN SPACE GOAL

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE WHILE ENHANCING PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP.

3. RECREATION GOAL

ENSURE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES MEET DIVERSE COMMUNITY NEEDS ACROSS ALL AGES, ABILITIES AND INTERESTS.

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Parish Park

SECTION 2.

INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Orleans OSRP is designed to provide a framework for decision-making by its residents, elected officials, and professional staff. The plan aims to guide responsible actions that conserve Orleans' natural resources, preserve open space, and ensure ample recreational opportunities.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The OSRP update was a collaborative effort led by the OSRP Committee, with meaningful contributions from a range of Town departments, regulatory boards, and committees. These included:

- Planning and Community Development Department
- Conservation Department
- Planning Board

- Conservation Commission
- Cape Cod Commission

The OSRP Committee, which played a central role in organizing and refining the plan’s content, consisted of:

- George Meservey, Planning & Community Development Director
- Mary Wright, Planning Board Associate
- Thomas DeSiervo, Recreation, Culture, and Community Events Director
- Erica O’Reilly, Recreation Advisory Committee
- Lynn O’Connell, Open Space Committee Chair
- John Jannell, Conservation Agent
- Tim Payson, Conservation Commission Member

The OSRP Committee, along with key contributors, carefully reviewed the draft plan and offered thoughtful feedback that strengthened the final document. Public participation provided valuable insights, and a formal comment period gave residents the opportunity to review and weigh in on the draft.

All input—from boards, commissions, and community members—was thoroughly considered and incorporated to ensure the final plan reflects the community’s values, priorities, and long-term vision.

The 2025 OSRP aligns with the 2025 Orleans Comprehensive Plan, supporting a unified approach to protecting and enhancing the town’s environmental and recreational resources—essential to Orleans’ quality of life, health, and well-being.

1. PUBLIC SURVEY

An online survey was developed in partnership with the Town of Orleans and Weston & Sampson using the SurveyMonkey platform. Open for five weeks, from January 22, 2025, to February 26, 2025, the survey received responses from over 568 residents, representing approximately 8% of Orleans’ population.

The survey gathered valuable data that provided a broad and representative view of community preferences and priorities, which directly informed the Analysis of Needs (Section 7) and the Seven-Year Action Plan (Section 9).

The survey was designed to collect input on recreation trends, open space needs, and proposed goals and actions. It was carefully reviewed by the OSRP Committee to ensure clarity and relevance.

To promote accessibility and encourage wide participation, the survey was translated into Spanish, and printed copies were made available at Town Hall and the Orleans Snow Library.

A full breakdown of survey questions, responses, and summaries can be found in [Appendix C: Public Survey Results](#).

2. PUBLIC MEETINGS

An in-person Community Workshop was held on March 20, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Nauset Room at Orleans Town Hall, located within the Environmental Justice (EJ) population area, to gather community input for the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The event was designed to be welcoming and interactive, providing residents with an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.

With 30 residents participating, including members of the OSRP Committee, the evening began with a brief presentation explaining the purpose of the OSRP and highlighting key takeaways from the community survey. Following the presentation, participants took part in an engaging, hour-long workshop focused on the plan's three main goals. They rotated through three interactive stations, each featuring maps, prompts, and hands-on activities to spark ideas and foster discussion. The topics included:

- Conservation Lands and Environmental Resources
- Open Spaces
- Recreation Needs and Programming

Each station featured activities designed to elicit discussion and gather feedback. The feedback shared at these stations provided meaningful insights that directly influenced the direction of the OSRP. A full recap of the event—including the presentation, interactive materials, and community input—is available in [Appendix B: Public Meeting Notes](#).

A Community Workshop flyer was created to promote the event and was shared through multiple platforms—including the Town's website, library, and podcast—to encourage broad public participation. Flyers were posted at Snow Liberty (within EJ Neighborhood), at the Orleans Council on Aging, and Orleans Town Hall. The video presentation was broadcast on Channel 8 and is now archived on the Town's website, giving residents the opportunity to view it at their convenience and stay informed about the OSRP planning process.

Combined feedback from the survey, community workshop, and stakeholder sessions played a key role in shaping the scope and priorities

of the 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

3. ENHANCED OUTREACH FOR EJ NEIGHBORHOODS

To ensure meaningful engagement with EJ populations, additional efforts were made to raise awareness of the 2025 OSRP update and distribute the survey to targeted groups.

To encourage broad community participation and support EJ populations, the Town of Orleans employed a multi-faceted outreach strategy, including:

- **Website & Social Media:** Events and participation opportunities were shared as news posts on the Town’s website and social platforms.
- **Press & Media:** Announcements ran in local Channel 8, newspapers, and through the Town podcast.
- **Flyers:** Flyers promoting the workshop and survey were posted at public buildings, bus stops, post offices, and shared with local groups, including those serving Environmental Justice populations.
- **Language Access:** All materials were provided in English and Spanish, with translation available if needed. Printed surveys were available at Town Hall, Snow Library, and the Senior Center.
- **Public Comment Period:** A 28-day draft review period was widely advertised through local news, the Town website, Channel 8, and civic networks.



Community Workshop - Flyer



Community Workshop - Video



Nauset Beach, Photo by Cape Cod Beaches

SECTION 3.

COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

[Orleans: A Coastal Gem with Rich History and Community Efforts to Protect Its Natural Resources](#)

Orleans is renowned for its stunning shorelines and freshwater ponds that are hallmarks of its open space and recreational landscape. The Town features four distinct tidal shorelines, each with its own unique charm:

- The expansive flats of Cape Cod Bay at low tide
- The steep bluffs and salt marshes of Town Cove and Nauset Harbor
- The long, soft strand of Nauset Beach on the Atlantic Ocean
- The winding shoreline of Pleasant Bay

What makes Orleans truly special is that it's one of the few towns in the U.S. where you can watch both the sunrise and sunset over the ocean.

Orleans 1858



Excerpt from the Map of Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket County, Massachusetts 1858 H.F. Walling Reprint: www.old-maps.com

Orleans, Massachusetts 1858 Old Town Map Custom Print - Barnstable Co.

1. A HISTORIC CROSSROADS

Orleans has long served as a natural crossroads. Its strategic location at the “elbow” of Cape Cod makes it central to the region’s natural and cultural history. Geologically, the area marks the intersection of two lobes of the Wisconsin Glacier from 15,000 years ago. Culturally, it was once a key intersection for Native people; the name “Nauset” means “at the place between.”

Today, Orleans is still a vital crossroad, as the connection point between Hyannis and Provincetown at the intersection of Routes 6, 6A, and 28. Though originally a passage to the Outer Cape, Orleans has become a destination in its own right, celebrated for its beauty and access to the coast. This popularity has also brought increased development pressure.

2. FOCUS ON WATER ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

Given the town's geography, water access is a major focus of Orleans's open space strategy. Since the 1980s, the town has worked to acquire shoreline properties and preserve public access through investments in beaches, landings, and boating facilities. These efforts, supported consistently by voters, continue to guide the town's conservation planning today.

3. COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WITH NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Orleans borders Eastham, Chatham, Brewster, and Harwich, and shares several key water bodies including Nauset Harbor, Town Cove, Pleasant Bay, and Rock Harbor. Despite the complexities of overlapping jurisdictions, the towns all collaborate effectively. One notable example is the former regional septage treatment facility, developed collaboratively by Brewster, Orleans, and Eastham, which has since been decommissioned.

Orleans also shares management responsibilities for Nauset Beach with Chatham—an arrangement that has existed for more than 40 years. The town is a key partner in the Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance, collaborating with Chatham, Harwich, and Brewster to protect Pleasant Bay and its watershed through research, policy-making, and public education. In 2018, the Alliance received the first watershed permit issued in the Commonwealth.

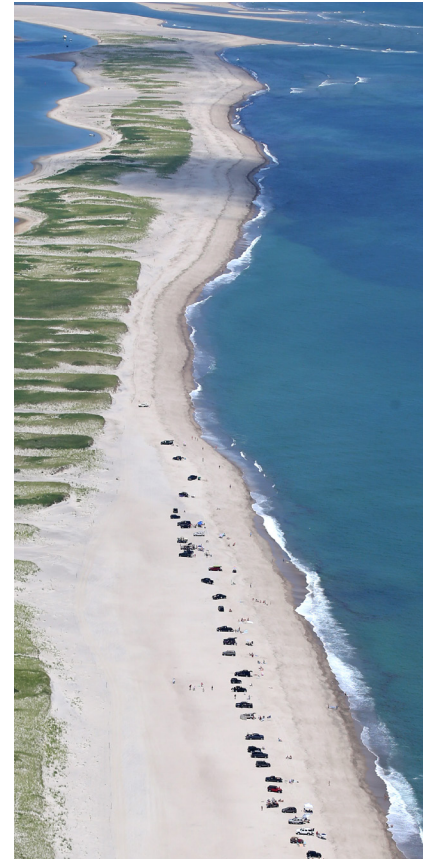
4. ADDRESSING WATER SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS

Protecting public water supplies is a shared concern across municipal lines. A portion of Brewster falls within the recharge zone for Orleans' public water supply wells. To limit development in this sensitive area, Brewster established a Natural Resource Protection Zone (NRPZ) in 2009, safeguarding not only its own resources but also those of Orleans.

5. NAUSET BARRIER BEACH AND ECOSYSTEM CHANGES

The Nauset barrier beach and inlet system have undergone dramatic changes over time, with major effects on local ecosystems in Orleans and Chatham. In 2007, a storm created a second inlet between Pleasant Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, altering tidal flows and accelerating erosion along the shoreline. Property owners have voiced growing concerns as these changes continue to effect the landscape.

Roughly 900 acres of Orleans fall within the Cape Cod National Seashore, including uninhabited portions of Nauset Beach and islands in Pleasant Bay. Although the Park Service manages much of the Seashore, its role in Orleans is more limited than in other towns.



Nauset Spit

Since 2017, several important environmental changes of the Nauset Barrier and its ecosystem have been documented:

- **Enhanced Storm-Induced Erosion:** Studies have shown significant erosion events along Nauset Beach, especially during the winter of 2023–2024. These changes have been driven by storm patterns and rising sea levels, resulting in noticeable shifts in the shoreline.
- **Increased Inlet Migration Rates:** Research has revealed that the Nauset inlet has been migrating more quickly in recent decades. Between 1938 and 1997, it moved at an average rate of 56.6 meters per year. From 1997 to 2021, that rate increased to 68.6 meters per year, driven by rising sea levels and more intense storms.
- **Salt Marsh Vegetation Changes:** Between 2003 and 2018, studies documented changes in salt marsh vegetation within the Nauset region, likely due to rising sea levels, more frequent storms, and human activities.
- **Barrier Beach Management Challenges:** The shifting nature of the Nauset barrier beach has posed management challenges, particularly with nesting bird populations. In 2017, crows preyed on terns and piping plover nests, raising concerns about the impact of predators on native species.
- **Coastal Infrastructure Adaptations:** In 2017, the Town dismantled several facilities, including restrooms and a stairway to the beach, to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion and protect public amenities. In 2018, Liam’s Snack Shack was removed due to erosion at Nauset Beach.
- Additionally, over-sand vehicle (OSV) access across Callanan’s Pass has been restricted due to ongoing erosion concerns and related mitigation efforts.

These ongoing environmental shifts highlight the dynamic nature of Orleans’ coast and the need for flexible, adaptive management to address challenges posed by natural forces and climate change.



Nauset Beach, before 2018



Nauset Beach, Storm Riley, 2018



Liam’s Snack Shack Demolition, 2018



Nauset Beach Dunes, 2022

6. ONGOING CONSERVATION AND COLLABORATION EFFORTS

Orleans continues to work regionally to manage and protect shared resources, particularly through the Pleasant Bay Alliance. This multi-town partnership focuses on preserving the health of the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Through collaborative initiatives, Orleans and its neighbors are helping to ensure the ecological integrity of Cape Cod for generations to come.

B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

1. PRE COLONIAL

Archeological findings confirm the Nauset people settled in the region by 4,000 BC. Known settlements can be found along the Nauset Marsh and Pleasant Bay. These areas strategically provided ocean access for fishing and hunting as well as proximity to freshwater to farm.

2. EARLY SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORLEANS

Orleans' early settlement was centered around Rock Harbor and the roads leading to it, with a small commercial and institutional core where Main Street met County Road (now Route 6A, also known as Cranberry Highway). This linear development gradually expanded over time. The majority of Orleans was made up of large, scattered farms, particularly in South Orleans, where the soil was perfect for grain production. In the 1800s, Orleans was known as the Cape's premier grain-growing town, producing a surplus for trade with Boston.

Rock Harbor: Orleans' Historic Port

Trade in Orleans was conducted through Rock Harbor, a small, shallow port that could only accommodate coastal vessels with shallow drafts due to its narrow channels and extensive flats. Despite its limitations, Rock Harbor served as a thriving port throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition to grain, salt produced in Orleans' saltworks became an important export. During the War of 1812, the Orleans militia famously repelled a British landing at Rock Harbor.

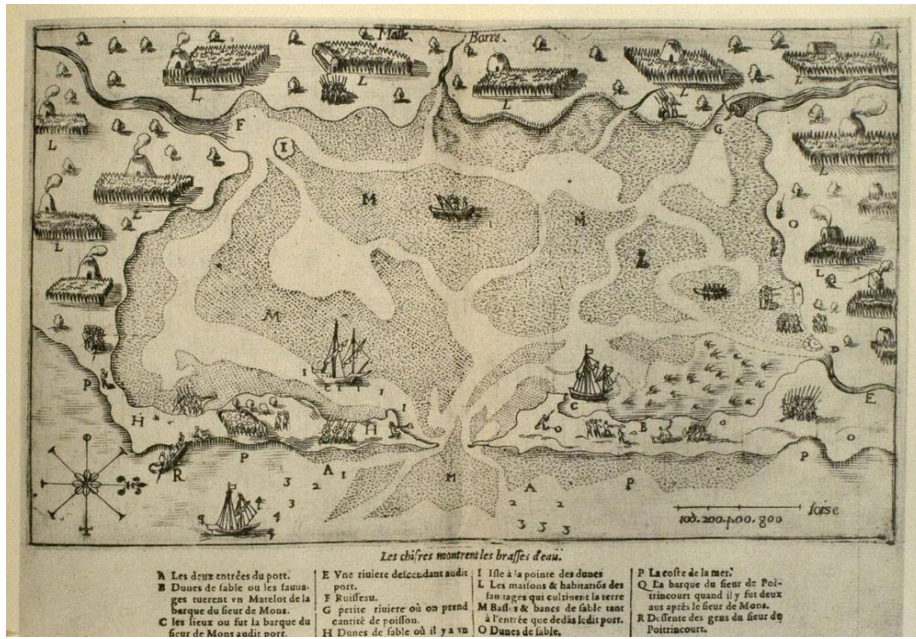
Pleasant Bay and Nauset Marsh: Subsistence Grounds

While the complex channels and distant trading routes of Pleasant Bay and Nauset Marsh made them unsuitable for large-scale navigation, they were important local subsistence areas. Fishermen and salt hay gatherers relied on these waters for finfish, shellfish, and other resources. Along Nauset Harbor's Snow Shore, fish sheds and drying racks lined the shore, where catches were prepared for the Boston market.

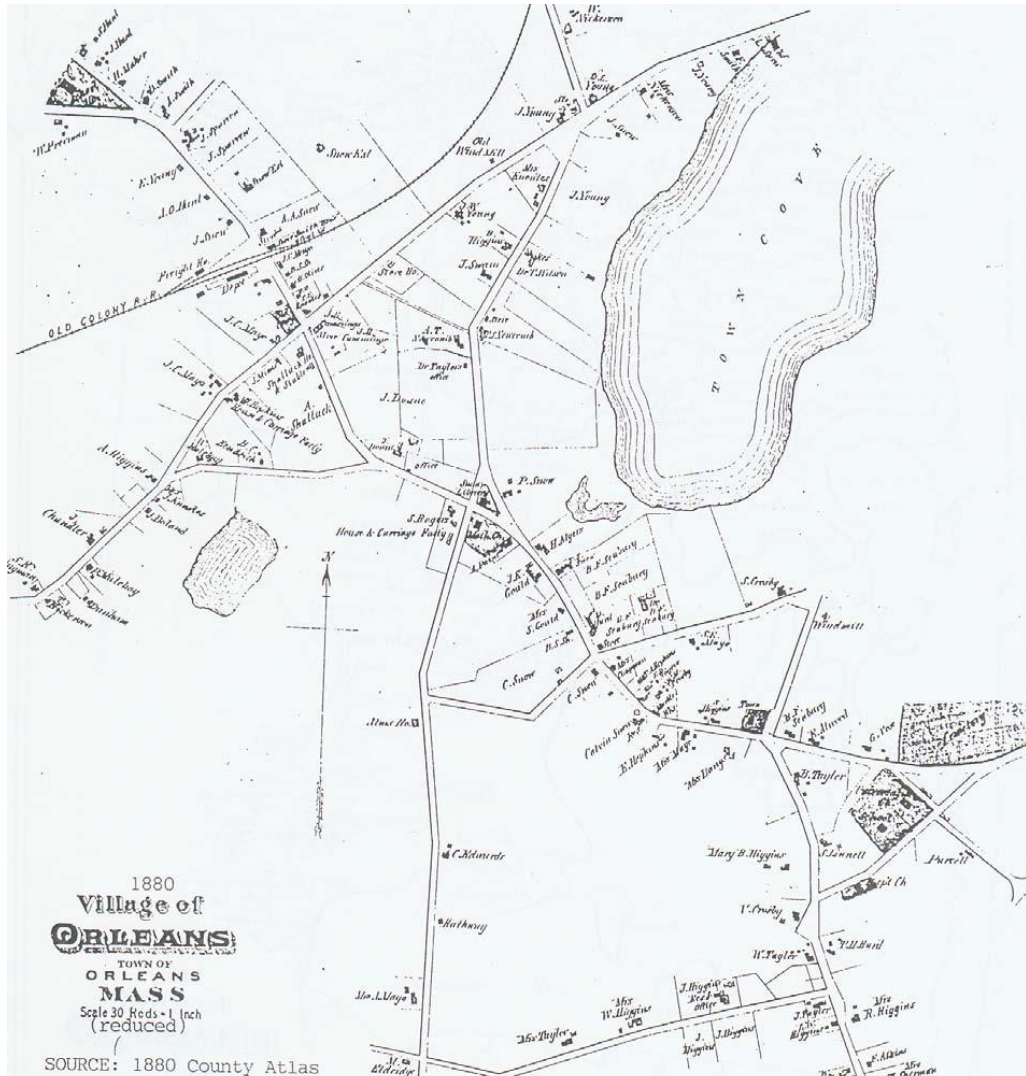
South Orleans and Native American History

South Orleans holds historical significance as the site of the Nauset Indians' Potanunquit (or Portanimicut) village, established in 1660. This village was one of the Cape's most important tribal settlements during the colonial era.

1605 NAUSET VILLAGE MAP



1880 VILLAGE MAP



Orleans' historic settlement laid the foundation for modern land use patterns.

Jeremiah's Gutter

A historic canal on Cape Cod that connected Cape Cod Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, cutting across the peninsula between Orleans and Eastham, Massachusetts. Although the canal no longer exists in full, remnants—including a cut through the marsh and a small river—are still visible from the Cape Cod Rail Trail.

3. 19TH CENTURY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Although Orleans is a small town in area compared to other Cape communities, its population density has always been higher. By 1797, when Orleans separated from Eastham and incorporated as its own town, its population exceeded 1,700. Like many Cape towns, Orleans experienced a population decline due to economic recessions and a downturn in maritime trade during the Civil War era. However, the completion of the Old Colony Railroad through Orleans in 1864, and its expansion through the Cape in the 1870s, spurred growth by supporting both railroad trade and tourism.

4. 20TH CENTURY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In the 20th century, Orleans saw a boom in vacation homes, particularly in Tonset and Nauset Heights. Since the 1950s, residential development for vacationers, retirees, and residents has spread across the town. The most significant changes have occurred in South Orleans, once the least developed area, and on the Barley Neck Farm Fields, where prime agricultural land was replaced by development.

Unlike many other Cape towns, Orleans lacks the extensive interior woodlands that towns like Brewster and Eastham possess. These forests typically provide space for future municipal needs, such as golf courses or conservation areas. Orleans, with its vast coastal shoreline, never had the same opportunity. However, in the 1950s, Orleans created the Cape's largest municipal wellfield, a 500-acre site along Route 6. This effort expanded in 1986 with the purchase of a 14-acre wellfield on Quanset Road, followed by additional acquisitions in the early 2000s, including a 30-acre parcel in Brewster to enhance resource protection.

With limited availability of large undeveloped land parcels, Orleans must take a strategic and inventive approach to planning. This involves reimagining existing business districts, expanding current conservation lands, and establishing interconnected greenways through easements linking preserved areas—rather than focusing on developing new industrial parks or acquiring sizable new tracts.

5. 21ST CENTURY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Residential and Commercial Growth

Entering the 21st century, Orleans continued to experience growth, but it was more nuanced, with an increasing focus on sustainability and balancing development with preserving the town's coastal beauty. The population continued to increase, especially during the summer months, with vacationers flocking to the town's scenic beaches and vibrant culture. The town's economy has evolved to focus on tourism, retail, and local businesses that serve a growing number of seasonal visitors.

Environmental Conservation and Coastal Management

Orleans' fragile coastal environment has made it particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including the erosion of its iconic beaches. Since the early 2000s, the town has launched major conservation efforts to protect its natural landscapes, shorelines, and freshwater ponds—key features that define its character. Through active participation in the Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance, the Cape Cod Commission, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), and other regional initiatives, Orleans has demonstrated a deep commitment to safeguarding local ecosystems despite rising seas, intensifying erosion, and the evolving coastal dynamics of the Nauset barrier beach and inlet systems.

Infrastructure and Resilience Planning

In response to the growing impacts of climate change, Orleans has begun a proactive approach to infrastructure planning. Efforts include enhancing stormwater management, strengthening the resilience of the town's coastal infrastructure—such as resiliency planning for Skaket Beach—and collaborating with nearby municipalities to safeguard shared natural resources. A major priority has been addressing erosion at Nauset Beach, which poses risks to both ecological and built environments.

Affordable Housing and Population Growth

As Orleans continues to attract residents, the town has faced pressures regarding affordable housing and land scarcity. With limited room for new development, Orleans has focused on creating housing solutions that cater to residents at various income levels. The town has also worked to ensure that development occurs in a way that maintains the small-town atmosphere while accommodating growth.

Tourism and Economic Sustainability

As a major destination on the Cape, Orleans has balanced the economic importance of tourism with the desire to preserve its historic charm and natural beauty. In the 21st century, Orleans faces ongoing challenges in balancing how to meet the needs of its year-round residents while managing the demands and impacts of seasonal tourism. The town has

made strides in promoting sustainable tourism, with initiatives to reduce environmental impacts and promote local businesses that enhance Orleans' unique character.

Collaborative Efforts with Neighboring Towns

Orleans has maintained its tradition of collaboration with neighboring towns in the 21st century. Working with Brewster, Chatham, Harwich, and Eastham, the town engages in regional environmental projects, focusing on wastewater management, conservation, and infrastructure planning. Together, they address shared challenges such as coastal erosion, water quality, and sustainable development. These efforts reflect Orleans' resilience as it faces modern challenges, all while preserving the natural beauty and charm that continue to make it a cherished destination for both residents and visitors.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. POPULATION TRENDS & DENSITY

According to the Census Reporter, Orleans is estimated to have a population of 6,342, making it the 233rd largest community in Massachusetts.¹

From 1970 to 1990, Orleans' population doubled. However, between 2000 and 2010, it dropped by 14.6%, while the U.S. population grew by nearly 10%. From 2010 to 2020, Orleans saw a 7.1% growth, closely matching the national growth rate of 7.18%. After the COVID-19 pandemic, Orleans experienced a 1.3% population increase, but is projected to decline by less than 1% by 2025.

Orleans Population Characteristics, 1970-2025								
Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023	2025
Population	2,579	5,543	6,061	6,900	5,890	6,306	6,385	6,342
% Change from previous Decade	NA	114.9%	9.3%	13.8%	-14.6%	7.1%	1.3%	-0.7%
Population Density (person/square mile)	182	390	427	486	415	444	450	447

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

Notes: Population Density is based on Town of Orleans area is approximately 14.2 square miles.

According to the 2023 ACS Demographic and Housing estimates, the majority of Orleans residents (96.8%) identify as White alone. Around 1.3% of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino, and 0.7% as Asian, with the remainder identifying as other races.

Population projections from the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Donahue Institute show that between 2020 and 2040, Orleans is expected

1. "Orleans Town, Barnstable County, MA." Census Reporter.

to see a population decrease of approximately 15%. The most significant decline is anticipated to occur between 2030 and 2040.

Orleans Population Projections, 1920-2040					
Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	6,307	6,232	5,924	5,600	5,325
5-Year Percent Change	1.20%	-1.19%	-4.94%	-5.47%	-4.91%
10-Year Percent Change			-6.07%		-10.11%

Source: UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program

Notes: 2020 Population based on U.S. Census Bureau in 2020.

Most of the growth in Orleans has been driven by an influx of retirees, making it the town with the oldest population in Massachusetts, with a median age of 63.9 years. In the next five years, over 500 residents are approaching retirement age (ages 65-69). This aging trend is also linked to a decrease in the percentage of families with school-aged children, which is reflected in declining school enrollment figures.

During the summer months, Orleans’ seasonal population swells to around 19,000 people, nearly tripling the year-round count, bringing a diverse mix of ages and backgrounds.² This includes retirees, families with children, and young adults who are drawn to Orleans’ coastal charm, with its beaches, scenic trails, and recreational activities. While the year-round population is older on average, the seasonal influx spans multiple generations, as families use second homes and tourists rent vacation properties. The high demand for housing during peak seasons has driven median home prices to over \$1.2 million, with median gross rent at \$1,181 in 2024, significantly shaping the town’s demographic and economic makeup.

2. ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

The median household income in Orleans is \$98,798, which is \$9,772 higher than the Massachusetts state median of \$89,026. About 51.8% of households in Orleans earn less than \$100,000, while 18% earn \$200,000 or more.

According to the 2023 ACS Economic Characteristics, Orleans has 379 employer firms, with a civilian labor force comprising 50.1% of the population; among them, 30.3% work in educational services, health care, and social assistance—one of the town’s major industries.

Orleans' Age Distribution 2023 Population		
Age Group	Number of People	%
Under 5 years	148	2.30%
5 to 9 years	130	2.00%
10 to 14 years	240	3.80%
15 to 19 years	343	5.40%
20 to 24 years	218	3.40%
25 to 34 years	209	3.30%
35 to 44 years	528	8.30%
45 to 54 years	597	9.40%
55 to 59 years	461	7.30%
60 to 64 years	492	7.80%
65 to 74 years	1,762	27.80%
75 to 84 years	897	14.10%
85 years and over	317	5.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2 Orleans Planning Department. “Orleans Community Indicators.” Town of Orleans, January 2017.

Employment by Industry for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over		
Industry Group	Number of Employees	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	13	1.8%
Construction	50	6.8%
Manufacturing	7	0.9%
Wholesale trade	0	0.0%
Retail trade	89	12.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	0	0.0%
Information	50	6.8%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	0	0.0%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	134	18.1%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	287	38.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and	55	7.4%
Other services, except public administration	34	4.6%
Public administration	20	2.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

Orleans' economy is heavily influenced by tourism and its year-round population, with employment showing strong seasonal variation. As of 2024, Orleans had 3,004 year-round occupied housing units, with an average household size of 2.07 people. Approximately 79% of these units are owner-occupied, which is higher than the Massachusetts average of 62.3%. The remaining 21% of housing units in Orleans are renter-occupied, compared to 37.7% for the state as a whole.

Based on the seasonal economy and second home market, Orleans sees a larger percentage of seasonal housing of 47%, compared with over 35% for seasonal housing in Barnstable County³.

It is also important to note that the Town's affordable housing goal is to develop a mixture of rental and ownership types, choice in housing styles, and price ranges, with an emphasis on providing rental units.

In 2024, the Select Board set a 10-year goal to add 350 new housing units to Orleans. With much of the town already developed or dedicated to recreation, conservation, and well protection, the town's strategy focuses on redeveloping existing properties rather than expanding into new areas. The town is currently reviewing zoning regulations to encourage housing development in downtown areas with wastewater infrastructure.

³ "Seasonal Communities." Mass.gov, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Given the current zoning and development patterns, it's unlikely that Orleans will see large-scale commercial enterprises or industrial growth. New businesses will be supported in existing business districts, primarily along Route 6A and in the Orleans Industrial District. The town's remaining open spaces are more likely to face pressure from residential development.

Overall, Orleans' economy is gradually shifting from one focused on tourism to one increasingly supported by retirees, which is shaping both employment trends and the town's development future.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATION (EJ)

In Massachusetts, an EJ population is a neighborhood where one or more of the following criteria are true:

- The annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income.
- Minorities make up 40 percent or more of the population.
- 25 percent or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well".
- Minorities make up 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income.

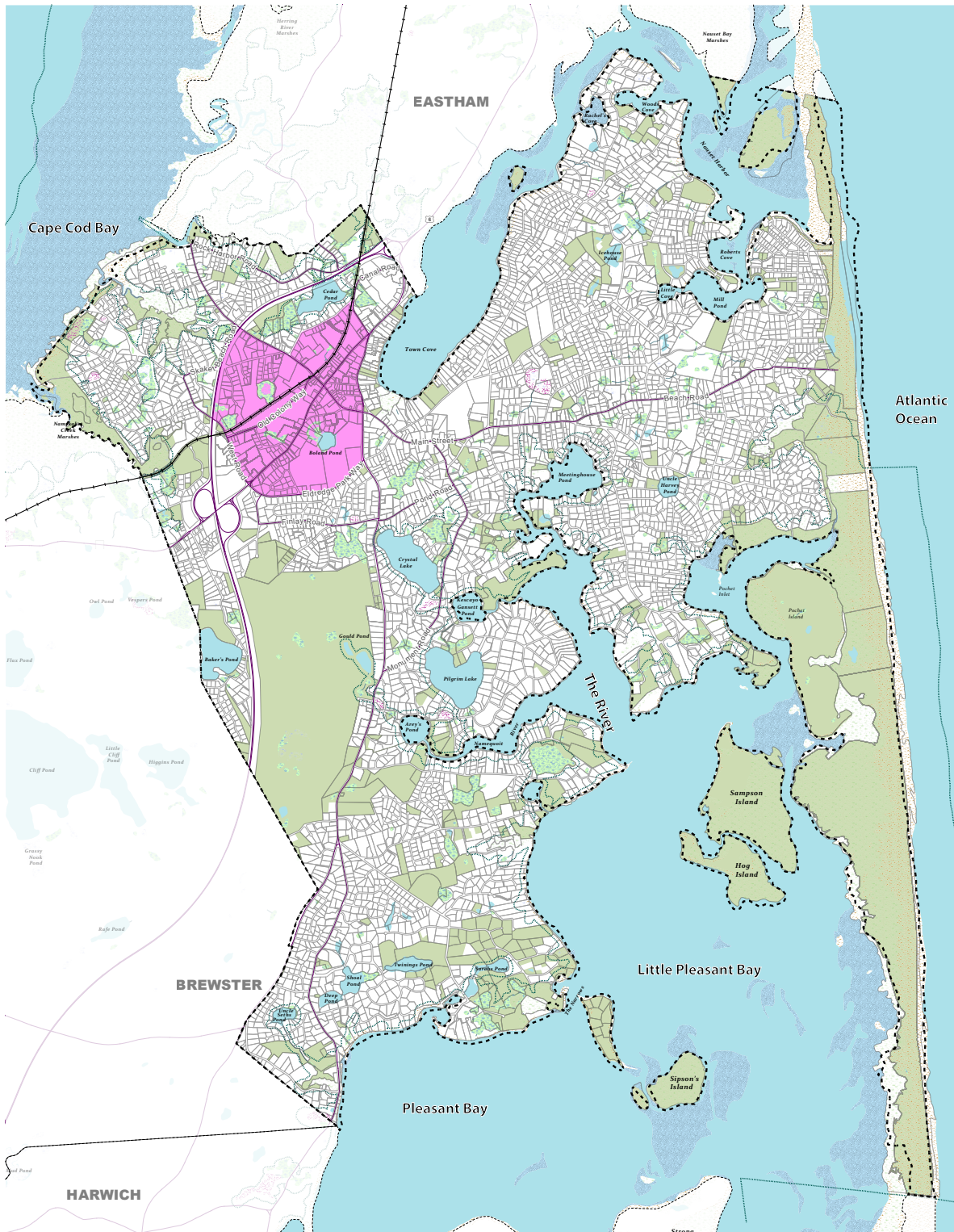
EJ is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves protection from environmental harm and the right to live in a clean, healthy environment. The OSRP acknowledges that households in these areas may face challenges in accessing safe, adequate open space and recreational opportunities due to income limitations. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring equitable access to these resources for all.

The Town of Orleans includes an EJ population with a minority criteria population of 12%, of which the median household income is \$40,833.⁴ In Orleans, the EJ population is primarily located in the northeast corner of the town. This area includes several parks and beaches that are key to providing recreational opportunities to the local community:

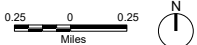
- **Eldredge Park:** This active recreation area is part of the EJ zone and offers public access for various recreational activities.
- **Local School Fields and Playgrounds:** The EJ area includes the two playgrounds and local school field spaces, which are accessible to the public during certain times.

4 *"Massachusetts Environmental Map Series."* Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAP



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels
- Protected & Recreational Open Space and Chapter 61 Lands

- ### DEP Wetlands
- Salt Marsh
 - Wooded Marsh
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Marsh/Bog
 - Open Water
 - Tidal Flats
 - Beach/Dune

- ### Environmental Justice Groups
- Environmental Justice Population
- Minority population: 12%
 Median Household income: \$40,833 (48% of MA MHHI)
 Households with language isolation: 0%

- **Community Center:** Located at 44 Main Street, this former firehouse was converted into a community center in the 1990s and now serves as a venue for a wide range of events and activities.

These parks are vital to Orleans' efforts to provide recreational spaces to all residents, particularly those in the Environmental Justice zone.

E. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

1. PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Orleans' Development Patterns

Although development was once concentrated along a few main roads, it has since spread out to all corners of town. Even though Orleans has grown a lot over the past fifty years, the town has worked hard to keep the small-town feel that its residents care about. The seaside charm is evident in views of historic homes, glimpses of salt ponds and marshes through the trees, and a few cranberry bogs. The building activity of the 1980s and 1990s resulted in the construction of more than 1,300 new single-family homes.

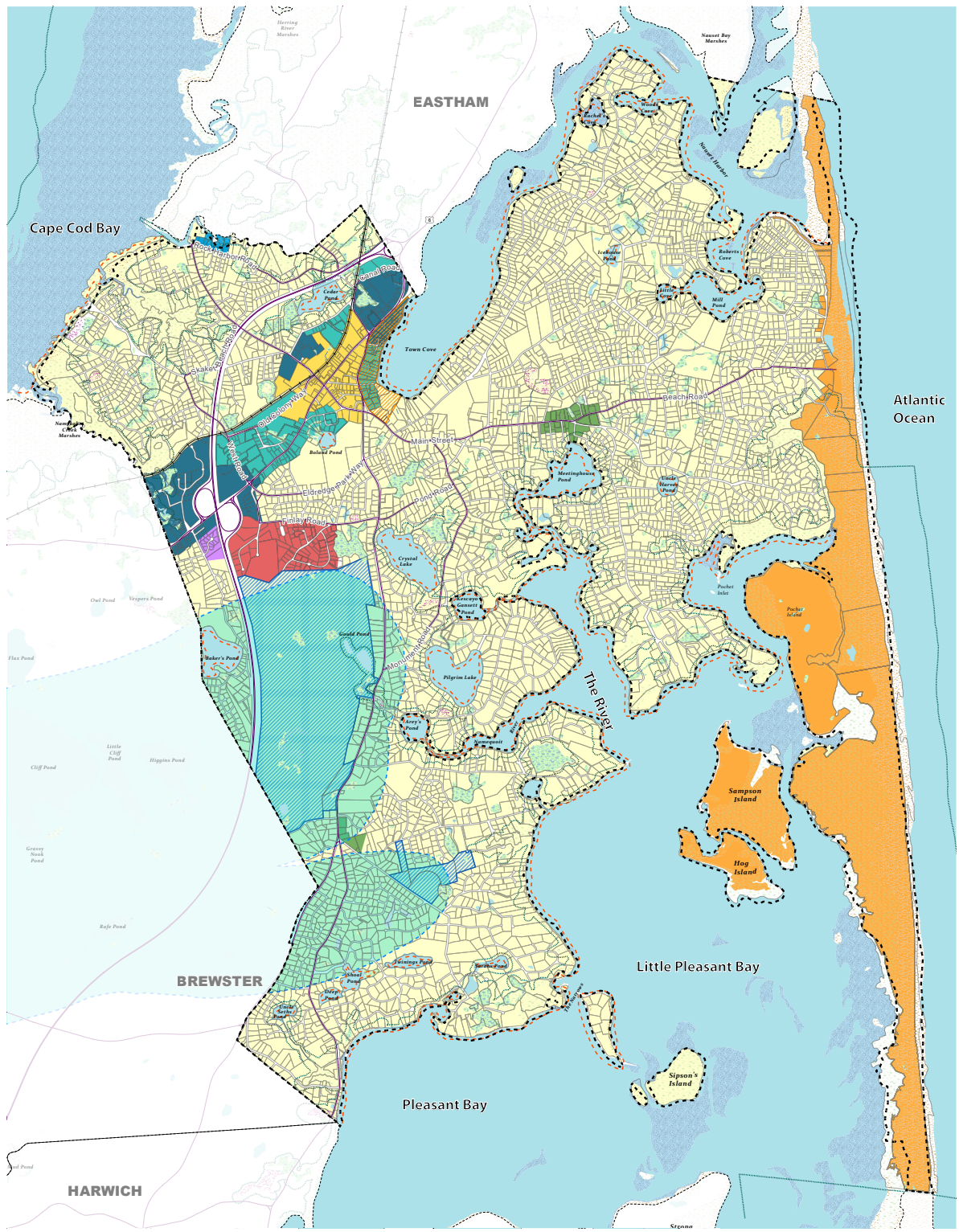
From 2000 to 2024, the Town experienced significant development in the form of large single-family homes, often built on speculation. Since many of these homes were built on 40,000 square-foot lots or larger, a suburban pattern has emerged in parts of the town. However, even in and around neighborhoods, there are unspoiled natural areas due to the presence of wetlands and land preserved by the Town and the Orleans Conservation Trust, the Town's largest private landowner.

Zoning and Business Development

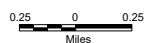
Orleans' zoning is predominantly residential. The R-40 District, which mandates 40,000 square feet per buildable lot, covers 90% of the community's upland. A business corridor extends along Route 6A from Brewster to the Eastham rotary. In recent years, the Town has reclassified significant portions of this area from General Business to Limited Business to avoid continued commercial sprawl. Small Rural Business Districts exist in South and East Orleans. The Town has an Industrial District of approximately 100 acres that provides numerous support services to residents and businesses.

Future Development and Open Space Preservation

The Town must anticipate that future development will continue to reduce available open space. A 2023 buildout analysis prepared for the Local Comprehensive Plan update shows that Orleans has significant capacity for new residential growth, including both primary and accessory dwelling



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels

- DEP Wetlands**
- Salt Marsh
 - Wooded Marsh
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Marsh/Bog
 - Open Water
 - Tidal Flats
 - Beach/Dune

- Zoning Districts**
- Residence (R)
 - Village Center (VC)
 - Seashore Conservancy (SC)
 - Industrial (I)
 - General Business (GB)
 - Limited Business (LB)
 - Marine Business (MB)
 - Rural Business (RB)

- Overlay Districts**
- Shoreline District (S)
 - Groundwater Protection District 1
 - Groundwater Protection District 2
 - Affordable Housing
 - Conservancy District (CD)

units (ADU). This growth would substantially increase housing and population, with even greater potential if new zoning regulations are adopted. Such development could increase traffic, strain on public services, and environmental impacts. Therefore, preserving open space and strategically protecting key areas should remain a priority for the Town.⁵

The Growing Challenge of Development

The pace of development in Orleans has accelerated, which has led some to believe that Cape Cod’s real estate market is less vulnerable to downturns compared to other regions. The desirability of seasonal and retirement homes, combined with the limited available space on the Cape, has fueled this growth. However, Orleans residents are increasingly concerned that their quality of life is being threatened by this development. As a result, the community remains committed to protecting land from over development whenever possible.

Affordable Housing and Community Development

The town is also prioritizing affordable housing, wastewater infrastructure, and community development. An example of an affordable housing development, named “Phare” is set to provide 62 mixed-income units for residents. The project includes 52 units in a renovated building and 10 units in new construction.⁶

Prioritizing Open Space Preservation

Citizens of Orleans have long demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting open space. Over the years, Town Meeting votes have supported the acquisition of significant amounts of conservation and recreation land. These efforts have been supported by state and federal grants, as well as private donations. This ongoing dedication to land preservation remains a priority for the Town as it works to safeguard its natural beauty and maintain a high quality of life for residents.

Recent Efforts in Land Acquisition

Between 2016 to 2025, Orleans spent \$1.9 million, to acquire an additional 9.5 acres of open space. Notable acquisitions include:

- 61 Namequoit Road: Added to John Kenrick Woods.
- 141 Portanimitcut Road: Incorporated into Hanna Beach.
- 12 Pecks Way: Expanded Areys Pond conservation area.

5 2023-2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. Town of Orleans, 2023.

6 Mumford, Parker. “Lottery Open for 62 Affordable Units at ‘Phare’ in Orleans.” The Provincetown Independent, 26 Feb. 2025,



Parish Park

These strategic acquisitions highlight the Town's continued dedication to safeguarding natural spaces from development and ensure that areas of ecological and recreational value are preserved for future generations.

Educating the Public and Gaining Support

Orleans has shown a consistent pattern of leadership in land conservation and community education. Since the 1980s, the Town has proactively established committees, supported regional initiatives like the Cape Cod Land Bank, and adopted funding mechanisms such as the Community Preservation Act. These efforts show the Town's long-standing commitment to protecting open space, supporting affordable housing, preserving historic sites, expanding recreation, and promoting conservation.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Utilities and Energy Services

Natural gas service is provided by a private utility. Electric services are readily available through the Cape Light Compact, a multi-town energy consortium, as well as from competitive suppliers.

Roadways and Transportation

The existing road network provides access to most areas of the Town. There are approximately 118 miles of roads in Orleans, 53 of which are publicly accepted roadways. The Cape Cod Rail Trail runs through the center of Orleans, providing leisure activities like biking or walking and recreational opportunities. In addition, the Town has designated 7.5 miles of local bike routes that cross the Town from Rock Harbor to Nauset Beach.

Sidewalks along Eldredge Park Way provide access to the Town's athletic fields and playgrounds. Additional walking opportunities are available throughout the Town's beaches and open space areas. The Town is bisected by the Cape Cod Rail Trail, a multi-purpose dedicated pathway running from the Mid-Cape area to Wellfleet. The Select Board has designated several roadways as bike paths and increased signage and pavement markings for user safety.

Water Supply and Protection

The Town of Orleans provides water service to nearly all homes and businesses, covering 98% of buildings through over one hundred miles of water mains. New subdivisions are required by town regulations to install public water. Water for the town is sourced from the Monomoy Lens, a shallow, sandy, sole-source aquifer, which is the only available source of drinking water. Given this limited source, the protection of groundwater quality is of utmost importance to ensure a sustainable water supply.

The Orleans Water Department, operational since 1963, manages 8 public wells, an iron/manganese treatment plant, two standpipes, and over 50 miles of water mains. The department ensures the sustainability of the water system through careful capital planning, as outlined in the Water System Asset Management Plan, which identifies several actions necessary to maintain an adequate water supply for public needs.

Addressing Water Quality and Wastewater Management

In response to the decline in water quality, the Town of Orleans began researching potential solutions in 2001 to restore marine ecosystems. This research led to the development of the 2010 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), followed by the 2015 Consensus Plan, which outlined a strategy to sewer key areas of the town.

In 2023, the Amended Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (ACWMP) was approved, creating a 16-phase program designed to install public septic systems and sewers for approximately 60% of homes and businesses in Orleans. The ACWMP has been approved by state and regional agencies and is being implemented gradually over several decades to ensure sustainable wastewater management and long-term protection of water quality.

Wastewater Management and Environmental Challenges

As part of these ongoing efforts, the Town's wastewater treatment facility began accepting flow from the downtown business area in 2023. The Meetinghouse Pond watershed project is under construction, and the Phase 3 of the wastewater project, serving the Lakes and Ponds area, is in preliminary design as of early 2025, with \$40.5 million in construction funding approved through Article 23 at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting. These developments are crucial steps toward improving wastewater treatment and preserving Orleans' water quality.

3. LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Potential Development and Open Space Loss

The Town of Orleans must plan for continued development that could impact remaining open space. While the U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 ACS data indicates a short-term population decline based on current demographic trends, the 2023 Buildout Analysis—prepared by the Planning Department for the Comprehensive Plan Update—projects a potential 33% increase in year-round residents if all developable land is built to capacity. This contrast reflects the difference between present conditions, based on household survey data, and future growth potential, based on zoning, land availability, and infrastructure assumptions.

The analysis estimates that over 1,860 new dwellings could be constructed, mostly in the downtown business areas. This would increase the total number of homes by 35%, not including extra growth from ADUs, which could increase that number even more.⁷

The full build-out development scenario would significantly reduce open space, diminish the semi-rural character of the community, and result in increased traffic congestion, stress on public services, and potential environmental impacts. Given these potential challenges, Orleans must prioritize efforts to preserve open space and protect strategically targeted areas.

Strategies to Mitigate Development Impacts

In response to increasing density, Orleans has implemented several strategies to mitigate the effects of development, including:

- Orleans Zoning Bylaws - Zoning ByLaws for Apartments (2024)
- Orleans Comprehensive Plan (2006,2025)
- Town of Orleans Housing Action Plan (2023)
- Orleans Build-Out Analysis (2023)
- 10-Year Housing Plan (2023)
- Economic Development Plan (2022)
- Orleans Complete Streets Plan (2021)
- Economic Development Plan (2022)
- Resiliency by Design Study (2019)
- Orleans Design Guidelines (2019)
- Orleans Parking and Circulation Study (2018)

Additionally, the town has prioritized pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure through the Orleans Complete Streets Plan, which focuses on making roads safe for all users and prioritizing new sidewalks and bikeways.

⁷ Understanding Growth, Orleans Build-out Analysis, October 24, 2023.

Economic Development and Future Planning

Orleans has also developed an Economic Development Plan (2022) with the following key objectives:

- Create a cultural, civic, and creative destination in the Village Center.
- Increase residential density in the Village Center.
- Develop a small business technical assistance program.
- Create a full-time Town Economic Development and Tourism Director/Manager.
- Establish an economic and tourism development fund.
- Develop a brand and marketing plan for the town.
- Enhance public spaces in the Village Center.
- Partner with higher education institutions to develop workforce training programs in blue economy and hospitality fields.
- Improve bike connections between seaside assets, the Village Center, and the Cape Cod Rail Trail.
- Enhance commercial fishing infrastructure.

Open Space Education and Preservation Efforts

Orleans has been proactive in promoting open space preservation, establishing one of the first Open Space Committees and supporting regional conservation efforts. The Town also adopted the Community Preservation Act to help fund open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation through a dedicated committee.

Balancing Needs of Seasonal and Year-Round Residents

Seasonal residents have a significant impact on Orleans' infrastructure and community planning. While seasonal surges strain public resources, they also bring economic vitality through tourism. Orleans must balance the needs of its aging year-round population with those of its seasonal residents, ensuring sustainable development and a high quality of life for all.

Walking trails, scenic lookouts, and sidewalks continue to be prioritized to meet the needs of the town's aging population. Recent public engagement during the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update reaffirmed the importance of these passive recreation opportunities as critical to Orleans' strategy to promote health, wellness, and community engagement.

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Pilgrim Lake

SECTION 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geography and Topography of Orleans

Orleans is located at the intersection of two glacial lobes: the Harwich outwash plain to the west and south, and the Nauset Heights plain to the east. The town generally lies at a lower elevation compared to other Cape Cod municipalities. The highest point is along Route 6, where Mill Hill rises to 120 feet. The Cape Cod Bay shoreline is notably low and vulnerable to coastal flooding and high storm winds.

- **Orleans Center and East Orleans:** These areas are generally flat, with elevations below fifty feet. However, there are some steep bluffs along the shorelines of Town Cove, Nauset Heights, and Pochet and Barley Neck.

- **South Orleans:** This region features an irregular landscape, characterized by the distinctive knob and kettlehole formations common throughout Cape Cod.

Soil and Natural Features

Most of Orleans' soil is derived from glacial deposits, consisting of coarse sands, sandy loams, and gravel, with occasional clay layers in some areas. The topsoil is generally thin and friable. Notable exceptions include East Orleans, particularly Barley Neck, Tonset, and Nauset Heights, which is mostly clay, contains pockets of prime agricultural soil. Many of these areas have been developed into residential properties over the past 30 years. Additionally, peat is present in low-lying areas near bogs, swamps, and marshes. Extensive barrier beaches composed of dune sand can be found at Nauset Spit and Namskaket.

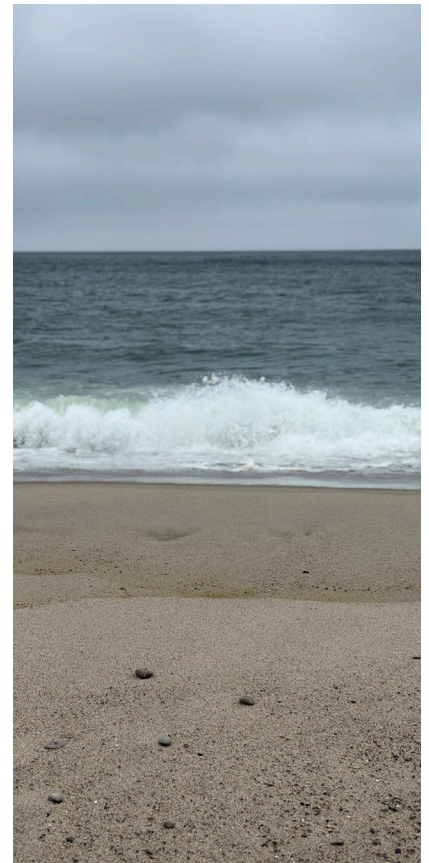
Geology and its Impact on Development

The surficial geology of Orleans significantly influences the town's natural communities and development patterns. The town's sandy soils drain rapidly, which influences subsurface sewage disposal under Title 5 regulations. In fast-draining soils, the minimum required separation between a septic system and the groundwater table is five feet (310 CMR 15.212). This limitation restricts development potential on parcels that cannot meet this standard.

While wetlands and jurisdictional setbacks may limit development, they do not necessarily prevent it. Similarly, soils and topography can impose constraints on development, but these can often be addressed through engineering solutions. For environmentally sensitive parcels, Comprehensive Permits under MGL Ch. 40B allow for denser development, provided that 25% of the units deed-restricted as affordable housing. These factors suggest that relying solely on natural constraints to limit development is not a viable long-term strategy for preserving open space or natural resources in Orleans.

Impacts on Recreation

Orleans' sandy, well-drained glacial soils and generally low, gently sloping terrain provide favorable conditions for many recreational activities. Steeper bluffs along Nauset Heights, Town Cove, and Pochet Neck offer scenic vistas and nature trail opportunities but limit more intensive recreation due to erosion risks. In South Orleans, kettleholes, wetlands, and peat soils support passive uses such as birdwatching and kayaking but require careful design for trail access. Overall, the town's soils and varied topography allow for more active recreation opportunities on uplands and



Nauset Beach

passive, nature-inspired activities in its coastal and low-lying areas.

B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

1. ORLEANS' NATURAL LANDSCAPE: COASTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Orleans' natural landscape is deeply shaped by its coastline and water resources, offering a breathtaking variety of scenic views. The most notable feature of the town's landscape is its 45 miles of coastal shoreline, which provides an ever-changing and dramatic view where land meets water.

Coastal Vistas

According to a 1985 Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management study, Orleans boasts 1,377 acres of salt marsh, ranking second only to Barnstable on Cape Cod. These marshes, once known as "meadows" by colonists, provide sweeping, awe-inspiring views that can be enjoyed from Namskaket on the Cape Cod Rail Trail or while boating on Pleasant Bay. Nauset Beach features long stretches of shoreline and consistently large waves, creating a dynamic and constantly shifting coastal landscape.

Intimate Shoreline Views

The town also treasures more intimate shoreline scenes, including the winding, narrow channels of The River and the serene, sheltered harbors of Quanset, Paw Wah, Arey's, and Kescayogansett (Lonnie's) Ponds. The large tidal range—about ten feet on Cape Cod Bay and three to four feet elsewhere—ensures that these scenes change continually throughout the day, offering a fresh experience from the same vantage point.

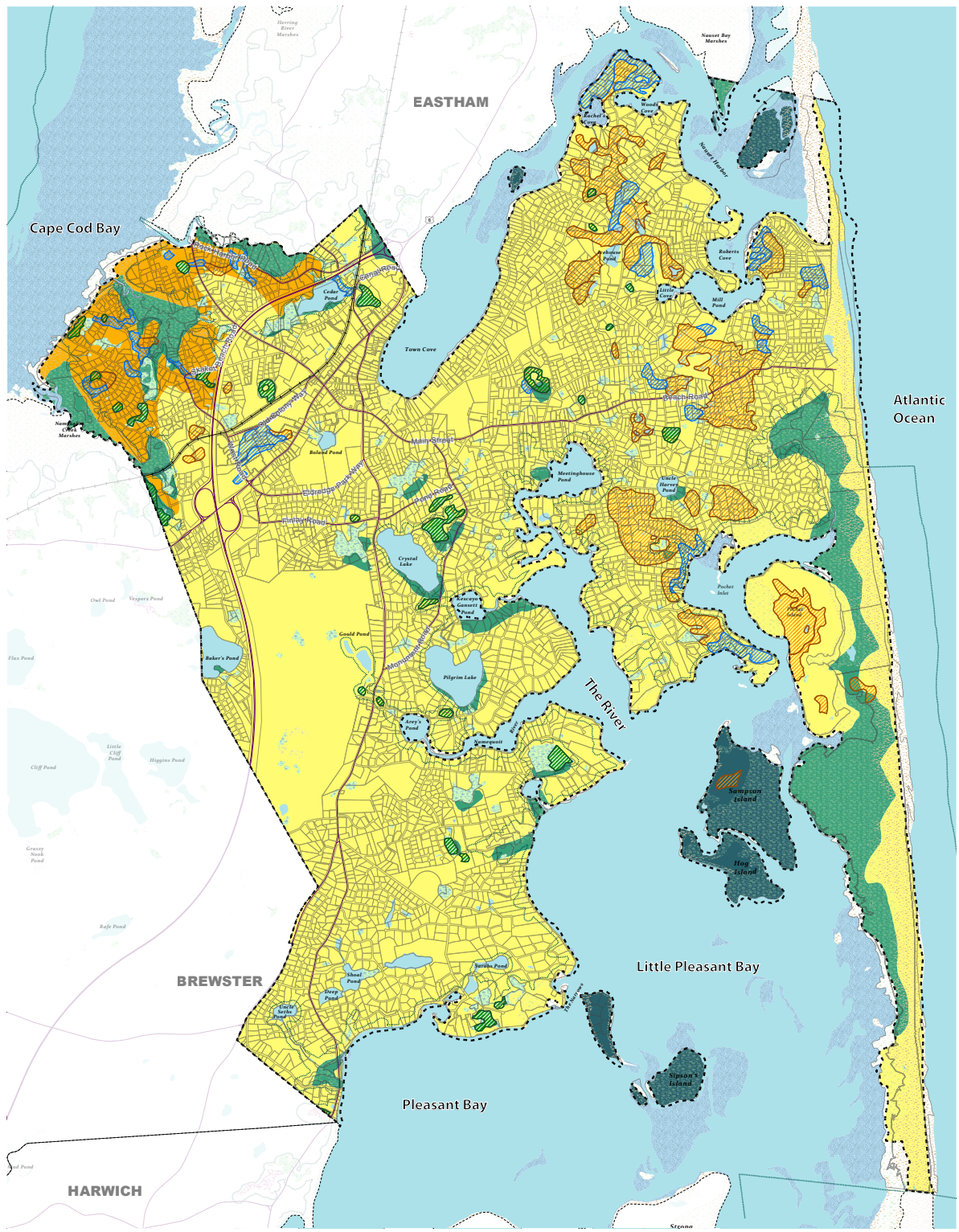
Preservation of "Secret Places"

A 1991 report from the International Countryside Stewardship Exchange emphasized the importance of preserving "secret places"—quiet, private spaces that should be kept hidden from heavy tourist traffic. To protect these spaces, Orleans must ensure it has adequate open space facilities, such as beaches, to accommodate the influx of visitors it receives, particularly in the summer months.

Preservation Efforts

Orleans has undertaken an aggressive land acquisition campaign, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, to protect and preserve access to its most scenic landscapes. Significant acquisitions such as Kent's Point, Paw Wah Point, and Sea Call Farm preserve sweeping views from coastal bluffs and contribute to the town's visual and environmental character.

SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES MAP



LEGEND

0.25 0 0.25 Miles

Orleans Town Boundary
 Other Town Boundaries
 Railroad
 MassDOT Road
 ACEC
 Town of Orleans Tax Parcels

<p>DEP Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salt Marsh Wooded Marsh Cranberry Bog Marsh/Bog Open Water Tidal Flats Beach/Dune 	<p>Surficial Geology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand and Gravel Large Sand Deposit Till or Bedrock Floodplain Alluvium 	<p>Prime Farmland Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Areas are Prime Farmland Farmland of Statewide Importance Farmland of Unique Importance
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The Town's commitment to coastal preservation extends beyond land purchases to include thoughtful regulation. Zoning bylaws require construction setbacks from bluff tops, while a designated Conservancy District prohibits new, non-water-dependent structures below the four-foot contour. Paired with ongoing land management and collaboration with local conservation organizations, these efforts help safeguard biodiversity, improve water quality, and strengthen the long-term health of both freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

2. RECENT LAND ACQUISITIONS

- **Fleck/Twinings Pond:** In 2014, the Town purchased 2.66 acres along Twinings Pond, adjacent to larger holdings owned by the Orleans Conservation Trust. This purchase enabled a complete walking trail around the pond.
- **John Kenrick Woods (61 Namequoit Road):** In 2016, the Town purchased a 2-acre building lot abutting more than 25 acres of Town open space. Kenrick Woods offers a forested trail and a stand of American Chestnut trees.
- **141 Portanimicut Road:** In 2016, the Town purchased 2.5 acres on Pleasant Bay, removing a house to restore scenic views and protect the beach and salt marsh.
- **Hannah Beach/Meadow:** In 2018, the Town purchased 1 acre of land located behind the barrier beach.
- **12 Peck's Way:** In 2020, the Town purchased 2.54 acres above Arey's Pond, expanding its holdings in the area to 10.5 acres of upland and shorefront.
- **66 Portanimicut Road:** In 2021, the Town purchased 1.44 acres in South Orleans to improve public access to 7.5 acres of walking trails on adjacent conservation land, with OCT acquiring two neighboring lots.
- **0 Cedar Point:** In 2023, the Town purchased 0.5 acres of additional land for Cedar Pond.
- **Sipson Island:** In 2020, the Sipson Island Trust placed 22 acres under permanent conservation, opening the island to the public for the first time in centuries. A 2023 restoration project began to restore habitat, and clear outdated structures with local support.
- **72 Tonset Road:** In 2024, the Town purchased 2.2 acres abutting Sea Call Farm providing residents with access to Town Cove.

Investment in Preservation

Between 1987 and 2025, the Town of Orleans allocated funds to acquire 253.16 acres of open space. Approximately 21% of the total cost was offset by state grants and private donations, reducing the Town's net contribution to around 79% of the total investment. This thoughtful commitment—averaging a substantial per-acre cost—reflects the Town's dedication to preserving its

natural landscapes for the benefit of future generations.

Support Through Funding Mechanisms

The Town of Orleans has consistently supported land conservation through various funding mechanisms. One key source was the Cape Cod Land Bank, which operated from 1985 until the Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2005. The Land Bank helped fund land preservation, and the CPA continues to support open space protection, affordable housing, and historic preservation—furthering the Town’s commitment to conservation.

The CPA is funded through a 3% property tax surcharge, supplemented by annual state contributions. While the state match percentage varies each year, the base state match for FY2025 was 18.06%, with some communities receiving higher amounts based on their local surcharge and other factors.^{1,2}

The Town of Orleans has focused on connecting adjacent properties to form cohesive open space areas, improving habitat corridors, trail networks, and the overall natural experience for both residents and wildlife. Key examples include the 47-acre John Kendrick Woods, which was assembled from four parcels over four years, and the Peck Conservation Area, expanded with the 2020 purchase of 12 Peck’s Way. Partnerships with the OCT have further linked protected lands, such as the 2021 acquisition of 66 Portanimitcut, which borders OCT and Town-owned properties, creating a larger, unified “wild” space.

These conservation efforts provide residents and visitors access to scenic trails, wetlands, meadows, a rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp, and a vernal pool, while also safeguarding the Town’s water supply and preserving its semi-rural character. Together, these investments help limit residential development and ensure that Orleans’ natural resources are protected for future generations.

C. WATER RESOURCES

1. WATERSHEDS

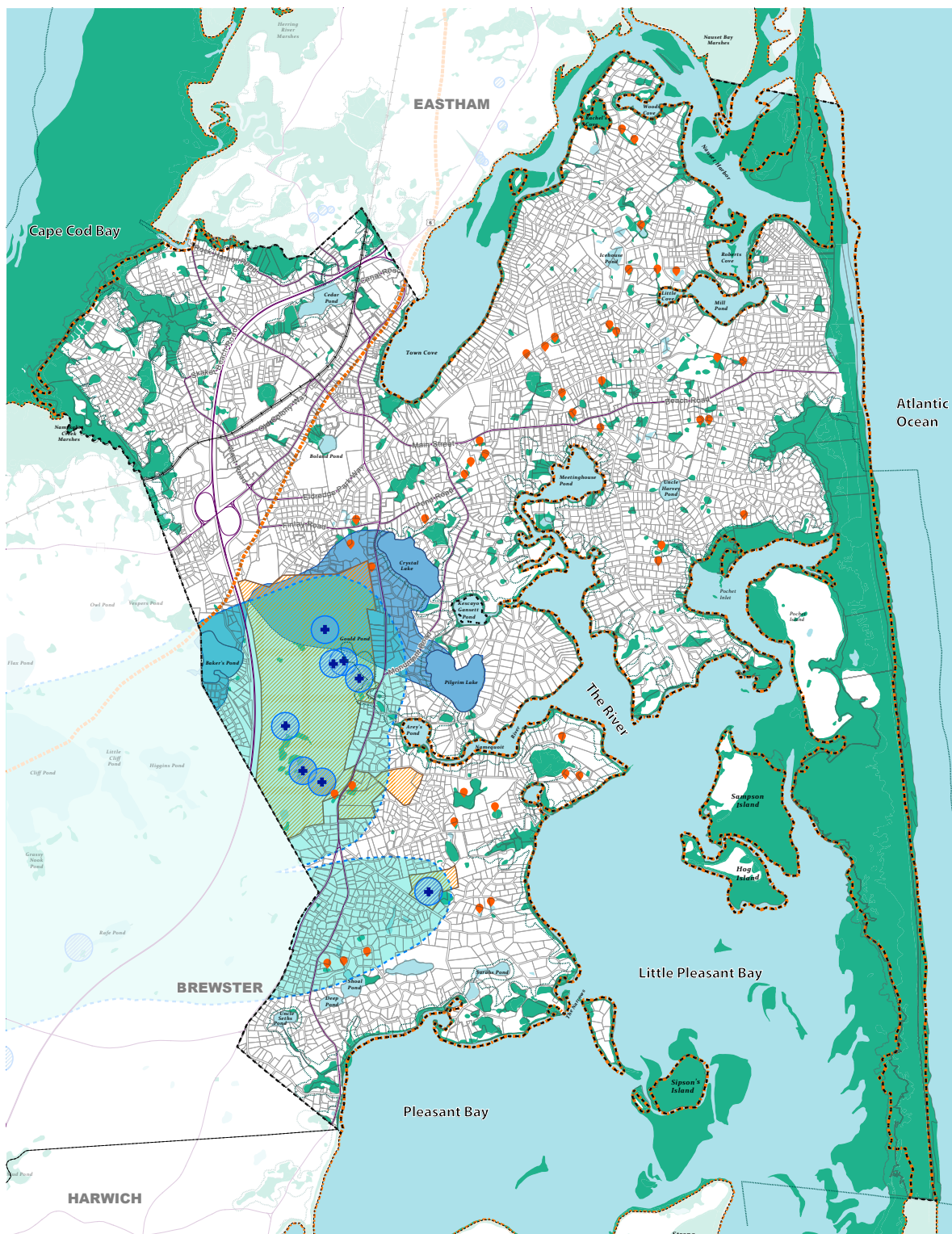
Orleans is divided into four major marine watersheds: Pleasant Bay, Nauset Estuary, Cape Cod Bay, and Freshwater Pond watersheds. These systems are vital to the town’s environmental health. Since 2017, Orleans has made major progress in managing these watersheds, with a strong focus on reducing nutrient pollution—especially nitrogen. Each distinct marine resource area is described below:

- **Pleasant Bay Watershed:** A major watershed extending into neighboring towns, encompassing the estuarine system of Pleasant Bay and its tributaries.

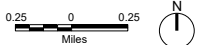
1 Town of Orleans. *Orleans Community Preservation Committee Brochure*.

2 Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. “*Community Preservation Act Vote Bulletin*.” Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Apr. 2020.

WATER RESOURCES MAP



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- +--- Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels

Water Resources

- ⊕ Public Water Supply (Community Groundwater Well)
- ⊕ DEP Approved Zone I
- ⊕ DEP Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II)
- ⊕ Potential Public Water
- ⊕ Freshwater Recharge

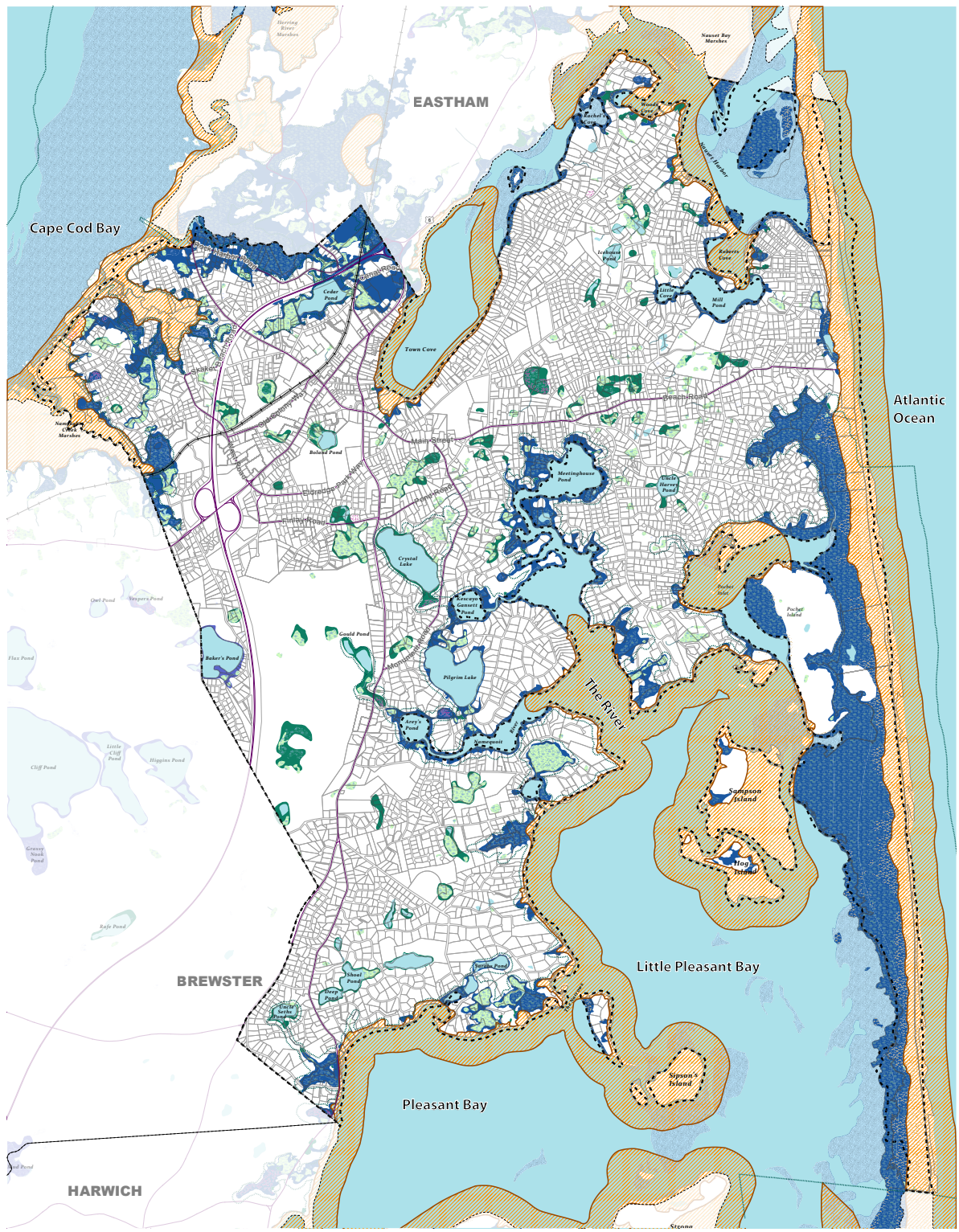
DEP Wetlands and Vernal Pools

- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- DEP Wetlands
- Open Water

Watershed

- Sub-basins

FLOODPLAINS MAP



LEGEND

0.25 0 0.25 Miles

- - - - Orleans Town Boundary
 ······ Other Town Boundaries
 —+—+—+ Railroad
 — MassDOT Road
 — ACEC
 □ Town of Orleans Tax Parcels

DEP Wetlands
 Salt Marsh
 Wooded Marsh
 Cranberry Bog
 Marsh/Bog
 Open Water
 Tidal Flats
 Beach/Dune

Flood Zone Designations
 VE: High Risk Coastal Area
 AE: 100 Year Floodplain, with BFE*
 A: 100 Year Floodplain, no BFE*
 X: 200 Year Floodplain

*BFE: Base Flood Elevation

- **Nauset Estuary Watershed:** Located on the town’s eastern side, this watershed includes the Nauset Marsh, salt marsh system connected to the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Cape Cod Bay Watershed:** Portions of Orleans drain into Cape Cod Bay, contributing to its coastal and marine ecosystems. This watershed includes Namskaket Creek, and Rock Harbor.
- **Freshwater Pond Watersheds:** The town features numerous kettle ponds, such as Crystal Lake and Pilgrim Lake, each with its own localized watershed.

Since the approval of the 2017 OSRP, the town has undertaken water quality studies, wetland restoration, nutrient management strategies, and has been implementing the 2010 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), that was finalized in 2016.

The first three watersheds—Nauset, Pleasant Bay, and Cape Cod Bay—have been the focus of considerable analysis and planning by local, state, and regional agencies. These efforts aim to address excessive nutrient inflows from watershed sources into the marine waters. Each of these watersheds has been subdivided into smaller subwatersheds and other sensitive areas, such as wellheads, to better manage nutrient levels.

To regulate nutrient levels, the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Total Nitrogen have been certified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for Pleasant Bay. These TMDLs provide planning targets to reduce nitrogen pollution entering the marine waters.

Given marine watersheds cross municipal lines, nutrient reduction planning is a collaborative, regional effort amongst all watershed towns and state regional agencies.

2. WETLANDS

Orleans contains a variety of wetlands-salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, cedar swamps, vernal pools, and tidal flats-that are critical to biodiversity, water quality, and storm protection.

SALT MARSHES

Orleans boasts approximately 1,377 acres of salt marsh, as identified in the 1985 Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Study, securing the second position for salt marsh acreage in Cape Cod under Barnstable. Salt marshes are vital for the local ecosystem, supporting diverse wildlife and contributing to local fisheries.

Some of Orleans' notable salt marshes include:

- **Namskaket Marsh:** A significant tidal marsh area vital for wildlife.
- **Little Namskaket Marsh:** An extension of Namskaket Marsh, contributing to the area's ecological diversity.
- **Rock Harbor Creek:** A key waterway for both the local ecosystem and recreational activities.
- **Nauset Marsh:** A valuable and extensive saltwater marsh that is essential to the region's environmental health.
- **Paw Wah Point:** This 9.3-acre parcel includes 2.3 acres of salt marsh along Paw Wah Pond.
- **Kent's Point:** A 27.7-acre property that features salt marsh along its shoreline.

FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Orleans is also home to several freshwater wetlands that depend on water table fluctuations rather than surface runoff. These wetlands are found in areas with low elevations, perched locations, and near the water table, where they help ensure the soil remains saturated enough to support wetland plants. In addition to providing critical habitat, freshwater wetlands play an essential role in filtering stormwater and reducing flooding during heavy rains.

CEDAR SWAMPS AND VERNAL POOLS

1. Cedar Swamps

Unique forested wetlands characterized by high acidity and notable ecological importance. Orleans contains five notable cedar swamp areas, identified in the 1990 Critical Habitats Atlas for Cape Cod. These wetlands were historically larger but were cleared for agriculture and lumber. While some are protected, most of the cedar swamps in Orleans are privately owned. Municipally-owned cedar swamps include the following:

- **Little Namskaket Creek:** A 6-acre Atlantic white cedar swamp owned by the Orleans Conservation Trust at the head of Little Namskaket Creek.
- **Christian Bog:** An 8.9-acre white cedar swamp owned by the Town, located in South Orleans.
- **Twinings Pond Conservation Area:** A small Atlantic white cedar swamp northwest of Twinings Pond, supporting wetland shrubs and wildlife
- **Hosea's Swamp:** A unique Atlantic white cedar woodland off Quanset Road, protected by OCT and noted for its ecological significance
- **Baker's Pond Conservation Area:** A 0.75-acre Atlantic white cedar swamp situated alongside pine upland within the Baker's Pond

Conservation Area

VERNAL POOLS

Orleans is home to 41 State-certified vernal pools, or seasonal wetlands, which typically fill with water during the spring, creating crucial breeding habitats for amphibians such as frogs and salamanders. The Massachusetts General Court officially recognized vernal pools as critical habitat in 1987 under the Wetlands Protection Act.

TIDAL FLATS

Orleans also features extensive tidal flats along the Cape Cod Bay coastline, which can extend a mile or more from the high tide mark and have become a unique and important recreational resource for the town. The Skaket Beach area is particularly popular, with locals and visitors engaging in a range of activities, from shellfishing to walking and kite flying. The flats also support local marine life.

3. GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Barnstable County, encompassing Cape Cod, relies entirely on groundwater as its sole source of drinking water. In 1982, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officially designated the Cape Cod Aquifer as a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act, recognizing its critical role in supplying at least 50% of the region's drinking water.

Orleans' drinking water is supplied entirely by groundwater from the Monomoy Lens, one of six distinct groundwater lenses within the Cape Cod Aquifer system. This lens also serves the towns of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, and Chatham. The Monomoy Lens is replenished solely by precipitation, with approximately 60% of rainfall and snowmelt contributing to its recharge annually. However, this highly permeable aquifer is susceptible to contamination from various sources within its watershed.

The most significant threat to groundwater quality in Orleans is contamination from septic systems, particularly nitrate loading. High nitrate concentrations are a known contaminant to drinking water, with potential health risks, including methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby syndrome." To mitigate these impacts, the Town has prioritized land conservation in groundwater recharge areas, notably a 500-acre town-owned water supply recharge area. Additionally, the town benefits from the protection offered by the 1,800-acre Nickerson State Park in Brewster.

4. SALT WATER BODIES

Orleans has an extensive and varied coastline, including Pleasant Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Nauset Harbor/Town Cove, and the Atlantic Ocean.

These salt water bodies offer valuable ecological functions and extensive recreational opportunities.

The four primary marine areas that define the Orleans coastal environment include the following:

- **Pleasant Bay:** A calm, sheltered area popular for kayaking, paddleboarding, and boating. The bay's tidal flats make it a great spot for families and beachgoers to enjoy the shallow waters.
- **Cape Cod Bay:** Known for its extensive tidal flats, Cape Cod Bay offers a more peaceful, serene setting ideal for shellfishing and casual water activities like walking on the beach during low tide.
- **Nauset Harbor/Town Cove:** With its open ocean connection at high tide, Nauset Harbor provides opportunities for fishing, boating, and enjoying the dramatic ocean views, while Town Cove offers a calmer setting for similar activities.
- **The Atlantic Ocean:** The most dynamic of the Town's marine areas, offering excellent opportunities for surfing, saltwater fishing, and larger boat excursions.

BEACHES

Orleans, boasts a variety of beaches, each offering unique experiences catering to different preferences.

- **Nauset Beach:** Located on the Atlantic Ocean side of Orleans, offers approximately 10 miles of expansive shoreline characterized by wide sandy areas and protective dunes. This coastal resource supports a range of recreational uses, including walking, sunbathing, and surfing, thanks to its consistent wave conditions. Seasonal lifeguard coverage enhances swimmer safety during peak months. Visitor amenities include restrooms and food concessions, making it a well-equipped and highly valued public open space.
- **Skaket Beach:** Located on the Cape Cod Bay side, Skaket Beach is known for its calm, warm waters and wide tidal flats that emerge at low tide. These conditions create an ideal environment for families, offering safe, shallow areas for children to explore. The beach is also a popular destination for sunset viewing, with scenic vistas of the bay and surrounding shoreline. Public amenities include restrooms, outdoor showers, and a seasonal snack bar. A daily parking pass provides access to both Skaket and Nauset Beaches.
- **South Orleans Landing on Pleasant Bay:** Also known as Little Pleasant Bay, provides a peaceful waterfront appealing to those seeking a

quieter beach experience. The calm waters support recreational uses such as swimming and sailboarding. Infrastructure is limited, with no designated parking lot; however, street parking is available.

- **Smith Beach:** Orleans also maintains access to other smaller beaches, such as Smith Beach in South Orleans, located along Little Pleasant Bay. These lesser-known areas contribute to the diversity of the Town's coastal open space offerings.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING

Recreational surfcasting for bluefish and striped bass is a cherished tradition at Nauset Beach, with both local anglers and visitors flocking to the beach for the opportunity to reel in these prized catches. Fishermen enjoy access to both the town beach and more remote stretches of the barrier beach, which can be reached by foot or off-road vehicles (ORVs). However, to protect nesting piping plovers and rare tern species, Nauset Beach has stringent ORV restrictions. These protective measures also extend to the area between the town beach parking lot and the Chatham border.

Pleasant Bay and Town Cove are popular fishing spots, with anglers commonly targeting striped bass, and eels. The town also allows recreational and commercial shellfishing by permit in several marine areas, including Nauset Estuary, Pleasant Bay Estuary, and Cape Cod Bay. Permit holders receive maps of approved shellfishing zones, which can change each year depending on water quality conditions.

The Town issues recreational shellfish permits and maintains productive shellfish beds that are occasionally closed due to red tide events or water quality issues. These recreational fishing and shellfishing activities are not only a key part of Orleans' outdoor lifestyle but also contribute to the local economy and community connection to its natural resources.

TOWN LANDINGS AND MOORING FIELDS

Orleans has 29 public water access points and multiple mooring fields. Of the water access points, eight include ramps for boat launching. The town completed surveys of all its landings and is currently implementing an improvement program to enhance access. While most of the landings are relatively small—some no wider than a roadway—and offer limited parking, they are a vital resource for residents and visitors alike.

Due to their popularity, these landings can become congested during peak seasons, particularly because they offer the only public access to town mooring fields. These primary mooring fields are located at Rock Harbor (the only dredged boat basin), Town Cove, Pleasant Bay, and

Meetinghouse Pond. Smaller mooring areas can be found at Nauset Harbor's Snow Shore, Mill Pond, and various salt ponds in Pleasant Bay—including Lonnie's Pond, Paw Wah Pond, Quanset Pond, and Arey's Pond.

Mooring demand in Orleans exceeds supply, and waitlists can exceed 8-10 years. To accommodate recreational vessels, the town currently maintains forty-three slips at Rock Harbor and twelve slips for commercial vessels. Three private marinas in the area also offer mooring and dockage at Meetinghouse Pond, Arey's Pond, and Town Cove. These facilities support the Town's vibrant marine culture and provide essential infrastructure for Orleans' boating community.

5. SURFACE WATER QUALITY

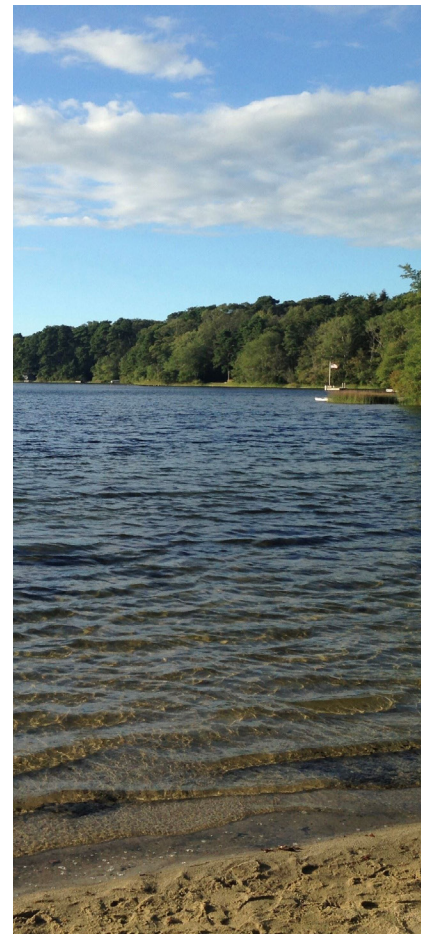
Water quality data in Orleans is collected annually across Pleasant Bay, Nauset Estuary, and several freshwater ponds to assess water quality conditions and develop nutrient management plans. The studies focus on both marine and freshwater environments. Notable efforts include:

- Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) Technical Reports
- Statistical trend assessments by the Pleasant Bay Alliance
- Research by the Cape Cod Commission as part of the Section 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan Update
- Orleans Water Quality Task Force monitoring
- Cape Cod Commission's Pond and Lake Stewardship Program for freshwater
- Cape Cod Commission's Regional Pond Monitoring Program

Over the past 20 years, Orleans' marine waters have been extensively studied. The University of Massachusetts School of Marine and Science Technology developed reports using a linked water quality model as part of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP), gathering data on all embayments. These reports revealed that Pleasant Bay, Nauset Estuary, and Rock Harbor face overabundant nitrogen loading, which causes issues like algae growth, oxygen depletion, and other stressors on the ecosystem. In contrast, Namskaket and Little Namskaket Creeks are under nitrogen loading thresholds and therefore do not need nitrogen removal efforts.

The MEP reports were instrumental in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) issuing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Pleasant Bay and its subwatersheds. However, TMDLs have not been issued yet for Nauset Estuary or Rock Harbor.

To address persistent water quality issues, the Town of Orleans is



Crystal Lake

moving forward with the implementation of its Amended Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (ACWMP). Phase 3, which focuses on the Lakes and Ponds area, is currently in final design and construction funding stages. As part of a long-term, multi-phase sewerage initiative, this phase aims to reduce both nitrogen and phosphorus loading. These efforts are essential to restoring and safeguarding the health of Orleans’ coastal waters and freshwater ponds.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Surface waters in Orleans are classified by MassDEP based on their intended uses. Coastal waters like Pleasant Bay and Town Cove are typically Class SA, while freshwater ponds are generally Class B, supporting recreation and aquatic life. Impaired waters may be listed under Section 303(d) for restoration. These classifications guide local efforts such as sewerage and stormwater management to improve water quality.

BOUNDARY	CLASS	QUALIFIER
Namskaket Creek, Little Namskaket Creek, Rock Harbor Creek, Boat Meadow River and Herring River	SA	Outstanding Resource Water
Pleasant Bay and tributaries thereto: Namequoit River, The River, The Horseshoe, the Narrows, Frostfish Cove, Hog Island Creek, and Broad Creek portion of the Pleasant Bay ACEC	SA	Outstanding Resource Water
Quanset Pond, Arey’s Pond, Kescayogannsett Pond, Meetinghouse Pond	SA	Outstanding Resource Water
Pilgrim Lake, Crystal Lake, Uncle Seth’s Pond, Sarah’s Pond, Gould Pond	B	Outstanding Resource Water

Source: 314 CMR 4.06, Table 26

6. FRESH WATER BODIES

Orleans contains 63 freshwater ponds and lakes over 220 acres. While the town does not have navigable freshwater rivers or streams, it does have small, shallow headwaters of estuarine creeks, such as at Pochet and Namskaket. Ponds vary in size. Four —Baker Pond, Cedar Pond, Pilgrim Lake, and Crystal Lake— are larger than ten acres, classifying them as Great Ponds of the Commonwealth and thus protected under the Public Trust Doctrine and ensuring public access.

In the past, Orleans invested in making some of the public ponds more accessible. For example, the 1987 purchase of one acre at the south end of Crystal Lake (Dickinson Memorial Beach) has provided handicapped-accessible beach access. The town has landings at Pilgrim Lake and Crystal Lake, which are two of the most used ponds for recreational activities such as boating (no power boats), swimming, and fishing. The Orleans Recreation Department also offers summer swim instruction programs at the freshwater Pilgrim Lake. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

stocks Crystal Lake and Baker Pond with trout each year, recognizing them as Public Recreational Fisheries.

Orleans' ponds are primarily kettlehole ponds, formed by deep depressions left by glacial outwash and stagnant ice blocks. For example, Baker's Pond reaches a depth of nearly fifty feet. Some of the town's ponds are connected to marine waters, including Crystal Lake, Pilgrim Lake, Gould Pond, Uncle Seth's Pond, Sarah's Pond, and Meadow Bog. These ponds are part of the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Cedar Pond, alternatively, is connected to Rock Harbor on Cape Cod Bay. Yet, many of Orleans' ponds are isolated and do not drain into the sea. These ponds are fed primarily by groundwater, and their surface levels are directly affected by fluctuations in the groundwater table. During the summer months when the water table is low, these ponds often expose wide shorelines, creating a unique habitat known as Coastal Plain Pond Shores. These shores support rare and endangered plants, including Plymouth gentian and long-beaked bald rush. Some of the ponds that harbor these important plant species include Baker's Pond, Gould's Pond, Uncle Israel's Pond, and Old Swamps Pond.

Ponds with hydrological connections to marine waters, such as Cedar Pond and Pilgrim Lake, also play a crucial role in supporting anadromous fish species like herring, which use these ponds as spawning grounds.

Orleans Pond Inventory

Selected Pond Characteristics, Town of Orleans				
Ponds	Acreage	Depth	Activities	Access
Baker's Pond	28	60	Boating (paddle only), swimming, passive recreation	Town beach
Boland Pond	6	20	Passive recreation	School
Cedar Pond	17	10	Passive recreation	Informal
Crystal Lake	36	45	Boating (paddle only), fishing, swimming	Town ramp and beach
Deep Pond	4	20	None	Private
Gould Pond	6	15	None	Watershed
Old Swamp Pond	6		None	Watershed
Pilgrim Lake	39	30	Boating (paddle only), fishing, swimming	Town beach
Sarah's Pond	6	18	None	Private
Shoal Pond	7	6	None	Private
Twinings Pond	8	15	Passive recreation	Private
Uncle Harvey's Pond	6	20	Boating (paddle only), passive recreation	Con. Comm.

Uncle Israel Pond	1		None	Private
Uncle Israel Pond	1		None	Private
Uncle Seth's Pond	5	6	None	Private
Wash Pond	1		None	Watershed
Meadow Bog	1	4	Fishing	Informal
Ice House Pond	2	20	Fishing	Informal

Source: James A. McCann, An Inventory of the Ponds, lakes, and Reservoirs of Massachusetts: Barnstable County," University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1969.- Town of Orleans, CCC Bathymetry study: 2005

7. FLOODPLAINS

Federal Flood Insurance Program and Engineering Standards

Orleans participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and maintains FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Several areas in town fall within special flood hazard zones, including V-zones (coastal velocity zones) and A-zones (areas of 100-year flooding). These areas are primarily located along the shore at Skaket, Nauset Harbor, the seaward face of Nauset Beach, and most of Pleasant Bay, except for the extreme reaches of the River and Pochet tidal flats.

Repetitive Loss Properties

According to the Orleans Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019), the town has seven Repetitive Loss Properties. These properties have received two or more claims of at least \$1,000 each under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any ten-year period since 1978. Most of these properties are residential, with one being commercial, and are primarily located along the coast of Pleasant Bay and Town Cove.

Flooding at these locations is mostly due to storm surge, especially when it coincides with high tides. Approximately half of these properties are situated within a FEMA velocity zone (VE), which makes them particularly vulnerable to storm surge, coastal flooding, and wave action.

Repetitive Loss Areas and Vulnerabilities

Due to the scattered nature of these properties, the Local Planning Team did not define specific Repetitive Loss Areas. However, they emphasize the broader issue of recurring flooding in Orleans and the vulnerability of areas in close proximity to these properties.

Zoning and Floodplain Protection

The Orleans Conservancy District, a zoning provision that prohibits non-water-dependent structures built below the four-foot contour, along with state and local wetlands protection legislation, should help prevent future development in these high-hazard flood zones.

A-Zones and Flood-Prone Areas

Landward of the velocity zones are A-Zones, which are flood-prone areas where standing water can be expected during 100-year storm events. These areas cover about four square miles and consist mostly of salt marshes and shorefront uplands up to about the fifteen-foot contour. While some residential areas are located in the A-Zones, there are also important non-residential areas, such as the Second District Courthouse, the Cranberry Shopping Plaza (built 52 years ago on a filled-in cranberry bog), and the Route 6 rotary adjacent to Town Cove.

Storm Damage and Coastal Erosion

Storm damage in these areas is typically associated with hurricanes. For example, in 1991, Hurricane Bob caused significant damage to trees and properties in Orleans. However, a greater threat to coastal properties is shoreline erosion caused by intense waves and winds of Northeasters, such as the Great Storm of 1978, the Halloween Storm of 1991, and more recently, flooding in the Rock Harbor area caused by the 2018 Northeaster.

D. VEGETATION

The unique growing conditions on Cape Cod—characterized by its temperature, rainfall, and soil types—support a diverse range of plant communities. Some of these communities are found only in specific environments such as sandplains, kettle pond shores, sandplain grasslands, white cedar swamps, dunes, and pine-oak forests. Orleans is home to several of these distinct plant communities, some of which are closely associated with saltwater ecosystems, such as salt marshes and eelgrass communities.

However, many of these unusual plant communities have been altered by human activities over the centuries. Between 1650 and 1900, agrarian settlers cleared forests to make way for farmlands and overgrazed livestock, which dramatically impacted the native vegetation. More recently, the introduction of invasive non-native plants and the widespread reduction of native plant habitats, often replaced with lawns and ornamental plants, have further threatened these natural plant communities. Some examples of these plant communities include:

1. LAKES AND PONDS

Orleans is home to several kettle ponds, such as Crystal Lake, which harbors rare sandplain plants like Plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*). Many of the kettle ponds in Orleans, except those in the watershed, are developed, and shoreline alterations are common. Some property owners have heavily modified their land, removing native plants and replacing them with structures or invasive species. In some cases, boats scraping the bottom in the transition zone or areas with a low water table in dry

years damage rare plants that grow in these zones.

2. GRASSLANDS

Sandplain grasslands—which once supported a variety of plant species—are now very rare in Orleans. Some properties maintain fields with deed restrictions, and some homeowners opt for native grass lawns like Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). However, with the loss of fire regimes that historically reduced woody growth and promoted native grasses, many of these grasslands are now overgrown, with red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) taking over.

3. BOGS & SWAMPS

Orleans hosts several Atlantic white cedar swamps, such as the 22.5-acre Namequoit Bog and a smaller 10-acre bog partly on the Town-owned Christian property. These swamps have suffered from logging and clearing for agriculture. Red maples (*Acer rubrum*), which also thrive in wetland habitats, are outcompeting the cedar trees. Many of the cedar swamps were once logged for posts and shingles.

4. DUNE LAND

Orleans has several dune communities that thrive in areas of moving sand, such as Nauset Spit, a barrier beach. These dunes are primarily stabilized by beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), which can withstand harsh conditions such as shifting sand and drought.

5. FOREST LAND

The dominant pine-oak forests of Orleans are drought-tolerant and grow in nutrient-poor soils. These forests were shaped by centuries of agrarian practices that stripped the land of vegetative cover, causing topsoil to erode. As farming declined by the early 1900s, abandoned agricultural land began to revert to pine-oak forests. These forests have continued to spread, though development has since reduced the area of native ecosystems.

The watershed property and the area around Baker Pond are some of the few remaining areas with intact native pine-oak woodlands. The Town Tree Warden has cataloged 7,100 trees on public land and rights-of-way, with a mix of native species such as Red Cedar, American Beech, and pine, as well as non-native species like Norway maple and Tree of Heaven. The Town also maintains a small population of American Chestnut trees on public lands.

6. SALT MARSHES

Orleans contains several significant salt marshes, including those along Rock Harbor Creek and Nauset Beach. These marshes are characterized

by pockets of cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), which is the dominant species along the Atlantic Coast’s salt marshes. Cordgrass plays a crucial role in reducing wave action and erosion, and it is an important part of the estuarine food web, supporting a variety of marine species.

These diverse natural communities, while currently under threat from development, invasive species, nitrogen attenuation, and environmental stress, continue to provide valuable habitat for wildlife and contribute to the ecological richness of Orleans. Conservation efforts remain crucial to preserving these unique ecosystems.

7. PUBLIC SHADE TREES

All trees within public rights-of-way are classified as public shade trees under Massachusetts law and are managed by the Town Tree Warden through the Department of Public Works and Natural Resources. The Town has cataloged over 7,000 trees on public land and rights-of-way, including native species such as Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). A small population of American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) trees is also maintained on town property. Healthy public trees cannot be removed without a public hearing, and residents requesting removal must cover associated costs, including replacement plantings. Orleans has maintained its “Tree City USA” designation for more than a decade, reflecting a strong commitment to urban canopy health. Current challenges include managing invasive species, mitigating storm impacts, and balancing public safety with canopy preservation.

E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Orleans indefinities as a crossroads town is not only evident in its geology and geography, but also in the diversity of its wildlife. Nestled between two major biogeographic regions—the Virginian and Acadian—Orleans sits at a rare ecological intersection where southern and northern species meet. Cape Cod acts as a natural divide between the warmer Gulf Stream waters of Nantucket Sound (Virginian zone) and the colder Labrador Current waters of Cape Cod Bay (Acadian zone). This division results in a rich marine biodiversity, with species varying dramatically from one coastline to the other—from seaweed to squid, and even to whales. Notably, Orleans’ Cape Cod Bay shoreline lies within the innermost boundary of federally designated critical habitat for the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

In addition to marine diversity, Orleans is surrounded by several critical wildlife habitats. Pleasant Bay and Nauset Marsh are two of only five embayments on Cape Cod recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as essential wintering grounds for black ducks, a National Species of Special Emphasis. These areas, along with other local marshes and wetlands, are also key stopover points for numerous shorebird species, such as the semi-palmated plover, migrating along the Atlantic Flyway.

The barrier beaches of Nauset are particularly significant as nesting sites for rare and endangered species like piping plovers and terns. Orleans has been a leader in habitat protection. In 1991, Nauset Spit became the focal point of a landmark legal decision under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, when the Town created an off-road vehicle (ORV) management plan specifically to protect nesting piping plovers. This was the first time the Act had been used to regulate recreational vehicle access to barrier beaches.

Building on earlier beach protection efforts, Orleans partnered with state and federal wildlife agencies in 2015 to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) aimed at balancing public beach use with piping plover nesting protection. The plan includes:

- Strategically placed fencing around nesting zones
- Seasonal restrictions on ORV access
- Nest monitoring to track plover success rates
- Cooperative conservation strategies with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Cape Cod National Seashore

These efforts demonstrate Orleans' long-standing commitment to preserving its unique ecological position and protecting the biodiversity that results from its location at a biological crossroads.

1. SHELLFISH

Shellfish Habitat and Harvest

Orleans is consistently ranked as one of the most productive shellfisheries among the 15 towns of Cape Cod, thanks to its diverse marine habitats and clean, abundant growing waters. Softshell and hardshell (quahogs) clams, along with blue mussels, thrive in these waters. Pleasant Bay provides a vast habitat for clams and quahogs, while Town Cove and Nauset Harbor are rich in clams, quahogs, mussels, and occasionally scallops. Offshore, sea clams are found on the wide flats of Cape Cod Bay, and quahogs inhabit the deeper waters where scallops are also sporadically found. These areas include 5,760 acres in Cape Cod Bay, 1,152 acres in Town Cove, and 3,456 acres in Pleasant Bay.

Orleans has a thriving oyster industry, both recreational and commercial. Residents and visitors can obtain permits to harvest oysters and other shellfish in designated areas. The town supports commercial oyster farming with methods like bottom planting and mesh bags, with businesses contributing to the local economy. Orleans also engages in shellfish propagation programs to improve water quality and support fisheries,

such as the Lonnie's Pond Oyster Aquaculture Project, which studies the benefits of oyster cultivation for nitrogen removal.³

Aquaculture and Propagation

Shellfishing continues to play an important role in Orleans' coastal economy and environmental management. In 2025, the Town's Shellfish Department secured a state grant to upgrade its upweller system, enhancing its ability to raise seed quahogs and oysters for local propagation. The Orleans Pond Coalition also supported restoration by planting oyster seed in Arey's Pond. The Town manages 16 private aquaculture grants in Pleasant Bay, covering roughly 30 acres for oyster and quahog cultivation. Updated regulations and seasonal closures, monitored by the Shellfish Constable, help ensure long-term sustainability and public health protection.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

HABs, such as Red Tide, have caused seasonal closures of shellfish beds in Town Cove and Nauset Harbor. Typically triggered by seasonally warm waters, red tide events occur almost annually, often in early summer, and can lead to temporary shellfish bed closures lasting for several weeks. While shellfish like clams and mussels are not harmed by the algae, they accumulate toxins from the bloom that can be dangerous to humans if consumed. Once the bloom subsides and water quality improves, the shellfish are again safe for harvest.

Despite this annual obstacle, shellfishing remains a vital part of Orleans' identity, serving both as a commercial livelihood and a popular recreational pursuit. To meet the ongoing demand and maintain healthy shellfish stocks, the Town actively engages in shellfish enhancement programs, including the broadcasting of hatchery-raised seed into local waters.

³ Town of Orleans. Lonnie's Pond Aquaculture Management Plan: Water Quality and Wastewater Planning. August 4, 2017. Revised December 2017. Final January 2018.

Historically, Orleans operated its own shellfish lab on Town Cove, where quahog seed was cultivated until the late 1980s. Today, the seed is obtained from certified hatcheries, continuing the town’s legacy of responsible resource management and community stewardship over its shellfish beds.

2. FIN-FISH

Orleans’ fresh and salt waters support a diverse range of fish species. Marine species include striped bass, menhaden, tautog, mullet, eel, and sand sharks. Freshwater fish commonly found in ponds and lakes include pumpkinseed, bass, trout, and pickerel. The area is also home to anadromous fish—such as alewife, blueback herring, and shad—that migrate each spring from the bays into Cedar Pond and Pilgrim Lake to spawn.

Orleans’ woods and wetlands are inhabited by a variety of amphibians, including frogs, toads, and salamanders. The region also supports several turtle species, including the rare eastern box turtle and the diamondback terrapin, the latter of which is found in Pleasant Bay.⁴

The Friends of Pleasant Bay are currently sponsoring an updated assessment of fisheries habitat and abundance in Pleasant Bay. This study is being conducted by the Center for Coastal Studies. The only prior comprehensive assessment was completed in 1967 by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

3. MAMMALS

Orleans is home to a wide range of upland mammals, including red and gray squirrels, white-tailed deer, raccoons, rabbits, skunks, opossums, shrews, bats, weasels, mice, and voles. In recent years, the eastern coyote—a top predator—has expanded its range into Orleans, increasingly competing with red foxes for territory. Once rarely seen, coyote sightings are now commonly reported by residents.

Wildlife corridors are essential for animals seeking new territory, food sources, or breeding grounds. Biologists estimate that undisturbed corridors at least 300 feet wide are necessary for many species to move safely and undetected. However, the continued spread of residential development throughout Orleans has fragmented the landscape, narrowing and reducing the number of viable wildlife corridors. The only continuous natural corridor in town is Nauset Spit, located within the Cape Cod National Seashore. This stretch extends from Nauset Inlet southward into the Town of Chatham. A second, though discontinuous, corridor runs west to east from Nickerson State Park to Pleasant Bay.

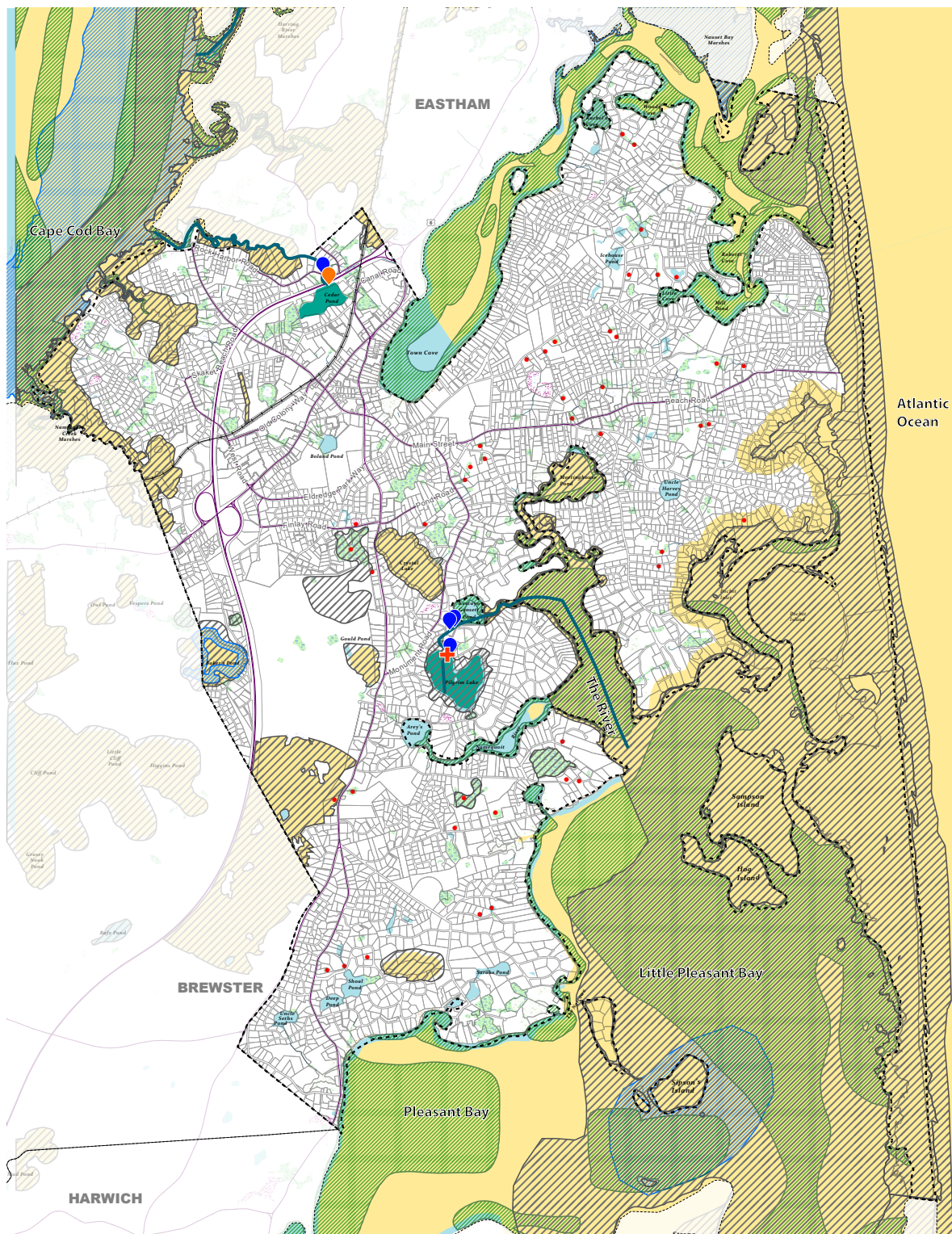
4 Massachusetts Audubon Society. *Massachusetts Herpetological Atlas*, 2010

NHESP: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species in Orleans

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Bird	Endangered	2008
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Bird	Endangered	1985
North Atlantic Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Mammal	Endangered	2010
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Bird	Special Concern	2003
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Bird	Special Concern	2013
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Bird	Special Concern	2022
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Reptile	Special Concern	2020
American Sea-blite	<i>Suaeda calceoliformis</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1989
Commons' Rosette-grass	<i>Dichanthelium commonsianum</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2010
New England Blazing Star	<i>Liatris novae-angliae</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1913
Plymouth Gentian	<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2012
Pondshore Smartweed	<i>Persicaria puritanorum</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2012
Terete Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria teres</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2012
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1985
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Bird	Threatened	2022
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Bird	Threatened	2010
Water-willow Stem Borer	<i>Papaipema sulphurata</i>	Butterfly/Moth	Threatened	1986
Attenuated Bluet	<i>Enallagma daeckii</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Threatened	2019
Pine Barrens Bluet	<i>Enallagma recurvatum</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Threatened	2019
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Reptile	Threatened	2019
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>	Reptile	Threatened	2023
Dwarf Bulrush	<i>Cyperus subsquarrosus</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2012
Salt Reedgrass	<i>Sporobolus cynosuroides</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	1988

Source (as of 2025): Mass gov. : Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer>)

PLANT AND WILDLIFE HABITAT MAP



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- +— Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels
- + Eel Ramp
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools

- ### DEP Wetlands
- Salt Marsh
 - Wooded Marsh
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Marsh/Bog
 - Open Water
 - Tidal Flats
 - Beach/Dune

- ### Critical Habitats
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Core Habitats
 - Shellfish Suitability Areas
 - River Herring Spawning Nursery Habitat
 - Migratory Habitat

- ### Restoration Projects
- Partial Impaired
 - No Impairment

This potential corridor includes the wetlands of Kescayoganset (Lonnie's) Pond, Kent's Point, and the Namequoit River, which nearly connect to the 500-acre forested Town watershed. Route 28 presents a significant barrier to this corridor. From there, it stretches to Baker Pond and into Nickerson State Park. In 1992, a chain-link fence was installed along Route 6, partially to deter wildlife from entering the highway.

Smaller, intra-town corridors still play a role in maintaining ecological connections. These include the corridor from Namequoit Wood Conservation Area through Paw Wah Point to the Quanset Wellfield at Namequoit Point, as well as the pond-rich South Orleans area, encompassing Uncle Seth's, Shoal, Deep, Twinings, and Sarah's Ponds. Additionally, salt creeks feeding into Cape Cod Bay serve as important neighborhood-level wildlife corridors.

4. RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Orleans supports a variety of rare, threatened, and endangered species identified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), due to its unique blend of coastal ecosystems, wetlands, and pine barrens. These species, protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), rely on the town's remaining undeveloped shorelines, salt marshes, and freshwater habitats for survival. Preserving open space and protecting natural areas is vital to maintaining biodiversity and reducing the impacts of habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental pressures.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

In addition to species-specific protections, Orleans is bordered by two water bodies designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under M.G.L. Chapter 21A, Section 7: Cape Cod Bay and Pleasant Bay.

- **Cape Cod Bay:** recognized as critical nesting habitat for endangered turtle and bird species.
- **Pleasant Bay:** Cape Cod's largest estuary, supports ecologically and economically valuable fisheries and offers exceptional recreational opportunities.

Conservation within these ACECs plays a key role in maintaining the health and resilience of these sensitive environments. Furthermore, the Nauset Estuary is afforded additional protection under the Orleans Wetlands Protection Bylaw and remains a priority area for ongoing land conservation efforts.

F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

1. SCENIC LANDSCAPES

The natural beauty of Orleans is central to its identity, with sweeping coastal

views, tranquil freshwater ponds, and richly textured woodlands that define the town's scenic landscape. These features—ranging from salt marshes and barrier beaches to kettle ponds and cedar swamps—create a visually diverse and striking environment that draws both residents and visitors year-round. The town's scenic quality is closely intertwined with its ecological richness, with many of these landscapes offering habitat value as well as visual appeal.

Orleans residents have long prioritized the preservation of these cherished views through open space protection. Scenic properties such as Kent's Point, Paw Wah Point, Arey's Pond, Eelman's Point, and Sea Call Farm have been acquired specifically to protect their visual character and public access to iconic vistas. The land around Baker's Pond, while similarly scenic, was preserved primarily to safeguard water quality but also enhances the town's natural aesthetics.

As part of a 1983 statewide initiative, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) conducted a Scenic Landscape Inventory, classifying the visual quality of landscapes across the Commonwealth. Several areas in Orleans received high scenic ratings, underscoring the town's exceptional and varied natural beauty within the Cape Cod region.

Distinctive landscapes, representing only about 4% of the Commonwealth, are those of the highest scenic value.

- Noteworthy landscapes, slightly less exceptional but still of significant visual importance, make up approximately 5%.
- Common landscapes, which comprise the remaining 91%, may contain scenic features but lack the consistent high quality of the other two categories.

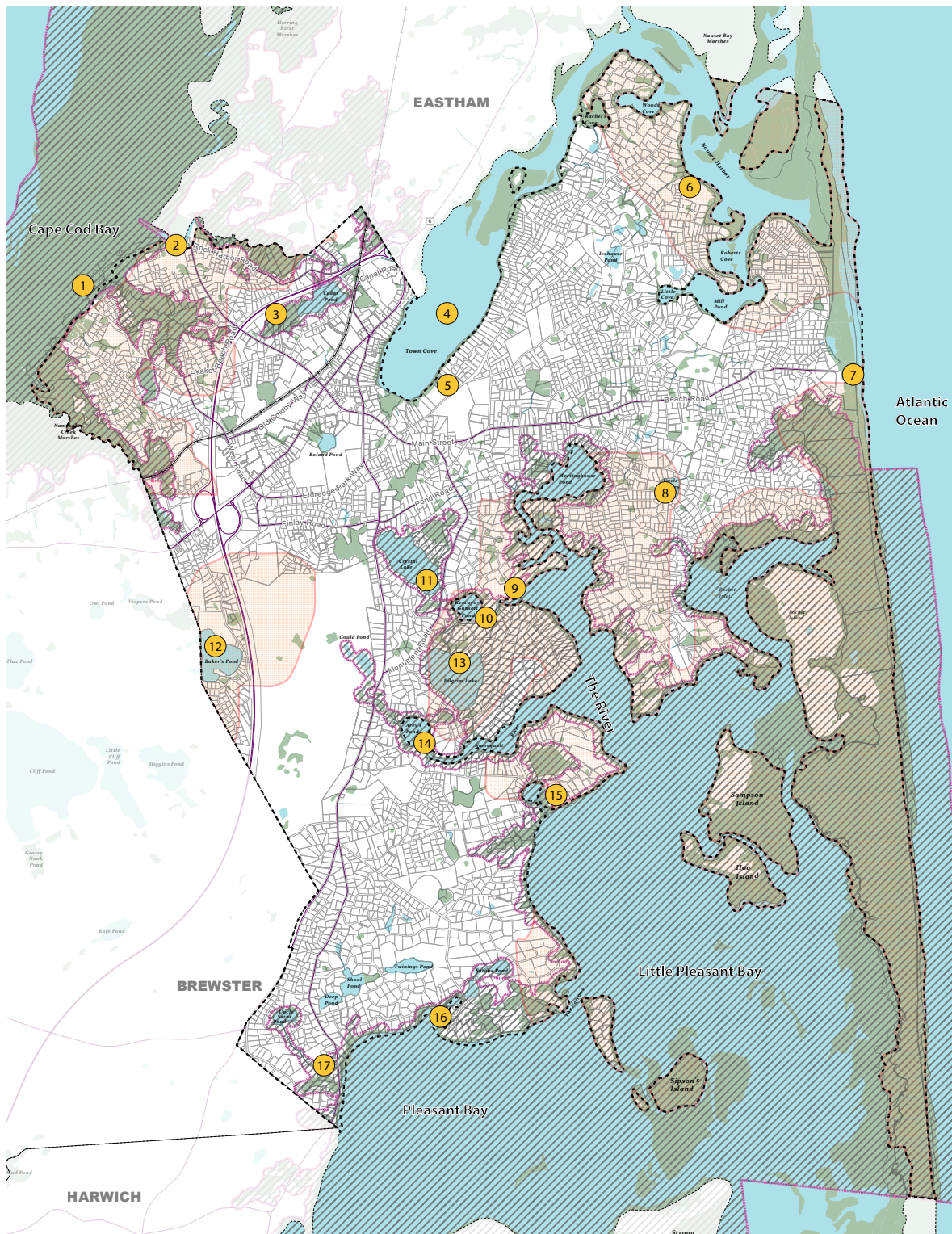
In Orleans, Nauset Beach was classified as a distinctive landscape, placing it among the most visually remarkable areas in the state. The Cape Cod Bay shoreline, Nauset Marsh, and most of Pleasant Bay were designated as noteworthy, reflecting their prominent scenic and environmental value.

ADDITIONAL DISTINCTIVE SCENIC AREAS IN ORLEANS

In addition to the broader scenic landscapes identified by the state, Orleans is home to numerous locally significant vistas that highlight the town's unique coastal and inland beauty:

- **Kent's Point, Paw Wah Point, and Sea Call Farm:** (all Town-owned) offer sweeping views of saltwater, framing some of the most tranquil and picturesque waterfront landscapes in Orleans. In 2024, Orleans purchased two acres adjacent to Sea Call Farm for Open Space and Public access.
- **Rock Harbor:** provides both seasonal and year-round scenic value. During the warmer months, the harbor is alive with sportfishing and moored vessels, while throughout the year, it offers expansive views over Cape Cod Bay. Notably, Rock Harbor is one of the few places on the East Coast where visitors can experience a sunset over open water.
- **Town landings:** serve as important public vantage points. Quanset, Paw

UNIQUE FEATURES MAP



LEGEND 0.25 0 0.25 Miles

- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels
- DEP Wetlands
- Scenic Landscapes

Unusual Geologic Features & Scenic Landscapes

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cape Cod Bay | 10. Kescayo-Gansett Pond |
| 2. Rock Harbor | 11. Crystal Lake |
| 3. Cedar Pond | 12. Baker's Pond |
| 4. Orleans Town Cove | 13. Pilgrim Lake |
| 5. Sea Call Farm | 14. Arey's Pond |
| 6. Snow Shore Landing | 15. Paw Wah Point |
| 7. Nauset Beach | 16. Quansett Pond |
| 8. Uncle Harvey's Pond | 17. Pleasant Bay |
| 9. Kent's Point | |

Wah, and Kescayogansett Ponds each offer a range of scenic vistas, while landings at the head of Town Cove reflect the vibrant, working character of a seaside community with fishing, boating, and sailing activity. Snow Shore Landing in particular provides exceptional views of Nauset Marsh, the outer beach, and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

- **Freshwater ponds and lakes:** throughout Orleans provide an array of scenic experiences. Public access is available at the town’s four Great Ponds—Baker Pond, Cedar Pond, Pilgrim Lake, and Crystal Lake—as well as at Uncle Harvey’s Pond in East Orleans. These water bodies offer peaceful views and important recreational opportunities, enhancing the town’s natural character.

Town-designated network of scenic roads under MGL Chapter 40 §15.

Arey’s Lane	Freeman Lane	Eldredge Park Way
Namequoit Road	Herring Brook Way	Locust Road
Brick Hill Road	Tonset Road	Tar Kiln Road
Portanimiticut Road	Barley Neck Road	Great Oak Road
Shore View Drive	Namskaket Road	River Road
Mill Pond Road	Gibson Road	Defiance Lane
Champlain Road	Snow’s Shore Road	Briar Springs Road
Quanset Road	Hopkins Lane	Monument Road
Uncle Harvey’s Way	West Road	Pochet Road

SCENIC ROADWAYS AND PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

In addition to the scenic roads designated by the Town, the Cape Cod Commission has recognized seven local roadways in Orleans as Scenic Local Roadways of Regional Significance. These routes provide access to some of the town’s most picturesque areas, frequently linking visitors to important natural resources, waterfront views, and historic landmarks. These include:

- Beach Road
- Bridge Road
- Main Street
- West Road
- Skaket Road
- Rock Harbor Road

UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS AND UNUSUAL GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Orleans’ landscape was shaped by glacial activity at the intersection of the Cape Cod Bay and South Channel Lobes during the retreat of the Wisconsin Glacier approximately 15,000 years ago. This glacial history left behind a distinct topography marked by depressions that filled with water as the ice sheet melted, forming numerous freshwater features. Today, the town contains 107 surface water bodies totaling 233 acres, including 17 freshwater kettle ponds two acres or larger—such as Pilgrim Lake, the largest—providing critical wildlife habitat,

recreational opportunities, and ecological value.

One of the most dynamic and visually striking landforms in Orleans is the east-facing outer beach, particularly Nauset Beach, which is constantly reshaped by wind, tides, and longshore currents. Sand is primarily transported in a southerly direction, contributing to the westward retreat of the beach. According to a 2016 study by the Woods Hole Group, the rate of erosion near Nauset Beach is approximately 12 feet per year.

3. CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Orleans is a town rich in cultural heritage, with numerous historically significant districts and structures. The Orleans Historical Society lists more than 400 buildings that were erected before 1900. Several Orleans landmarks have received formal recognition for their historical significance and are listed on the State Register of Historic Places:

- **French Cable Station:** Constructed in 1891, the Station received telegraph messages via a transatlantic cable from Brest, France, with the final segment to Orleans completed in 1898. It operated until 1959 and now serves as the French Cable Station Museum, preserving the history of transatlantic communication.
- **Oak Ridge Prehistoric Site:** A significant archaeological area in Orleans, offering insight into the early human occupation of Cape Cod. This site is associated with Native American cultures and provides valuable information about the prehistoric people who lived in the region.
- **Old King's Highway Historic District:** A culturally and historically significant area, recognized for its role in early colonial America. The district includes one of the earliest established roads, which ran through Orleans, and is marked by historic buildings and landmarks that highlight the town's colonial past. The Old King's Highway Regional Historic District (OKHRHD) is Orleans' only registered historic district and serves as an important tool for preserving the original small-village character and architectural style common to towns along Route 6A.

Other cultural and historic points of interest in Orleans include the following:

- **Rock Harbor:** Former commercial and maritime center during its early years and today is a popular boating harbor enticing fishermen from many parts. Local history states that the Orleans Militia repulsed a British landing force at Rock Harbor during the War of 1812.
- **Linnell House:** Designed in the style of a French villa, this elegant home was built in the mid-19th century by Captain Ebenezer Harding Linnell, who modeled it after a chateau he admired in Marseille.
- **Meeting House:** Located on Main Street in East Orleans, is the home of the

Orleans Historical Society. It was first built as the Universalist Meeting House and contains historical artifacts of Orleans.

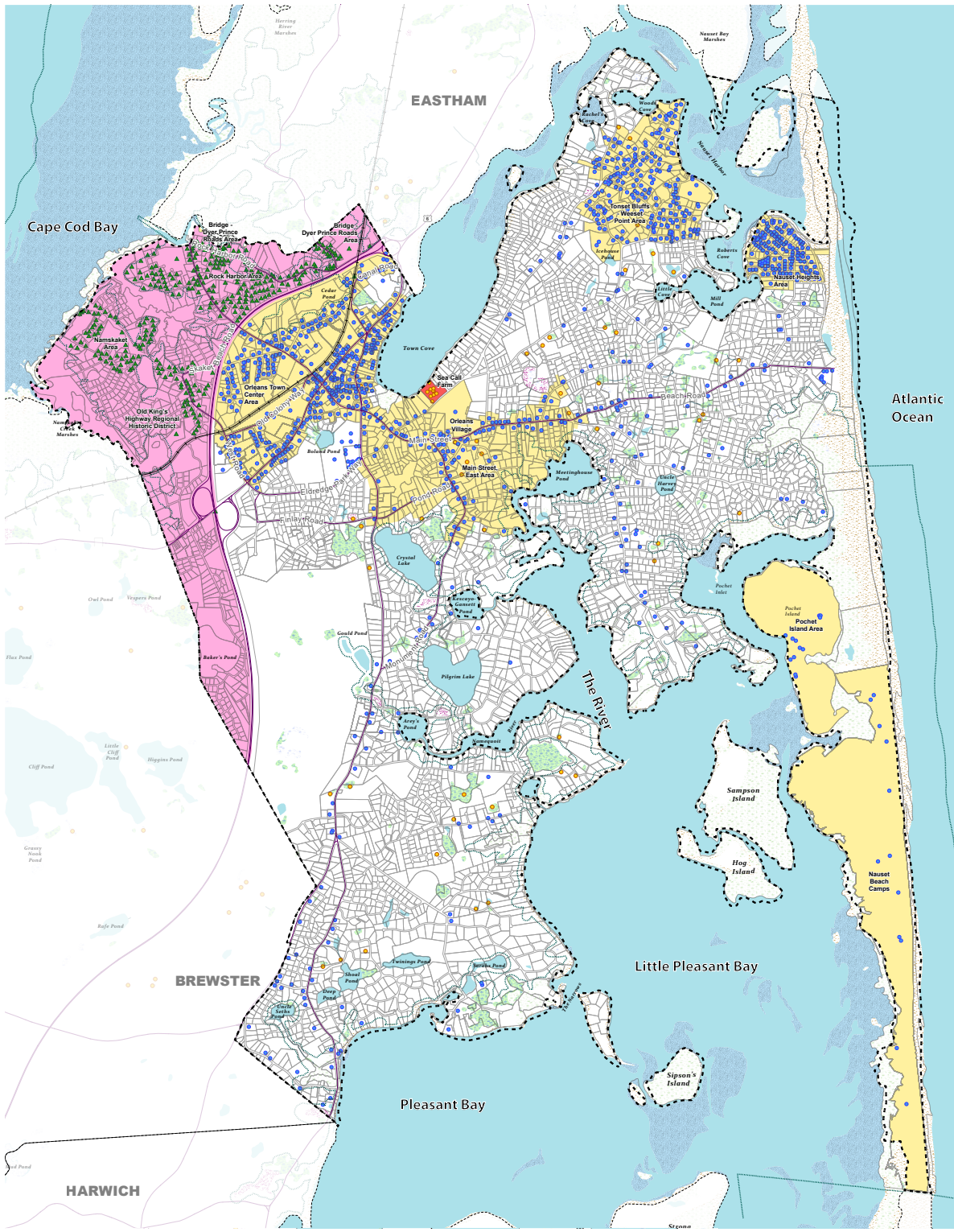
- **Nauset Beach:** A lure for thousands of sunbathers and boasts a treasury of historical occurrences. Early explorers landed here - Gosnold in 1602, Champlain in 1605. The Mayflower passed here in 1620. The Sparrow Hawk was the first recorded shipwreck on the eastern seaboard, December 17, 1626. A German U-Boat shelled the coast of Orleans during World War I, sinking several coal barges.
- **Snow's Shore:** Named for Stephen Snow, a Tonset settler in 1644, was lined with fish sheds and flakes where catches were cured and salted for the Boston market. On Tonset Road, by the Town Cove, is the site of the Hopkins Homestead. Giles Hopkins was a passenger on the Mayflower and settled in Orleans in 1648. The home of Joshua Crosby is located at the end of Tonset Road. He was a quarterdeck gun captain on the U.S.S. Constitution during combat with the H.M.S. Guerriere in the War of 1812.
- **Orleans Waterfront Inn:** Now a restaurant and inn was built by Capt. Aaron Snow in 1875 of lumber and cargo from a Maine schooner wrecked on Nauset Beach. Capt. Snow was a merchant dealing in coal, grain and lumber which was transported to Orleans in his schooner the Nettie M. Rogers. This was the beginning of H.H. Snow and Sons hardware store.
- **Jeremiah's Gutter:** The first Cape Cod Canal, located where the Route 6 rotary now exists, which linked the headwaters of Boat Meadow Creek with Town Cove. This hand-dug route enabled small boats to float from Cape Cod Bay to the eastern, Atlantic shore without having to double the Cape at Race Point. Captain Cyprian Southack, sent by the Governor in 1717 to hunt down Black Sam Bellany of the shipwrecked pirate vessel Whydah was one of the first users of the



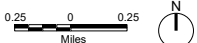
Artifacts made of local stones found within the Pleasant Bay area.

Source:Town of Orleans. "Searching for Orleans Native American History." Town of Orleans.

HISTORIC RESOURCES MAP



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- +--- Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels

- ### DEP Wetlands
- Salt Marsh
 - Wooded Marsh
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Marsh/Bog
 - Open Water
 - Tidal Flats
 - Beach/Dune

- ### MassHistoric Commission Inventory
- Old King's Highway Regional Historic District
 - National Register of Historic Places
 - Inventoried Property
 - Old King's Highway Regional Historic District
 - National Register of Historic Places
 - Inventoried Property

gutter in his fruitless search. The gutter was used during the War of 1812 for American vessels to escape British blockaders, but constant silting caused the canal to finally be abandoned.

- **Hopkins Homestead:** Located off Tonset Road on Town Cove, was the original home of Giles Hopkins, a Mayflower descendant who settled there in 1648 and lived until 1690. While the physical homestead no longer stands, its historical importance is commemorated within Orleans’ broader heritage narrative, marking the early colonial settlement and lineage of the Hopkins family.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Pleasant Bay is recognized as one of the most significant archaeological regions in Barnstable County. According to archaeologist Fred Dunford of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has recorded that roughly 10% of all known artifact sites in the county are located in the greater Pleasant Bay area—giving it the highest concentration of sites on Cape Cod. Most of these artifacts date to the Woodland period (circa 3,000 years ago to 1,500 AD), when the Nauset and Monomoyick tribes began to establish more permanent settlements, cultivate the land, and rely on both coastal and inland resources for food.

However, this rich archaeological record faces several threats, including residential development, erosion driven by changes in the tidal range of the bay, and vandalism by amateur treasure hunters. Protecting these sites is critical to preserving the deep cultural and historical legacy of Orleans and the greater Cape Cod region.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

As noted in previous sections, the impacts of continued residential development pose a threat to open space and natural resources in Orleans. Water quality concerns, loss of wildlife habitats and corridors, blockage of scenic views, conversion of agricultural lands and other issues are all influenced by the economic pressure to develop vacant land to meet the demands of community growth. While the Town cannot stop growth, a thoughtful approach to zoning and diligent permitting can help to guide future growth to the most well-suited areas.

1. COASTAL EROSION AND SEDIMENT TRANSPORT

As a coastal community, Orleans faces persistent challenges from coastal erosion—a natural process that shapes beaches, dunes, and salt marshes by moving sediment. While erosion plays an essential ecological role, it can also result in the loss of both public and private shoreline, prompting the need for effective management. In response, state regulations such as the Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws promote “soft” erosion control measures that aim to accommodate natural processes rather than

halt them entirely.

One of the most dynamic systems influencing Orleans' shoreline is the Nauset barrier beach and inlet system, shared by Pleasant Bay and Nauset Estuaries. Its constantly shifting tidal and hydrologic conditions make the coastline particularly vulnerable to storm events. A major coastal storm in 2007 created the "North Inlet," which has contributed to increased erosion pressure along the shoreline.

Nauset Beach, owned by the Town of Orleans, is a critical natural and recreational resource. Spanning nearly 10 miles, it draws approximately 1.2 million visitors annually and generates over \$1 million in revenue. The beach features an approximately 900-car parking lot, which regularly reaches capacity during peak season. However, erosion directly threatens this infrastructure. To address future access and current parking needs, the Town purchased a 5.6-acre property at 223 Beach Road in 2010.

Preserving Nauset Beach remains a top priority. Pedestrian access is limited to designated dune paths to protect sensitive vegetation like beach grass and beach pea. Southward sediment transport moves an estimated 230,000 cubic meters of sand annually, helping to build the sand spit at the southern end of the beach.

Long-term monitoring has revealed an acceleration in erosion: from 1994 to 2015, rates averaged -12.1 feet per year—nearly triple the long-term average of -4.1 feet per year recorded between 1868 and 2015. These findings highlight the urgency of ongoing shoreline management and planning to sustain both the ecological integrity and public use of Orleans' coastal assets.⁵

2. COASTAL FLOODING AND STORM EVENTS

Coastal flooding, particularly during storm events that coincide with high tides, presents an ongoing management challenge for Orleans. These floods can cause significant damage at landings, temporarily inundate low-lying roadways, and contribute to the erosion of public beaches. Fortunately, flooding caused by fast-moving coastal storms tends to recede relatively quickly, unlike flooding in inland river areas, which can take several days to drain.

In 2014, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Orleans and the broader Cape Cod region—the first major update in over two decades. These revised maps redefined floodplain boundaries, affecting flood insurance requirements and policies for many local property owners.

5 Town of Orleans. *Orleans Outer Beach Management Plan*. Town of Orleans, Jan. 2016

The Town of Orleans provides residents with information about the updated FIRMs. Additionally, the Orleans Zoning Bylaw includes a Conservancy District designation, aimed at protecting people and property from the hazards of flooding and tidal waters. This district helps mitigate risks by restricting unsuitable development in flood-prone areas and safeguarding ground, fresh, and marine water resources, as well as the vegetation, fish, and wildlife that depend on them.

In response to growing concerns about sea level rise, the Cape Cod Commission released an interactive Sea Level Rise Viewer in 2014, using updated FEMA flood elevations to help town officials and property owners visualize potential impacts on shoreline areas. Since then, the tool has supported local planning efforts, including in Orleans. Around the same time, the Town of Orleans began actively participating in a coastal resiliency initiative through the Pleasant Bay Alliance, focused on evaluating the effects of sea level rise on the Nauset Barrier Beach and the inland shoreline of Pleasant Bay. Additional tools such as the Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model, The Commission's Low Lying Roads Project, and Regulatory Tools for Coastal Floodplain Resiliency provide modeling of potential future flooding. This ongoing effort continues to inform long-term management strategies aimed at protecting vulnerable coastal resources.

3. GROWTH PRESSURES

Orleans is a highly desirable coastal community, particularly attractive to retirees—evidenced by a median age of approximately 64 and a significant senior population. While predominantly residential, the town also serves as a modest commercial hub for the Lower Cape, providing essential goods and services to surrounding communities.

Despite the existing development footprint, growth pressures remain considerable. Projections suggest that over the next 30 years, Orleans could see a 33% increase in housing units and a 40% expansion in commercial space. If left unmanaged, this level of growth could reduce remaining open space, alter the town's semi-rural character, increase nitrogen loading from wastewater, and place added strain on municipal resources.

In response, the Town of Orleans has taken steps to preserve open space, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas. The town has also adopted zoning changes aimed at focusing future development within a mixed-use village center and is exploring additional measures to limit the spread of commercial growth in outlying areas.

4. GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION

The Town of Orleans has long understood the importance of protecting its freshwater and marine ecosystems from the impacts of development.

In response, the Town has spent more than a decade actively planning and investing in solutions to reduce nutrient loading—particularly nitrogen and phosphorus—which can degrade water quality and habitat.

To support this effort, Orleans participated in the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP), a regional initiative that studied water quality in Pleasant Bay (alongside Chatham and Harwich), the Nauset Estuary, and the Town's three Cape Cod Bay tributaries: Rock Harbor, Namskaket Creek, and Little Namskaket Creek. These technical reports have provided the scientific foundation for Orleans' long-term wastewater and water quality planning.

Using the findings from the MEP, the Town developed a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), which has received both local and state approval. To move this plan forward, the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel was formed in 2014 to guide implementation and financing strategies for new wastewater infrastructure. At the same time, the Marine and Fresh Water Quality Task Force has taken the lead on public education, water quality monitoring, and ongoing stewardship across the Town's estuaries and ponds.

While nutrient loading is a primary concern, bacterial contamination is another serious threat—particularly to Orleans' valuable shellfish resources. Bacteria from stormwater runoff, wildlife, and domestic animals have led to periodic shellfish bed closures. Several areas have been permanently closed due to poor water quality, including Namskaket Creek, Little Namskaket Creek, Rock Harbor, upper Pochet Inlet, and a portion of Paw Wah Pond. In addition, Nauset Harbor is subject to routine seasonal closures due to Red Tide (a harmful algal bloom), and small sections of Town Cove and Meetinghouse Pond are closed near stormwater drainage outfalls.

To reduce pollution from stormwater, the Town has completed a full inventory of stormwater discharge locations and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in treatment upgrades. These systems are designed to capture and treat the "first flush"—the initial and most contaminated portion of runoff—before it enters ponds, bays, and estuaries. A pilot project is also underway to explore new technologies for removing nutrients from stormwater.

5. INVASIVE SPECIES AND DISEASE

Invasive species pose a significant threat to Orleans' native ecosystems by displacing indigenous plants and disrupting natural habitat processes. Frequently encountered terrestrial invasives include Oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and autumn olive. Local organizations such as the Orleans Conservation Trust actively manage removal efforts and advocate for the use of native species in restoration. In alignment with the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, some landscape suppliers also voluntarily restrict the sale of invasive plants.



Nauset Beach

SECTION 5.

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS INVENTORY

Section 5 is a vital component of the Orleans Open Space and Recreation Plan, providing a comprehensive overview of the town’s current supply of open space and recreation resources. To begin, it’s important to define key terms: “open space” generally refers to land that is undeveloped and available for passive or active recreation, conservation, or scenic enjoyment, while “protected property” includes land legally safeguarded from development through conservation restrictions or other means.

Understanding and preserving Orleans’ open space is essential to maintaining community character, enhancing climate change resilience, supporting mental and physical well-being, and sustaining local economic vitality. This section offers a detailed inventory of publicly and privately owned land currently used for conservation and recreation, as well as properties with potential for future protection or development.

While Orleans may appear largely developed, creative opportunities still exist for expanding recreational access and protecting valuable natural resources. Infill sites or underutilized municipal lots can all serve as locations for new amenities that address evolving community needs.

This inventory also lays the groundwork for Section 7, where the Action Plan will align community-identified needs—gathered through public outreach—with existing assets and potential gaps. By analyzing what is currently available, the Town can better plan for future land acquisition, resource protection, or facility improvements to meet long-term goals.

Three types of inventories are required as part of this section to meet OSRP guidelines:

- Public and private lands with permanent protection.
- Lands with limited or no protection that are currently used for open space or recreation.
- Potential areas that could support future conservation or recreation efforts.

Together, these inventories will serve as the foundation for Orleans’ strategy to steward its natural and recreational resources for generations to come.

OPEN SPACE TYPE	NUMBER OF PARCELS	ACREAGE
TOWN LANDS		
TOWN OPEN SPACE LAND/CONSERVATION	54	284.08
PUBLIC WATERSHED LANDS	9	504.19
GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAND:		
Beaches	21	808.80
Cemetery	4	4.56
Facility	41	164.81
Other	44	26.96
OTHER LANDS		
OCT OPEN SPACE/PRIVATE/OTHER	210	921.16
COMM OF MA LANDS	24	16.34
FEDERAL LAND	26	113.76
CONSERVATION RESTRICTION LANDS	43	323.07
CHAPTER LANDS	77	475.09
TOTAL	553	3,642.82

A. MUNICIPALLY OWNED CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PROPERTIES

This inventory highlights open space and recreation lands owned by the Town of Orleans. Managed by both municipal departments and the Conservation Commission, these properties are essential for offering accessible green space, recreational opportunities, and protecting natural resources for both residents and visitors. Understanding the extent and characteristics of town-owned lands helps guide decisions about future improvements, maintenance, and conservation priorities.

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
SKAKET BEACH	112 SKAKET BEACH	BEACH AND PARKING	7.80	GOOD	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	CR/LB, LAND	
SKAKET BEACH	192 END OF SKAKET BEACH	BEACH AND PARKING	5.10	OK	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	CR/LB, LAND	
SMITH BEACH	141 PORTANIMICUT RD	SHORE FRONT	2.50	GOOD	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BEACH ACCESS	NO	CPA/TOOP	CON COM
PILGRIM LAKE	9 BURGESS PATH	TRAILS	0.88	GOOD	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
HOPKINS GARDENS	54 HOPKINS LN	COMMUNITY GARDEN	10.96	GOOD	YES	NONE	TRAILS TO OTHER PROPERTIES	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
SEA CALL FARM	82 TONSET RD	COMMUNITY GARDEN	6.35	GOOD	YES	EXISTING COMMUNITY GARDEN, POTENTIAL SHORELINE ACCESS	TRAILS	NO	SF	CON COM
PILGRIM LAKE	79 HERRING BROOK WY	LAKE, PARKING AND TRAILS	1.38	GOOD	YES	POTENTIAL INCREASED BEACH ACCESS	BEACH ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
PILGRIM LAKE	80 HERRING BROOK WY	LAKE, PARKING AND TRAILS	3.20	GOOD	YES	POTENTIAL TRAILS THROUGH WETLAND	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
PILGRIM LAKE	83 HERRING BROOK WY	LAKE, PARKING AND TRAILS	1.38	GOOD	YES	POTENTIAL INCREASED BEACH ACCESS	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
PILGRIM LAKE	84 HERRING BROOK WY	LAKE, PARKING AND TRAILS	1.74	GOOD	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
WINDMILL PARK	27 RT 6A	PARK	1.00	GOOD	YES	EXISTING ACTIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BENCHES, KIOSK	NO	SSHG	CON COM
N/A	0 BEVAN WY	N/A	2.48	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 HERRING BROOK WY	TRAILS	0.50	UNDEVELOPED	YES	EXISTING TOWN LANDING, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CEDAR POND	0 CEDAR POND RD	TRAILS	0.75	UNDEVELOPED	YES	POTENTIAL TRAILS THROUGH WETLAND	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CEDAR POND	0 CEDAR POND RD	TRAILS	0.55	UNDEVELOPED	YES	POTENTIAL TRAILS THROUGH WETLAND	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CEDAR POND	0 CEDAR POND RD	TRAILS	5.18	UNDEVELOPED	YES	POTENTIAL TRAILS THROUGH WETLAND	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
PAHWAH POINT	0 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	0.06	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BENCHES	NO	SF	CON COM
PAHWAH POINT	0 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	11.69	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BENCHES	NO	SF, LWCF	CON COM
NAMEQUOIT	105 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	8.90	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
AREYS POND	12 PECK'S WY	TRAILS	2.54	GOOD	YES	INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS ON TRAIL	TRAILS	NO	CPA, LAND	CON COM
CRYSTAL LAKE	120 MONUMENT RD	BEACH/TRAILS	1.00	GOOD	YES	INCREASED PARKING FOR LAKE ACCES	STAIRS, BENCHES	NO	SF	CON COM
FISHERMEN'S LANDING	145 S ORLEANS RD	TRAILS	0.68	GOOD	YES	SMALL LANDING, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BOAT LAUNCH	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
BAKERS POND	148 BAKERS POND RD	TRAILS	5.80	GOOD	YES	WALKING TRAIL	SHORE ACCESS	NO	LAND	
PAHWAH POINT	159 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	0.07	GOOD	YES	NONE	TRAILS	NO	CR/OS	CON COM
AREYS POND	16 PECK'S WY	TRAILS	3.61	GOOD	YES	INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS ON TRAIL	TRAILS	NO	LB, LAND	CON COM

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
WINDOW ON THE COVE	76 MAIN ST	TRAILS	1.02	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BENCHES	NO	SF	CON COM
BAKER'S POND	80 BAKERS POND RD	TRAILS	15.00	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	SSHG, LAND	
BAKER'S POND	80 BAKERS POND RD	TRAILS	0.48	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	SSHG	
CHRISTIAN PROPERTY	80 PORTANIMICUT RD	TRAILS	7.85	OK	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	LB, LAND	CON COM
HOPKINS LANE BOG	93 HOPKINS LN	TRAILS	1.80	GOOD	YES	SMALL BOG PARCEL, NO RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAMSKAKET MARSH	20 BOAS DR	ADJACENT TO MARSH	0.50	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
AREYS POND	20 PECK'S WY	TRAILS	4.08	GOOD	YES	INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS ON TRAIL	TRAILS	NO	LB, LAND	CON COM
N/A	21 CAPT LINNELL RD	RESIDENTIAL AREA	0.50	UNDEVELOPED	N/A	SMALL WETLAND PARCEL, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
PUTNAM FARM	239 ROCK HARBOR RD	COMMUNITY GARDEN	14.20	GOOD	YES	INCREASED GARDEN PLOTS, WALKING TRAILS TO MARSH	GARDEN PLOTS	NO	DONATION, LAND	
N/A	251 ROCK HARBOR RD	BIKE TRAIL/PARKING	1.67	GOOD	YES	NONE	PARKING, BENCHES	NO	DONATION	
MEADOW ON THE COVE	29 S ORLEANS RD	PARK	1.40	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, SHORELINE ACCESS	WILDFLOWERS	NO	LB	CON COM
WINDMILL PARK	33 RT 6A	PARK	1.20	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	INTERPRATIVE DISPLAY	NO	SSHG	
HERRING BROOK	35 HERRING BROOK WY	TRAILS	0.23	UNDEVELOPED	YES	WETLAND PARCEL, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAMEQUOIT	35 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	20.31	GOOD	YES	TRAIL NETWORK	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAMEQUOIT	35 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	4.97	GOOD	YES	TRAIL NETWORK	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SPARROW PROPERTY	353 S ORLEANS RD	TRAILS	12.00	N/A	N/A	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	LB, LAND	
EARLE PROPERTY	389 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	8.68	UNDEVELOPED	YES	TRAIL NETWORK	TRAILS	NO	LB	
KENT'S POINT	39 KEZIAHS LN	TRAILS	27.70	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PARKING, KIOSKS	NO	SF	CON COM
SPARROW PROPERTY	58 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	5.96	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	CPA, LWCF, LAND	
TAR KILN	616 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	1.00	UNDEVELOPED	NO	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	SF	
N/A	620 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	9.50	UNDEVELOPED	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
HANNAH BEACH	NAUSET SPIT	N/A	1.00	UNDEVELOPED	YES	WETLAND, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
FLECK/TWININGS POND	22 TWININGS RD	TRAILS	1.86	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	CR/OCT	
MEADOW BOG POND	162 QUANSET RD	TRAILS	6.60	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	CONCOM	
N/A	0 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.11	N/A	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.04	N/A	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH, RESTROOMS, KIOSKS	35.00	GOOD	YES	PLANNED IMPROVEMENT UNDER NASUET BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	468.09	GOOD	YES	BARRIER BEACH, EXISTING ORV AREA, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.02	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.03	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET BEACH	239 BEACH RD	BEACH/DUNES	109.52	GOOD	YES	PLANNED IMPROVEMENT UNDER NASUET BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SOUTH BEACH	0 SOUTH BEACH	BEACH/LANDING	55.54	GOOD	YES	BARRIER BEACH, EXISTING ORV AREA, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	147 MAIN ST	BENCHES	0.25	GOOD	YES	NONE	HISTORIC DISPLAY	NO	NO GRANT USED	
TOWN COVE	1 RT 6A	BOAT LAUNCH/PARKING	0.50	OK	YES	REPAIRS NEEDED, TO INCLUDE BOATER PARKING AND ACCESS	BOAT LAUNCH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
TOWN REC. DEPT	139 MAIN ST	BUILDING	2.11	GOOD	YES	NONE	ADMIN ONLY	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 OLD COLONY WY	BUILDING	0.22	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
MEETINGHOUSE RD	166 MAIN ST	CEMETERY	0.24	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
MEETINGHOUSE RD	19 MEETINGHOUSE RD	CEMETERY	1.09	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
MEETINGHOUSE RD	15 MEETINGHOUSE RD	CEMETERY	0.73	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ORLEANS CEMETERY	144 MAIN ST	CEMETERY	2.50	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
METHODIST BURIAL GROUND	33 MAIN ST	CEMETERY	0.35	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
COMMUNITY CENTER	44 MAIN ST	BENCHES, RESTROOMS	0.25	GOOD	YES	POTENTIAL SMALL INDOOR RECREATION	INDOOR GAMES	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	5 COVE RD	PARKING	0.24	GOOD	YES	BENCHES IN PUBLIC PARKING LOT	PUBLIC PARKING	NO	NO GRANT USED	
WESTWINDS	72 TONSET RD	N/A	2.20	GOOD	YES	SHORE ACCESS, PARKING AREA OVERFLOW BEACH PARKING AND ACCESS	KAYAK ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
GAVIGAN COTTAGES	70 WILLIE ATWOOD RD	DUNES	0.91	GOOD	YES	NONE	BEACH PARKING	NO	LAND	
ORLEANS ELEM FIELDS	46 & 78 ELDREDGE PARK WY	FIELDS AND SKATE PARK	23.00	GOOD	YES	REORGANIZED FIELDS AND SUPPORT AMENITIES	PLAYGROUND S, FIELDS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL	125 MAIN ST	MEMORIAL	0.13	GOOD	YES	NONE	HISTORIC DISPLAY	NO	NO GRANT USED	
VETERAN'S MONUMENT	0 MONUMENT RD	MEMORIAL	0.23	GOOD	YES	NONE	HISTORIC DISPLAY	NO	NO GRANT USED	
VETERANS PARK	5 ACADEMY PL	MEMORIAL	0.29	GOOD	YES	NONE	WAR MEMORIAL	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 BRIAR SPRING RD	N/A	0.56	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 HERRING BROOK WY	N/A	0.12	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 BAY RIDGE LN	N/A	2.85	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
HIGHWAY ROAD	0 WEST RD	N/A	0.22	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
HIGHWAY ROAD	0 WEST RD	N/A	0.22	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
HIGHWAY ROAD	0 WEST RD	N/A	4.47	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
N/A	10 OVERLAND WY	N/A	1.55	N/A	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	20 OAK RIDGE LN	N/A	2.15	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	21 OAK RIDGE LN	N/A	1.11	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ORLEANS POLICE DEPT.	99 ELDREDGE PARK WY	N/A	1.32	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 AREYS LN	N/A	0.03	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 CLAYTON CR	N/A	0.20	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 HARWICH RD	N/A	0.05	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 HARWICH RD	N/A	0.09	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	0 LOCUST RD	N/A	0.05	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	110 CAPT LINNELL RD	N/A	0.54	UNDEVELOPED	NO	SMALL PLAYGROUND	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	115 HARWICH RD	N/A	0.21	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	140 HOPKINS LN	N/A	0.40	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	5 MISTY LN	N/A	0.79	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DEEP POND	567 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.30	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
TONSET & FREEMAN	7 FREEMAN LN	N/A	1.00	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	84 OLD COLONY WY	N/A	0.42	UNDEVELOPED	NO	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
PARKS & BEACHES	18 BAY RIDGE LN	OFFICES	3.00	GOOD	YES	FUTURE USE OF PARCEL IS UNDETERMINED	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
TOWN HALL	19 SCHOOL RD	OFFICES	6.51	GOOD	YES	EXISTING BALL FIELD, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BASEBALL FIELD	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CAPE COD RAIL TRAIL PARKING	10 OLD COLONY WY	PARKING	0.48	GOOD	OK	EXISTING PARKING, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	WATER, RESTROOMS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ELDREDGE PARK	80 ELDREDGE PARK WY	PLAYGROUND, FIELDS, COURTS	5.61	OK	YES	PARK RENOVATION IN 2026	PLAYGROUND	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET MIDDLE SCHOOL	70 S ORLEANS RD	SCHOOL	30.00	OK	YES	RECONFIGURATION OF FIELDS AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AMENITIES	FIELDS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SENIOR CENTER	150 ROCK HARBOR RD	SENIOR CENTER	6.20	GOOD	N/A	EXISTING PASSIVE RECREATION ON SITE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	REAR TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CC RAIL TRAIL	24 MAIN ST	TRAILS	4.37	GOOD	YES	NONE	ST RAILTRAIL	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CC RAIL TRAIL	243 ROCK HARBOR RD	TRAILS	2.14	GOOD	YES	NONE	ST RAIL TRAIL	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CC RAIL TRAIL	42 CANAL RD	TRAILS	0.89	GOOD	YES	NONE	ST RAIL TRAIL	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SMITH NECK	0 SMITH NECK RD	TRAILS	9.20	GOOD	YES	SOUTH END OF NAUSET BEACH PARKING LOT AS PART OF NAUSET BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SMITH NECK	0 SMITH NECK RD	TRAILS	20.00	GOOD	YES	ACCESS TO ORV TRAILS, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ROCK HARBOR MARINA	113 ROCK HARBOR RD	TRAILS	0.36	GOOD	YES	HARBOR PARK IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2026	BENCHES, PICNIC	NO	NO GRANT USED	

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
PRISCILLA LANDING	32 PRISCILLA RD	TRAILS	1.09	GOOD	YES	PARKING LOT IS IN RESOURCE AREA, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	SHORE ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
COVE RD LANDING	33 COVE RD	TRAILS	0.70	GOOD	YES	TOWN LANDING, PARKING, AND POSSIBLE PICNIC TABLES	BOAT LAUNCH, DOCK	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SNOW SHORE LANDING	36 SNOW SHORE RD	TRAILS	0.09	GOOD	YES	COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PUBLIC LANDING, POSSIBLE RESTROOMS	PUBLIC ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
MEETINGHOUSE POND LDG	69 BARLEY NECK RD	TRAILS	0.50	GOOD	YES	RESTROOMS AND BENCHES AT PUBLIC LANDING	PUBLIC ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
UNCLE HARVEYS POND LDG	75 POCHEM RD	TRAILS	0.95	OK	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE USE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	FR WATER ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
GIBSON LANDING	76 GIBSON RD	TRAILS	0.07	OK	YES	NONE	PUBLIC ACCESS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CC RAIL TRAIL	0 MAIN ST	TRAILS	5.60	GOOD	YES	NONE	ST RAIL TRAIL	NO	NO GRANT USED	
BAKER'S POND	102 BAKERS POND RD	TRAILS	0.10	GOOD	YES	NONE	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ROCK HARBOR MARINA	113-R ROCK HARBOR RD	TRAILS	5.26	N/A	N/A	DOCK ACCESS, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	PARKING, BENCHES	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CRYSTAL LAKE	118 MONUMENT RD	BEACH/ TRAILS	0.08	OK	YES	MAINTAIN ADA BOARDWALK	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CEDAR POND	46 CANAL RD	TRAILS	0.50	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
BAKER'S POND	81 BAKERS POND RD	TRAILS	2.40	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE USE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	24 SALTY RIDGE RD	BUILDING	0.80	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	25 OAK RIDGE LN	N/A	6.23	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	29 OVERLAND WY	BUILDING	14.18	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	34 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	0.61	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	36 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	1.31	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	38 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	1.91	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	4 OAK RIDGE LN	N/A	0.50	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	40 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	0.64	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ROCK HARBOR MARSH	42 ANCHOR DR	MARSH	2.69	UNDEVELOPED	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE USE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	42 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	0.61	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	43 LOTS HOLLOW RD	OFFICES	1.77	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
ROCK HARBOR	46 ANCHOR DR	OFFICES	2.53	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE USE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	46 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	0.53	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	52 GIDDIAH HILL RD	OFFICES	1.25	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	56 LOTS HOLLOW RD	OFFICES	16.50	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DPW	56 LOTS HOLLOW RD	OFFICES	3.50	GOOD	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
CC RAIL TRAIL	60 LOCUST RD	TRAILS	0.44	GOOD	YES	NONE	NO	NO	NO GRANT USED	
VILLAGE GREEN	60 MAIN ST	OPEN LAWN	0.93	GOOD	YES	STAGE FOR EVENTS	SEASONAL COMMUNITY EVENTS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
SNOW LIBRARY	67 MAIN ST	BENCHES, OPEN LAWN	1.98	GOOD	YES	OUTDOOR GAME OR PERFORMANCE SPACE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
DOANE RD LANDING	26 DOANE RD	TRAILS	1.35	GOOD	YES	SHORELINE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS, KAYAK RACK	BENCH, SHORE ACC	NO	NO GRANT USED	

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	CURRENT USE	ACRES	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	EXISTING AMENITIES	APR	GRANT	MANAGED BY
N/A	14 SALTY RIDGE RD	N/A	0.67	UNDEVELOPED	YES	EXISTING BIKE PATH AND PARKING, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BIKE PATH AND PARKING	NO	NO GRANT USED	
WILDFLOWER LANE ACCESS	17 WILDFLOWER LN	TRAILS	1.90	OK	YES	OVERFLOW PARKING FOR SKAKET BEACH	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	170 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.80	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	18 OLD WEST RD	N/A	0.05	N/A	N/A	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	19 BARLEY NECK RD	N/A	0.54	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	190 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	1.84	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	199 RT 6A	N/A	0.08	N/A	N/A	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
BAKER'S POND	20 HINKLE LN	TRAILS	1.17	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	SMALL TRAIL TO POND	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	200 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.46	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	208 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.46	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	210 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.23	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	3 SPARROW LN	RESIDENCE	0.92	N/A	NO	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAMSKAKET MARSH	31 FRANZ RD	SALT MARSH/ TRAILS	0.20	GOOD	YES	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	35 ROCK HARBOR RD	RESIDENCE	0.07	N/A	NO	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
KETTLE POND	4 KETTLE POND WY	N/A	0.67	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
N/A	4 OLD COLONY WY	PARKING	0.41	OK	YES	EXISTING BIKE PATH PARKING, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	BIKE PATH PARKING	NO	NO GRANT USED	
S ORLEANS PARK	411 S ORLEANS RD	N/A	0.96	GOOD	YES	SMALL PLAYGROUND	NONE	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAUSET OUTER BEACH	196 POCHET RD	TRAILS	105.00	GOOD	YES	BARRIER BEACH, EXISTING ORV, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
RICHARDSON FAMILY FARM	30 ROCK HARBOR RD	N/A	0.66	UNDEVELOPED	YES	NONE	NA	YES	NO GRANT USED	
CEDAR POND	18 CEDAR POND RD	TRAILS	2.00	GOOD	YES	WETLAND, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
NAMSKAKET MEADOW ON THE COVE	18 SEA BREEZE LN	SALT MARSH/ TRAILS	6.60	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	NO GRANT USED	
	31 S ORLEANS RD	TRAILS	1.00	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, POTENTIAL SHORELINE ACCESS	BENCH, PICNIC	NO	NO GRANT USED	CON COM
CEDAR POND	6 CEDAR POND RD	TRAILS	0.60	GOOD	YES	TRAILS THROUGH WETLAND	NA	NO	NO GRANT USED	
JOHN KENRICK WOODS	61 NAMEQUOIT RD	TRAILS	1.96	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	CPA/ DONATION	CON COM
CHRISTIAN PROPERTY	66 PORTANIMICUT RD	TRAILS	1.44	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	INTERP DISPLAY, TRAILS	NO	SF	CON COM
TWINING POND	70 LAKE DR	TRAILS	7.34	GOOD	YES	EXISTING PASSIVE, NO NEW RECREATION POTENTIAL	TRAILS	NO	LAND	
NAUSET BEACH	0 NAUSET BEACH	BEACH/TRAILS	0.01	GOOD	YES	NONE	PUBLIC BEACH	NO	NO GRANT USED	

ABBREVIATIONS:
 SPG= SEA PATH GRANT FROM STATE
 SSHG= STATE SELF HELP GRANT
 LB=LAND BANK
 SF=SIMPLE FEE
 CR=CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS
 CPA=COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT
 CON COM: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

B. PUBLIC PROPERTIES PROVIDING CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AMENITIES, BUT NOT HELD BY MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION OR RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

In addition to town-owned land, Orleans is home to a variety of open space and recreation properties managed by federal and state agencies, other municipal departments, and nonprofit conservation organizations. These lands contribute significantly to the town's overall green space network and serve a range of conservation and public access purposes. This inventory includes properties such as state parks, wildlife management areas, and land trust holdings that support both environmental protection and recreational use.

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	CATEGORY	CURRENT USE	ACRES	TYPE
N/A	0 OFF WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	N/A	0.24	COMM OF MA
ROCK HARBOR	0 ROCK HARBOR RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	0.33	COMM OF MA
ROCK HARBOR	0 ROCK HARBOR RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	0.23	COMM OF MA
ROCK HARBOR	0 ROCK HARBOR RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	0.38	COMM OF MA
N/A	0 RT 6A	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	N/A	0.33	COMM OF MA
N/A	0 S ORLEANS RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	18-HOLE GOLF COURSE	0.30	COMM OF MA
N/A	0 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	N/A	0.12	COMM OF MA
BAKERS POND	103 BAKERS POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	0.74	COMM OF MA
BAKERS POND	110 BAKERS POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	0.19	COMM OF MA
N/A	16 OLD WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	N/A	0.70	COMM OF MA
N/A	192 RT 6A	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	N/A	0.74	COMM OF MA
N/A	202 S ORLEANS RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	0.46	COMM OF MA
SKAKET BEACH	26 SKAKET BEACH RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	BEACH	0.53	COMM OF MA
ROCK HARBOR	30 ROCK HARBOR RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	TRAILS	1.48	COMM OF MA
N/A	353 S ORLEANS RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	RESIDENCE	0.23	COMM OF MA
N/A	38 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	0.95	COMM OF MA
N/A	44 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	0.65	COMM OF MA
SKAKET BEACH	50 SKAKET BEACH RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	BEACH	0.91	COMM OF MA
N/A	53 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	0.24	COMM OF MA
N/A	6 NAMEQUOIT RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	0.92	COMM OF MA
SKAKET BEACH	64 WILLIE ATWOOD RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	BEACH	1.00	COMM OF MA
N/A	76 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	1.95	COMM OF MA
N/A	78 WEST RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	UNDEVELOPED	2.41	COMM OF MA
SKAKET BEACH	84 SKAKET BEACH RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	STATE	BEACH	0.30	COMM OF MA
N/A	0 ASPINET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	N/A	0.85	FEDERAL
N/A	0 ASPINET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	RESIDENCE	0.44	FEDERAL
N/A	0 NAUSET HTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	RESIDENCE	0.32	FEDERAL
N/A	0 NAUSET HTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	RESIDENCE	0.26	FEDERAL
N/A	0 NAUSET HTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	RESIDENCE	0.49	FEDERAL
N/A	0 NAUSET HTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	RESIDENCE	0.12	FEDERAL
N/A	0 SMITH NECK RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	UNDEVELOPED	0.98	FEDERAL
N/A	0 STAGE FLATS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	N/A	66.34	FEDERAL
STONY ISLAND	0 STONY ISLAND WY	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	CONSERVATION	0.98	FEDERAL
N/A	0 TIDAL MARSH	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	CONSERVATION	9.00	FEDERAL
N/A	0 TIDAL MARSH	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	CONSERVATION	1.50	FEDERAL

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	CATEGORY	CURRENT USE	ACRES	TYPE
NAUSET BEACH	1 INLET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	BEACH	0.72	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	15 SURF PATH	UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL	BEACH/DUNES	0.47	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	226 BEACH RD	UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL	BEACH/DUNES	1.94	FEDERAL
SMITH NECK	24 SMITH NECK RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	MARSHES	10.30	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	25 ASPINET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	BEACH/DUNES	0.45	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	28 HUBLER LN	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	TRAILS	0.66	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	3 INLET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	CONSERVATION	1.14	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	30 HUBLER LN	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	TRAILS	0.47	FEDERAL
INLET ROAD	32 ASPINET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	N/A	0.43	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	34 HUBLER LN	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	TRAILS	0.87	FEDERAL
N/A	40 ASPINET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	UNDEVELOPED	0.44	FEDERAL
INLET ROAD	5 INLET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	N/A	0.76	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	55 NAUSET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	BEACH/DUNES	10.66	FEDERAL
INLET ROAD	7 INLET RD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FEDERAL	N/A	0.89	FEDERAL
NAUSET BEACH	7 SURF PATH	UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL	BEACH/DUNES	2.28	FEDERAL
SAMPSON ISLAND	0 SAMPSON ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	127.50	OTHER OS
HOG ISLAND MEADOW	1 HOG ISLAND MEADOW	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS TRS ET AL	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	48.74	OTHER OS
POCHET ISLAND	1 POUCHET ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	184.12	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	10 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	6.68	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	26 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	1.33	OTHER OS
ROCK HARBOR	261 ROCK HARBOR RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	4.23	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	30 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.83	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	36 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.58	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	40 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUSTS, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.09	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	48 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.08	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	50 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.08	OTHER OS
SIPSON ISLAND	54 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	1.26	OTHER OS
CLIFF POND	62 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	2.20	OTHER OS
CLIFF POND	66 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	0.90	OTHER OS
CLIFF POND	68 CLIFF POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	CONSERVATION	0.10	OTHER OS
N/A	2 INDIAN FORT HILL LN	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	6.50	WATERSHED
N/A	32 LOTS HOLLOW RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	3.88	WATERSHED
N/A	33 PORTANIMICUT RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	4.00	WATERSHED
N/A	340 S ORLEANS RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	3.91	WATERSHED
N/A	350 S ORLEANS RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	450.00	WATERSHED
N/A	360 S ORLEANS RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	6.91	WATERSHED
N/A	56 QUANSET RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	3.84	WATERSHED
N/A	60 QUANSET RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	11.48	WATERSHED
N/A	70 QUANSET RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS/ BWSC	PUBLIC WATERSHED	FACILITY	13.67	WATERSHED

ABBREVIATIONS:

BWSC= BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

USE_CODE	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	PROPERTY NAME/USE	OPEN_SPACE_CAT	ACRES
9500	0 OFF KEZIAH'S LANE	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.42
9500	0 POCHET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	8.95
9500	0 POCHET RD OFF OF	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.99
9500	0 POCHET RD OFF OF	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.20
9500	0 SKYMEADOW DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.70
9500	0 WHIPPOORWILL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.69
9500	1 BRADDOCK'S WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.23
9500	1 OLD HORSE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.62
9500	1 SARAHS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.20
9500	10 BITTERSWEET CARTWAY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.14
9500	10 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.00
9500	10 HORSESHOE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.91
9500	10 MIZZENTOP LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	5.19
9500	10 OLIVERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.13
9500	10 SARAHS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.96
9500	10 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.50
9500	109 PORTANIMICUT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.92
9500	109 PORTANIMICUT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.92
9500	11 DRUMMOND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.60
9500	11 LOVELL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.76
9500	11 MINISTERS PRIM	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.87
9500	11 MIZZENTOP LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.97
9500	11 OLIVERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.85
9500	11 PRENCE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.38
9500	11 STURBRIDGE DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.91
9500	12 HARVEYS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.34
9500	12 MARSH LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.93
9500	12 OLD HORSE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.50
9500	120 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.38
9500	124 AREYS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.60
9500	124 POCHET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.22
9500	124 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.79
9500	13 CAPT LINNELL RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.34
9500	13 CHAMPLAIN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	11.20
9500	130 SKAKET BEACH RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.69
9500	135 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	16.00
9500	14 DUCK FARM LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.49
9500	14 HARVEYS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.37
9500	14 SEA BREEZE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.47
9500	14 SMITH NECK RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.49
9500	140 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	7.25
9500	145 RT 6A	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.09
9500	15 BLOSSOM LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.25
9500	15 CAMP RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.93
9500	15 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.94
9500	15 HENSONS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.60
9500	15 LOVELL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.64
9500	15 OFF DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	5.54

USE CODE	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	PROPERTY NAME/USE	OPEN SPACE_CAT	ACRES
9500	15 SHORE VIEW DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.91
9500	15 SIBSIE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.55
9500	15 SPARROWHAWK RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	20.00
9500	16 OLIVERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.90
9500	16 TOMS HOLLOW LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.40
9500	16 UNCLE JIMS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.50
9500	160 NAMEQUOIT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	22.30
9500	162 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.70
9500	162 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.90
9500	162 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	4.00
9500	17 HENSONS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.96
9500	17 LOVELL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.62
9500	17 LOVELL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.53
9500	172 BRICK HILL RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.21
9500	173 ROCK HARBOR RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.95
9500	174 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.80
9500	176 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.10
9500	18 GREYMOOR WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.46
9500	18 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.16
9500	19 SIBSIE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.38
9500	198 POCHET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	8.81
9500	2 BRADDOCKS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.42
9500	2 HORSESHOE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.96
9500	2 LITTLE SIPSON ISLAND	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	4.60
9500	2 OLD HORSE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.47
9500	2 SARAHS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.70
9500	20 BLUE ROCK RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.80
9500	20 CHAMPLAIN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.96
9500	20 CHENEY RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.17
9500	20 CRESCENT RIDGE	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.92
9500	20 LAKE FARM LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	7.23
9500	20 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.86
9500	20 SKAKET BEACH RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	6.08
9500	20 UNCLE JIMS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.06
9500	201 BARLEY NECK RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.88
9500	214 BRICK HILL RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.71
9500	22 CHAMPLAIN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.76
9500	22 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.65
9500	22 HENSONS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.23
9500	22 RICHWOOD FARM LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.07
9500	22 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.86
9500	23 HORSESHOE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.34
9500	23 SIBSIE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.61
9500	245 TONSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	7.05
9500	25 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.98

USE_CODE	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	PROPERTY NAME/USE	OPEN SPACE_CAT	ACRES
9500	25 FOX RIDGE DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.17
9500	25 GREAT OAK RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.80
9500	25 SIBSIE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.74
9500	267-A TONSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.14
9500	26-A TIDES END LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.31
9500	27 COUNTRY CROSSING	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.77
9500	27 MALLARD DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	5.44
9500	29 BLUEBERRY ISLAND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	51.30
9500	3 APPLE WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.61
9500	3 BRADDOCKS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.71
9500	3 OLIVERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.95
9500	3 RIPPLE COVE CR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.58
9500	32 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.91
9500	33 ELI ROGERS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.22
9500	33 NICHOLS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.91
9500	33 PINE RIDGE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	8.69
9500	33 WHITES LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	7.39
9500	366 TONSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.33
9500	37 LOOMIS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.56
9500	37 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	1.30
9500	4 OFF DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.80
9500	40 CAPT CURTIS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.56
9500	43 CAPT LINNELL RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.49
9500	43 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	10.12
9500	45 FREEMAN LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.11
9500	45 HAYWARD LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.53
9500	45 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	8.70
9500	47 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.50
9500	48 MILL POND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.70
9500	5 BAKERS POND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.43
9500	5 LOVELL LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.58
9500	5 MORGANS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.44
9500	5 STONY ISLAND WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.36
9500	50 MILL POND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.01
9500	50 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.21
9500	50 POCHE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.73
9500	51 MILL POND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.01
9500	51 MILL POND RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.43
9500	51 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.05
9500	51 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	1.30
9500	531 S ORLEANS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.42
9500	55 GRANDVIEW DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.69
9500	57 WILLIE ATWOOD RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.99

USE CODE	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	PROPERTY NAME/USE	OPEN SPACE_CAT	ACRES
9500	59 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.15
9500	6 GRASSY KNOLL WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.31
9500	6 MINER LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.64
9500	6 PORTSIDE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	1.20
9500	60 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.55
9500	61 CHAMPLAIN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.42
9500	61 OLD DUCK HOLE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.95
9500	61 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.95
9500	62 PAYSON LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.84
9500	64 CAPT CURTIS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.11
9500	64 PORTANIMICUT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.37
9500	65 OLD DUCK HOLE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.72
9500	65 VIKING RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	FOREST	Private Land Trust	1.87
9500	67 PORTANIMICUT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	4.84
9500	68 OLD DUCK HOLE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.93
9500	68 PORTANIMICUT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.84
9500	7 KNOWLES WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	8.00
9500	7 MARINERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.90
9500	7 MORNINGSIDE CR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.66
9500	7 OLIVERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.91
9500	71 ROCK HARBOR RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.00
9500	72 CHAMPLAIN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.14
9500	74 MONUMENT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.80
9500	75 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.31
9500	75 OLD DUCK HOLE RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.70
9500	76 TAR KILN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	4.20
9500	8 DYLAN WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.66
9500	8 MARINERS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.35
9500	8 NAUSET KNOLLS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.95
9500	9 CYGNET WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.49
9500	9 DAVIS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.96
9500	9 SARAHS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.30
9500	9 SHORE VIEW DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.20
9500	9 SHORE VIEW DR	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	8.20
9500	9 SIBSIE LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	0.76
9500	9 UNCLE HEDLEYS WY	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	2.27
9500	90 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.26
9500	94 MONUMENT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.77
9500	97 NAMEQUOIT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	3.29
9500	97 TAR KILN RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST		Private Land Trust	1.16
9500	261 ROCK HARBOR RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC		Private Land Trust	4.23
9500	62 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC		Private Land Trust	2.20
9500	66 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC		Private Land Trust	0.90
1010	20 SIPSON ISLAND	NADLER RICHARD & CHERYL L TRS		Private Land Trust	2.27
9500	4 BRADDOCKS WY	COMPACT OF CAPE COD CONSEV TR		Private Land Trust	3.74
9100	68 CLIFF POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DEPT. CONSERVATION & REC	Private Land Trust	0.10
8030	1 HOG ISLAND MEADOW	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS TRS ET AL		Private Land Trust	48.74
8030	0 SAMPSON ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL		Private Land Trust	127.50

C. PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PARCELS

This section includes lands that contribute to Orleans' network of open space through permanent or temporary protection. These may include parcels protected by Conservation Restrictions (CRs), as well as lands enrolled in Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B programs. It also includes large institutional or corporate properties that provide recreational access to the public.

CHAPTER LANDS	NUMBER OF PARCELS	ACREAGE
CHAPTER 61 FARM	5	31.68
CHAPTER 61 FOREST	1	11.8
CHAPTER 61 OS/REC	71	431.61
TOTALS	77	475.09
<i>NOTE: Many of these are often over already protected Open Space</i>		

LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	USE	TYPE	ACRES	CRS	CHAPTER
46 TAR KILN RD	NORGEOT JEFFREY A & GRETAL A	FARM	CHAPTER	8.53		CHAPTER 61 FARM
40 BAKERS POND RD	FLYNN ALISON & WILKINSON SETH	FARM	CHAPTER	8.63		CHAPTER 61 FARM
10 WILDFLOWER LN	BUCKLEY CARTER Y & LUCY PARISI	FARM	CHAPTER	8.10		CHAPTER 61 FARM
30 ROCK HARBOR RD	RICHARDSON FAMILY FARM LLC	HIGHWAY ROAD	CHAPTER	0.72		CHAPTER 61 FARM
40 ROCK HARBOR RD	RICHARDSON FAMILY FARM LLC	FARM	CHAPTER	5.70		CHAPTER 61 FARM
33 SNOW SHORE RD	THIBAUT FAITH B		CHAPTER	11.80		CHAPTER 61 FOREST
178 QUANSET RD	CARTER PETER H TRS ET AL	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	8.45		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
70 PAYSON LN	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL		CHAPTER	5.53		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
111 DAVIS RD	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	11.40		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
80 TOMS HOLLOW LN	80 TOMS HOLLOW LANE LLC		CHAPTER	8.70		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
110 PORTANIMICUT RD	HEYELMAN RACHIA F	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	5.90		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
119 PORTANIMICUT RD	HEYELMAN RACHIA F		CHAPTER	5.00		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
128 PORTANIMICUT RD	HEYELMAN RACHIA F		CHAPTER	0.47		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
6 THELMAS WY	HEYELMAN RACHIA F	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	2.50		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
178 QUANSET RD	CARTER PETER H TR ET AL	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	5.20		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
178 QUANSET RD	CARTER PETER H TR ET AL	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	2.10		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
178 QUANSET RD	CARTER PETER H TR ET AL	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	2.40		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
178 QUANSET RD	CARTER PETER H TR ET AL	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	0.30		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
86 PAYSON LN	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL		CHAPTER	10.30		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
111 DAVIS RD	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	OPEN SPACE	CHAPTER	3.00		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
1 POCHET ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL		PRIVATE LAND TRUS	184.12		CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
1 HOG ISLAND MEADOW	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS TRS ET AL		PRIVATE LAND TRUS	48.74	FED CR	CHAPTER 61 OS/REC
0 SAMPSON ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL		PRIVATE LAND TRUS	127.50	FED CR	CHAPTER 61 OS/REC

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS OVER LANDS	NUMBER OF PARCELS	FULL LOT ACREAGE	NUMBER OF PARTIAL PARCELS	PARTIAL LOT ACREAGE	TOTAL ACREAGE
FEDERAL	2	176.24	3	228.08	404.32
ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST (OCT)	33	107.92	32	50.88	158.80
OTHER	1	2.27	0	0.00	2.27
TOWN	7	36.64	6	22.22	58.86
TOTAL	43	323.07	41	301.17	624.24
<i>NOTE: CR's are often over already protected Open Space (with the exception of the 61.77 acres in the OS Type Summary)</i>					

LOCATION	OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT	OPEN SPACE_CAT	ACRES	USE	CRS
1 HOG ISLAND MEADOW	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS TRS ET AL	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	48.74	TRAILS	FED CR
0 SAMPSON ISLAND	BARRINGTON DOUGLAS S TRS ET AL	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	127.50	TRAILS	FED CR
15 SONGBIRD CR	SONGBIRD CIR HOMEOWNERS ASSN	CR	1.99	TRAILS	OCT CR
35 KEZIAHS LN	SIGSBEE ANNE TR & NEWCOMB CECIL	CR	2.58	TRAILS	OCT CR
169 BARLEY NECK RD	NOERDLINGER ELIZABETH & MAYO A	CR	1.20	TRAILS	OCT CR
171 BARLEY NECK RD	NOERDLINGER ELIZABETH & MAYO A	CR	1.91	TRAILS	OCT CR
45 OLD FIELD RD	NICHOLS ARTHUR B IV ET AL	CR	15.96	TRAILS	OCT CR
155 DUNLUKIN LN	NEILL STANLEY E JR	CR	9.80	TRAILS	OCT CR
21 BRADFORD RD	MORROW FRANK & MARGARET A TRS	CR	0.64	TRAILS	OCT CR
23 BRADFORD RD	MORROW FRANK & MARGARET A TRS	CR	0.47	TRAILS	OCT CR
40 FERNWOOD DR	JOHNSON ELEANOR R ET ALI TRS	CR	4.83	TRAILS	OCT CR
175 BARLEY NECK RD	BRINKMERE HOLDINGS LLC	CR	2.76	TRAILS	OCT CR
63 TIDES END LN	BENTLEY ELIZABETH S TRUSTEE	CR	2.90	TRAILS	OCT CR
64 MILL POND RD	MARTIN ROGER H & HOPKINS STAR TR	CR	1.42	TRAILS	OCT CR
67 TIDES END LN	BENTLEY ELIZABETH S TRUSTEE	CR	1.83	TRAILS	OCT CR
9 WESTON TAYLORS LN	BRINKMERE HOLDINGS LLC	CR	0.94	TRAILS	OCT CR
100 MARGARETS WY	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	CR	1.20	TRAILS	OCT CR
30 HORSESHOE LN	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	CR	1.80	TRAILS	OCT CR
34 HORSESHOE LN	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	CR	3.60	TRAILS	OCT CR
40 HORSESHOE LN	BANCROFT KATHARINE ET ALI TRS	CR	2.20	TRAILS	OCT CR
12 PECK'S WY	TOWN OF ORLEANS	ORLEANS CONSERVATION	2.54	TRAILS	OCT CR
35 NAMEQUOIT RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS	ORLEANS CONSERVATION	20.31	TRAILS	OCT CR
66 PORTANIMICUT RD	TOWN OF ORLEANS	ORLEANS CONSERVATION	1.44	TRAILS	OCT CR
24 TWININGS LN	HENDERSON ANN FLECK	PRIVATE	1.48	TRAILS	OCT CR
40 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUSTS, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.09	TRAILS	OCT CR
30 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.83	TRAILS	OCT CR
36 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.58	TRAILS	OCT CR
48 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.08	TRAILS	OCT CR
50 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.08	TRAILS	OCT CR
54 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST, INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	1.26	TRAILS	OCT CR
10 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	6.68	TRAILS	OCT CR
26 SIPSON ISLAND	SIPSON ISLAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	1.33	TRAILS	OCT CR
62 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.20	TRAILS	OCT CR
66 CLIFF POND RD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	0.90	TRAILS	OCT CR
68 CLIFF POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	0.10	TRAILS	OCT CR
20 SIPSON ISLAND	NADLER RICHARD & CHERYL L TRS	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.27	TRAILS	OTHER CR
10 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	1.50	TRAILS	TOWN CR
160 NAMEQUOIT RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	22.30	TRAILS	TOWN CR
162 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	3.70	TRAILS	TOWN CR
162 QUANSET RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	2.90	TRAILS	TOWN CR
18 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	1.16	TRAILS	TOWN CR
22 TWININGS LN	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	1.86	TRAILS	TOWN CR
33 ELI ROGERS RD	ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST	PRIVATE LAND TRUST	3.22	TRAILS	TOWN CR

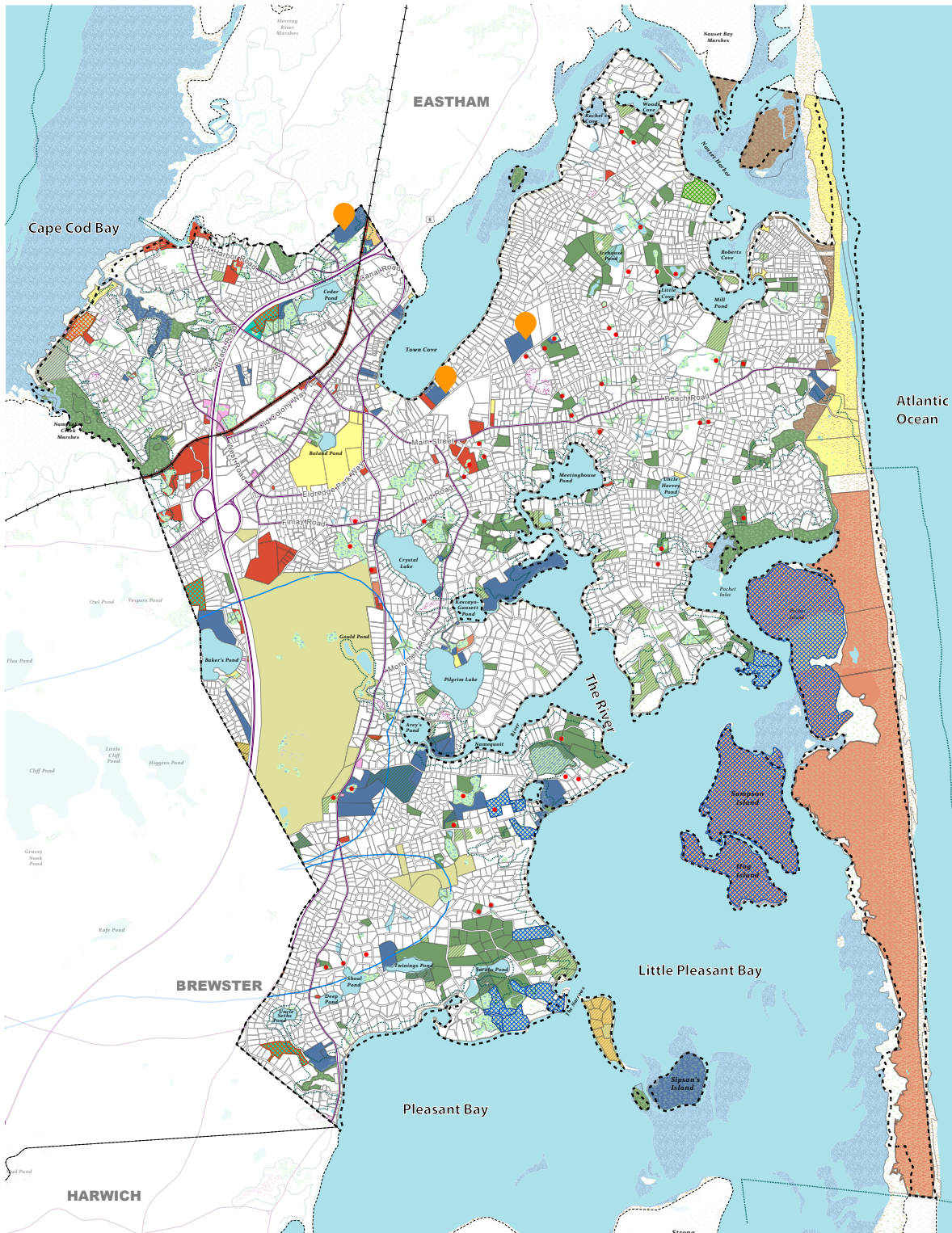
D. PARK AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY

Ensuring fair and equitable access to parks and open spaces for all Orleans residents is a central focus of this plan. Particular attention is given to identifying Environmental Justice (EJ) populations who may face barriers to accessing nearby or high-quality recreational resources. By prioritizing inclusive planning and meaningful community engagement, the town can work toward reducing disparities and enhancing the quality of life for all residents, especially those in historically underserved areas.

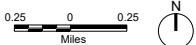
Open spaces in Orleans are relatively well-distributed across the town, despite land typically being acquired opportunistically as it becomes available. This even distribution reflects the town's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and equitable access. It also underscores a proactive approach to ensuring that public open spaces are available throughout the community, rather than being concentrated in specific neighborhoods.

Fortunately, the Environmental Justice (EJ) area of Orleans encompasses valuable recreational assets such as Eldredge Park, the Cape Cod Rail Trail, the Orleans Community Center, and local school fields and playgrounds—all of which are publicly accessible during designated times. These spaces are essential for promoting the health and well-being of the community and should be prioritized for ongoing investment, maintenance, and inclusive design. Enhancing connectivity through pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, ensuring safety, and eliminating financial barriers to access are critical steps toward advancing equity. Actively involving EJ residents in the planning and stewardship of these spaces will further enhance their cultural relevance, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability.

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP



LEGEND



- Orleans Town Boundary
- Other Town Boundaries
- ++++ Railroad
- MassDOT Road
- ACEC
- Town of Orleans Tax Parcels
- DEP Approved Protection Zone II

- ### DEP Wetlands
- Salt Marsh
 - Wooded Marsh
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Marsh/Bog
 - Open Water
 - Tidal Flats
 - Beach/Dune

- ### Town Lands
- Town Open Space/Conservation
 - General Municipal
 - Conservation and Recreation
 - Recreation
 - Public Watershed
 - APR Land*

- ### Other Lands
- OCT Open Space
 - COMM of MA
 - Federal Land
 - Other Open Space

- ### Conservation Restrictions
- Town CR
 - OCT CR
 - Federal CR
 - Other CR

- ### Chapter 61 Lands
- Farm
 - OS/REC
 - Forest
- ### Special Features
- Community Gardens
 - Vernal Pool

*Land protected under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction



Window on the Cove

SECTION 6.

COMMUNITY VISION

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

A crucial component of the planning process for the 2025 OSRP update was to ensure that feedback collected through public engagement was reflected throughout this plan. Engagement was tailored to how Orleans residents wanted to be engaged, which began with an online survey followed by an open community workshop event to gather a range of perspectives. This mix of engagement methods resulted in many new and interesting themes, needs and priorities which were used to develop Orleans' goals, objectives, and action items. Alongside feedback collected from the public, site analyses conducted by Weston & Sampson and Town staff highlighted areas for improvements that contributed to the development of the goals, objectives, and action items. Outcomes from the site analyses are described in detail in Section 7: Analysis of Needs.

Feedback from various boards and commissions has also informed this plan update. A draft version was posted on the Town’s website and shared with select boards and committees for review. In addition, the draft was submitted to the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) for comment. All feedback received from these groups has been incorporated into the final plan. Additional details on this process are provided in Section 2: Introduction.

B. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

The 2025 OSRP update reflects priorities identified through extensive community engagement. Residents consistently emphasized the need to protect Orleans’ open spaces and waterfronts, enhance and maintain existing recreational areas, and expand access to year-round programming for all ages. In response to this input, the Town’s vision centers on preserving, maintaining, and expanding its open spaces, conservation lands, and ecological resources.

Orleans is dedicated to offering inclusive, multi-generational recreational opportunities that improve quality of life while supporting long-term conservation efforts. This community-informed vision forms the foundation for the goals and objectives presented in Section 8.



Kent's Point

SECTION 7.

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. SUMMARY OF RESOURCES PROTECTION

Recognizing the value of its natural resources, the Town of Orleans has prioritized preserving environmentally sensitive land. In the late 1980s, the Town launched a major land acquisition effort, targeting key parcels for protection. While this slowed in the early 1990s due to the economic downturn, rising development pressure in the late 1990s—along with the creation of the Cape Cod Land Bank (1998)—renewed interest and provided new funding tools for land conservation.

1. ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

Since the 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), the Town of Orleans—through the collaboration of the Open Space Committee and Select Board—has developed and maintained a set of nine criteria to guide decisions about land protection. These priorities have been reaffirmed in the 2010 and 2017 OSRPs and continue to serve as the foundation for evaluating the value and function of open space throughout the community.

Open Space Evaluation Priorities

- Water protection areas – wellfields, aquifers, recharge zones (e.g., Baker’s Pond)
- Coastal lands – ocean/pond frontage, dunes, and beaches
- Wildlife habitats – especially those for rare or threatened species
- Scenic vistas and cultural landscapes
- Trails – for walking and biking
- Recreation potential – both passive (e.g., nature walks) and active (e.g., sports)
- Wetlands
- Forest lands
- Agricultural lands

Open Space Protection Techniques

In addition to buying land outright (fee acquisition), the Town and conservation partners use a variety of strategies, including:

- Ownership-Based Techniques:
 - Donation (immediate or over time)
 - Purchase (including friendly sales, bargain sales, or by eminent domain)
 - Bequests (through wills)
 - Tax title transfers (through foreclosure)
- Partial Ownership/Use Rights:
 - Access Easements
 - Conservation Restrictions
 - Leases
 - Reserved Life Estates
 - Options / Rights of First Refusal
- Tax Incentive Programs:
 - Chapter 61 / 61A / 61B – for forest, farm, or recreational lands
 - Chapter 797 (1979) – allows reduced property tax rates for undeveloped land

Assessing a Parcel for Protection

When considering how to protect a specific parcel, the Town evaluates the following factors:

- Community needs
 - Is the parcel better suited for active public use (e.g., a park or beach) or passive resource protection (e.g., a wetland or wildlife habitat)?
 - Is the land needed immediately, or can its protection be deferred?
 - Are funding sources available—such as donations, grants, or town appropriations?
 - Does the parcel improve access to open space for Environmental Justice populations or underserved communities?
- Landowner Needs:
 - What are the landowner’s priorities—tax benefits, continued privacy, or immediate financial return?
 - Is the landowner supportive of conservation efforts or open space protection?
- Parcel Considerations:
 - Is the parcel large enough to provide meaningful resource protection or connectivity to other open space?
 - Is acquisition of the entire parcel necessary, or would protecting a portion be sufficient?
- Development Pressure:
 - Is the parcel likely to remain available in the future?
 - Is rising development likely to increase its cost beyond the Town’s means?
 - Can tax incentives be used to reduce development pressure?
- Management Feasibility
 - Can the Town or a conservation organization manage the property more effectively than the current owner?
 - Does the Town have the financial and technical capacity to maintain the land appropriately?

In general, parcels intended for active use—such as parks, swimming beaches, or recreational facilities—should be publicly owned to ensure appropriate access and manage liability. In contrast, parcels designated for passive use or resource protection may not require full public ownership, as conservation goals can often be achieved through alternative means such as easements or restrictions.

2. CATALOGUE OF METHODS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

A. FEE ACQUISITION

Donation (outright gift of land)

A landowner can donate full ownership (fee simple title) of their land to the Town or a land trust like the Orleans Conservation Trust.

Benefits to the donor:

- No more property taxes on the land
- May qualify for federal income tax deductions equal to the appraised value.
- No capital gains, broker's fees, or gift taxes.
- The donor can place restrictions on how the land is used (e.g., no motor vehicles), though this might reduce the appraised value.
- Donating in phases or partial interests can spread out tax benefits over multiple years.

For the Town or land trust:

- Donations are the simplest and most affordable way to acquire land.
- Before accepting, the land should undergo a title exam and hazardous waste check.
- For towns, the deed should specify use under M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8C, ensuring it's protected as conservation land.
- Town Meeting must approve these gifts (unless accepted by the Conservation Commission, in which case Select Board approval is sufficient).
- Donations to private land trusts do not require Town approval

Purchase

The Town or a land trust may choose to purchase the fee simple title to a property, provided that funding is available. The length of time necessary to complete the transaction depends on negotiations, title research, appraisals and Town Meeting scheduling. Town Meeting must approve the purchase by a two-thirds majority and, if bonds are issued, a simple majority of a town-wide election is needed to exempt the bonds from the tax levy limit (Proposition 2 1/2).

The Town also has the right to take a property for public purposes by eminent domain. Compensation in such cases is based a current appraisal. Landowners that feel aggrieved may sue for additional damage awards. Where negotiations for purchase of land critical to a public purpose are unsuccessful, eminent domain proceedings may be the only option.

Land purchases can also be structured in installments or at bargain prices to satisfy a landowner's tax needs. A bargain sale is one at a price below fair market value by at least 20 per cent. The difference between appraised value and the sale price should qualify as a tax-deductible gift, which can offset the landowner's capital gains tax on the sale.

Bequests (Gifts by Devise)

A bequest is when a landowner leaves property to the Town for public use in their will, to take effect after their death.

- This allows the landowner to use and enjoy the land during their lifetime.
- At death, the land is removed from the estate, reducing estate tax obligations.

Limitations:

- There are no income or property tax benefits during the owner's life.
- The Town does not get immediate access to the land.
- The landowner could change the will at any time before death, so the gift is not guaranteed.

Tax Title Transfers

Tax title properties are parcels that the Town acquires through foreclosure when property owners fail to pay their taxes (M.G.L. c. 60).

- Today, high land values make it less likely that owners will lose property this way.
- In the past, more properties were taken by the Town due to unpaid taxes.

Once the Town owns the land, it becomes general-purpose municipal property, usually managed by the Select Board. The Town can:

- Keep the land,
- Sell it with approval at Town Meeting, or
- Transfer it to another Town department for specific use.

For example, the Conservation Commission can request ownership of parcels with wetlands or ecological value. Towns like Barnstable and Wellfleet have regularly used this process to add land to their protected open space.

B. LESS-THAN-FEE ACQUISITION

Access Easements

Access easements are legal pathways that allow the public to pass through private land—similar to easements for driveways or utilities. These can connect open space parcels or provide scenic views.

- Some landowners worry about privacy or liability. However, Massachusetts law (M.G.L. c. 21, §17C) protects them from liability if

they allow public access without charging a fee.

- If the easement reduces the property's value, the Town may lower the property tax accordingly.
- All access easements granted to the Town must be approved by the Select Board.

Conservation Restrictions (M.G.L. c. 184, §§31–33)

These are voluntary, permanent agreements between a landowner and a conservation group or the Town that limit future development.

- Landowners keep ownership but agree to protect the land's natural, scenic, or historic value.
- Benefits include federal income tax deductions, estate tax savings, and reduced property taxes.
- All restrictions must be approved by the Select Board and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs.
- Since 1969, over 75 acres in Orleans have been preserved this way.
- The Town's 1990 policy allows for both permanent and temporary restrictions, with up to 90% property tax reductions for permanent ones.
- Some older agreements from the 1980s have since expired.
- The National Park Service also holds restrictions on 150 acres of land on Pochet Island.

Leasing Land for Open Space

The Town can lease private land for open space uses, like community gardens.

- Leases are flexible and can act as a trial run for more permanent arrangements.
- A positive experience may encourage a landowner to later donate or sell the land for conservation.
- Leases are recorded in the Registry of Deeds and continue until they expire—even if the land changes ownership.
- Land used for public purposes is usually exempt from property taxes, but no income or estate tax benefits are provided due to the temporary nature.

Remainder Interest/Reserved Life Estate

In this arrangement, a landowner gives or sells land to the Town but keeps the right to live on or use it during their lifetime.

- The Town becomes the future owner, while the current owner receives a charitable tax deduction based on the land's value minus the value of the retained life estate.
- The landowner still pays property taxes and maintenance until full ownership transfers.
- This option is especially useful for elderly landowners.
- Example: The Town acquired Kent's Point (27 acres) in 1988 using this method.

Options/Rights of First Refusal

Option to Purchase

- A formal agreement giving the Town or land trust the right (not obligation) to buy the land at a set price within a set time.
- Useful when funds need to be raised—it locks in a price and removes land from the market.
- Landowners receive no tax benefits, but some may prefer selling for conservation rather than development.

Right of First Refusal

- Gives the Town the first chance to buy the property if the owner decides to sell.
- Unlike an option, it does not set a price or timeline in advance.
- Offers no tax incentives, but shows the landowner's willingness to support community goals.

C. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Tax Incentives for Farms, Forests, and Recreation Land

Massachusetts laws Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B offer tax benefits for owners of open land used for farming, forestry, or recreation. These current use assessment programs allow land to be taxed based on how it's actually used, rather than its full market value (which in Orleans is often residential or commercial).

Like conservation restrictions, participation is voluntary and must be requested by the landowner. However, unlike conservation restrictions, these programs do not offer income or estate tax deductions.

To qualify, landowners must file an annual application, and the Town automatically gets the right of first refusal if the property is sold or converted to another use.

Program Requirements and Benefits:

- Chapter 61: At least 10 acres of forest with a state-approved management plan. Up to 95% tax reduction, plus a small fee on timber sales.
- Chapter 61A: At least 5 acres in active agricultural use, earning at least \$500/year. Tax reduction depends on the crop or product.
- Chapter 61B: At least 5 acres for public recreation or natural resource protection. Up to 75% tax reduction.

Landowners can leave the program at any time, though penalties apply when land is removed or converted to another use.

Incentive for Keeping Land Undeveloped

Chapter 797 of the Special Acts of 1979 allows the Select Board to tax open land at a rate up to 15% lower than developed residential land. The idea is that

developed land places a greater demand on municipal services and should therefore contribute more in taxes.

This program doesn't reduce the Town's overall tax revenue—it simply shifts more of the tax burden onto developed properties. One benefit is that it applies town-wide, automatically giving landowners a tax break for leaving land undeveloped, regardless of their intent.

However, the 15% reduction is modest compared to the larger tax savings available through other methods, like conservation restrictions.

D. PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Role of Land Trusts and Watershed Associations in Orleans

Private organizations like land trusts and watershed associations play a key role in protecting open space in Orleans. Though separate from town government, they often work toward the same conservation goals. Because they are charitable, tax-exempt organizations, they can offer landowners similar tax benefits to those the Town provides for land donations.

Land trusts, such as the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT), actively acquire and manage land or conservation restrictions for natural, recreational, scenic, or historic purposes.

Watershed associations, like Orleans Pond Coalition, the Friends of Pleasant Bay and Friends of Meetinghouse Pond, focus on protecting water quality, promoting responsible public use, conducting research, and providing education. They typically do not own land. Both types of organizations are supported by public memberships and run by volunteer boards.

Advantages of these organizations:

- They can work privately and build trust with landowners, which may lead to land donations or conservation agreements.
- Some landowners prefer working with non-governmental organizations over town agencies.
- These groups can assist the town with important groundwork like land surveys, title checks, appraisals, and preparing land for acquisition.

About the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT)

Founded in 1970, OCT is the second oldest land trust on Cape Cod, active in preserving Orleans' natural heritage for over five decades. To date, OCT has protected approximately 700 acres through land ownership and conservation restrictions. Its CR program began in the early 1970s, covering over 100 acres across more than 35 properties. OCT's acquisitions include significant parcels such as Namequoit Wood and contributions to the long-term preservation of Sipson's Island.

About the Friends of Pleasant Bay

Established in 1985, this volunteer group serves four towns and focuses on research, education, and advocacy.

Key achievements include:

- Helping designate Pleasant Bay as a state Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in 1987.
- Supporting studies on archaeology, zoning, and landscape planning in the 1980s.
- Funding the first management plan for Paw Wah Point Preserve in 1991.
- Assisting in management plans for the Pleasant Bay ACEC and Kent's Point Conservation Area.

Collaboration and Support

Both the OCT and Friends of Pleasant Bay are members of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, which provides them with technical and administrative support and connects them with other conservation groups on the Cape.

Other local organizations, such as the Orleans Pond Coalition (OPC) and Friends of Meetinghouse Pond, also work to protect Orleans' water resources. The OPC offers public education on land stewardship, sustainable landscaping, and water conservation.

B. COMMUNITY'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community needs were derived from an analysis of demographics, an online public survey, a community workshop, site assessments, the 2023 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) goals, and a comparison with similar agencies using park statistics published by the National Parks and Recreation (NRPA).

Demographic Overview (2025)

Orleans, MA, has a small year-round population of 6,232 residents comprised of an older overall demographic, with 62% of residents being aged 55 and over. This population influences recreational needs by creating a greater demand for accessible, low-impact, and social activities such as walking trails, community fitness programs, and cultural or educational events. The Town's population is stable with a slight decline since 2020 (-1.19%). Owner-occupied homes make up 78% Orleans' housing, with a large share of occupied only seasonally (1,412 owner-occupied units). Recreation facilities and programs therefore need to be designed to accommodate both the year-round population and the seasonal population influx.

1. SURVEY FINDINGS

A public online survey provided valuable insight into Orleans' community recreation needs. It asked community members questions about demographics, how they use local open spaces, barriers to access, and priorities for improving Orleans' recreational system. Other key topics included favorite parks and activities, desired amenities, and feedback on big themes such as maintaining or expanding recreation opportunities.

Demographics and Overall Use

A total of 568 residents responded to the survey, representing about 9% of Orleans' year-round population. One-third of respondents (33%) have lived in Town for more than 20 years, and 7% identify as having a disability. While 40% feel their recreational needs are being met by the Town's open space and recreation programs, many still seek additional opportunities. Park use is frequent, with 37% visiting parks several times per week and 42% participating in Town programs or activities at least once per month. Most residents (63%) typically drive to access parks, highlighting the importance of parking and transportation access.

These findings suggest that Orleans' recreation system serves many residents well, but could benefit from expanded program offerings to meet a broader range of community needs. There is also a need for accessible recreation facilities and programs so that community members with disabilities can fully participate in the Town's recreational opportunities.

Goal Priorities

Survey respondents were asked to rank the importance of the Town's current goals. While responses indicate that all three goals are important, results show that the highest priorities are conservation and preserving and supporting the Town's open spaces:

- 86.31% rated the Conservation Goal as very important ("Protect and enhance the environmental resources of Orleans")
- 85.05% rated the Open Space Goal as very important ("Preserve and manage land to safeguard the natural environment, support wildlife habitats, and provide recreational amenities")
- 56.76% rated the Recreation Goal as very important and 10.32% rated the Recreation Goal as neutral ("Address residents' recreational needs by maximizing the use and value of the town's open space resources")

Current Open Space Use

The survey collected information on how the community currently uses the Town's recreational programs and facilities. Notably, barriers to accessing the Town's recreational opportunities include not knowing where open

spaces are located (27%), parking shortages (23%) and overcrowding (21%). Additional key takeaways about current open space use in Town include:

- **Most frequently used open spaces:** Nauset Beach (84%), Skaket Beach (69%), Kent's Point (49%), and Eldrege Park (43%)
- **Most popular open space activities:** Walking (88%), Relaxing (49%), Dog Walking (36%), Events (28%), Bird Watching (25%) and Boating (25%)
- **Top recreational programs:** 61% Cultural events (e.g. concerts and festivals), 55% Adult fitness (e.g. yoga, pilates, and zumba), 53% Outdoor active recreation programs, 49% Environmental education, 34% Specialized workshops (e.g. cooking and photography)

Overall, respondents indicated that beaches and scenic natural areas are the most popular destinations. The popular open space activities cited, such as walking and relaxing, and majority participation in Town programs highlights the importance of passive recreation and social opportunities to the community.

Open Space Needs and Desired Amenities

The survey also collected information on how the Town can expand recreational facilities to meet community needs. Specifically, key takeaways about open space needs and desired amenities include:

- **Primary Needs for Enhancing Open Spaces:** Preservation of natural environments (51%), Variety of programs offered (40%), Availability of recreation amenities (32%), Maintenance and cleanliness (19%), and Parking (18%)
- **Most Desired Recreational Activities and Features in Open Spaces:** Walking and trails (63%), Boating and kayak launches (36%), Swimming pool (36%), Water bottle fillers (35%), Public restrooms (34%), Pickleball courts (28%), and Dog parks (28%)

Overall, survey results show a strong community interest in preserving natural environments while expanding recreation options and amenities. Residents most want improved walking trails, water access, and comfort amenities, along with a more diverse offering of programs and amenities.

Special Populations

Teens and seniors represent important populations in Orleans, each with distinct recreational needs. 20 respondents indicated a strong need for year-round programming catered toward the teen age group. For seniors, respondents emphasized accessible walking paths, more benches, indoor exercise or wellness programs designed for older adults.



Community Workshop, Table1

2. COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

An interactive community workshop was held to gather input on how to best guide improvements to the Town’s recreation system. During the workshop, 30 attendees visited three themed tables, each focused on the key goals of the OSRP. These exercises encouraged direct input and idea-sharing through mapping activities and discussions. The table topics included:

Topic 1 - Conservation Lands and Environmental Resources: Identifying priority areas for land preservation to strengthen Orleans’ natural resources.

Main takeaways:

- Most conservation lands contain trails, offering opportunities for passive recreation.
- Walking access from the “downtown residential core” to other open spaces can potentially be integrated into newly acquired conservation parcels.
- As residential density increases, the preservation and connectivity of wildlife corridors become increasingly important.
- Marshes are ecologically significant, and upland areas adjacent to marshes will become even more critical as sea levels rise and marshes migrate inland.
- Connectivity along waterfront areas is valuable; the town may want to explore obtaining pedestrian access rights across private properties to establish continuous walkways.

Opportunities that came out of this exercise include enhancing trail connectivity, preserving wildlife corridors, and protecting coastal and upland areas are noted as key priorities to support recreation, ecological resilience, and community access.

Topic 2 - Open Space: Exploring ways to enhance Orleans’ unique character through thoughtful open space improvements.

Main takeaways:

- Lack of public awareness regarding the locations of open spaces.
- Additional wayfinding tools are needed, such as comprehensive signage, brochures, or QR codes.
- Conflicting signage between private and public open spaces creates confusion.
- Increased protection is needed for coastlines and shorelines.
- Enhance passive recreation opportunities within conservation lands.

From this exercise emerged key opportunities to improve public awareness, clarify access, and enhance enjoyment of Orleans’ open spaces through better signage, outreach, and stewardship—particularly along the town’s



Community Workshop, Table 2



Community Workshop, Table 3

coastlines and conservation lands.

Topic 3 - Recreational Needs and Programming: Participants were asked to identify amenities that would best support residents' recreational needs.

The exercise aimed to identify community priorities for recreational amenities and programming by assessing future needs, gaps in current offerings, and usage levels of existing facilities. It also helped compare in-person feedback with online survey results to determine areas of high or low demand.

Most Desired Recreational Amenities and Activities In Open Space

- Pickleball and Basketball Courts (23 votes)
- Health and Fitness (16 votes)
- Nature and Passive Recreation (13 votes)
- Dog Friendly Amenities (12 votes)
- Playgrounds (12 votes)

Other votes expressed a desire for the following recreational amenities:

- Upgrade skatepark (8 votes)
- Upgrade Skaket Beach facilities, such as bathrooms, snack shack, parking lot, and aesthetics (3 votes)
- Garbage cans, especially on the beach during winter (3 votes)
- Vegetated swales and stormwater improvements (3 votes)
- Outdoor fitness trail (3 votes)
- Kayak racks (2 votes)
- Restrooms (2 votes)
- Pedestrian connections and improve connections between facilities (2 votes)
- Sports lighting at courts (2 votes)
- Community center with year-round use (2 votes)
- Maintain bike park and pump track (1 vote)
- Consider using land at wastewater treatment plant for a dog park (1 vote)
- Educational boating program for all ages, given the town's proximity to water (1 vote)
- Avoid light pollution and ensure facilities are dark when not in use (1 vote)
- Food trucks (1 vote)
- Court maintenance (1 vote)
- Frisbee golf course (1 vote)
- Jogging tracks (1 vote)

3. MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) COMPLIANCE



Community Workshop, Table 3

The 2023 SCORP has been reviewed with the development of this 2025 OSRP update. The SCORP identifies statewide outdoor recreation needs as well as available resources and includes a public engagement process that ultimately results in Goals and Actions. The four goals in the 2023 SCORP are listed below. Most significantly, the statewide goals align with Orleans’ goals and

	Less Than 20,000 per NRPA 2024	Recommended Number of Facilities	Current Number of Facilities	Balance	Eldredge Park	Elementary School	Middle School	Sea Call Farm	Hopking Lane Garden	Charlie Moore Ice Rink	Putnam Farm
Playgrounds or play structures	1,990	3	2	1	1	1					
Diamond fields	1,833	3	5	0	1	2	2				
Basketball courts, standalone	4,366	1	1	0		1					
Rectangular fields	2,493	3	5	0	1	2	2				
Tennis courts	3,074	2	5	0	2	3					
Dog parks	10,327	1	0	1							
Tot lots	5,323	1	1	0	1						
Community gardens	8,800	1	3	0				1	1		1
Swimming pools	9,500	1	0	1							
Skateboard parks	11,284	1	1	0			1				
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	5,248	1	2	0	1	1					
Pickleball court	3,390	2	4	0	4						
18-hole golf courses	9,626	1	0	1							
Driving range stations	2,122	3	0	3							
Synthetic rectangular fields	11,284	1	0	1							
Volleyball courts, standalone	9,250	1	0	1							
Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	12,756	0	0	0							
Fitness zones/ Exercise stations	8,233	1	0	1							
Disc golf courses	11,079	1	0	1							
Ice rinks	8,015	1	1	0						1	
Walking loops/ Running tracks	5,459	1	1	0			1				
Nine-hole golf courses	17,750	0	0	0							
Overlay fields	10,584	1	0	0			1				
Racquetball/ Handball/ Squash courts	13,350	0	0	0							
Waterparks	17,813	0	0	0							
Ballfields Total		31	33	10	12	11	7	1	1	1	1

action plan, described in detail in Section 6: Goals and Objectives.

- Goal 1: Improve Access to Beaches and Other Water-based Recreation Facilities

- Support Trail Projects
- Create and Renovate Neighborhood Parks, Especially to Benefit the Underserved
- Create Opportunities, Especially for the Underserved, to Enjoy Protected Natural Areas

As part of the 2023 SCORP public engagement process, statewide survey outreach and stakeholder engagement identified the top desired outdoor recreation improvements. Below are the top priorities mentioned:

- Multi-use paved and unpaved trails
- Playgrounds and neighborhood parks
- Enhanced water-based recreation access (swimming, paddle-craft, launches)
- Reducing access barriers for underserved Environmental Justice (EJ) populations

Many of the outdoor recreation priorities identified in the SCORP align with needs identified for Orleans. For example, hiking and walking trails, boat/kayak launches, playgrounds, swimming and splash pads, and providing recreation opportunities for underserved populations are top needs identified for both Orleans and the State.

4. NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION STANDARDS (NPRA) COMPLIANCE

The 2024 NRPA standards were reviewed during the development of this 2025 OSRP update.¹

¹ 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review, NRPA National Recreation and Park Association

Based on a year-round population of 6,342, the Town of Orleans currently meets national standards for the following facilities:

- Diamond fields
- Basketball courts
- Rectangular fields
- Tennis courts
- Tot lots
- Community gardens
- Skateboard parks
- Multi-use courts
- Pickleball courts
- Multi-use court
- Overlay field
- Ice Rinks
- Walking loops

According to NRPA guidelines, the Town should consider expanding or adding the

following facilities to meet current and future demand:

- Playground (1)
- Dog park (1)
- Swimming pool (1)
- Synthetic turf field (1)
- Volleyball courts (1)
- Fitness zones (1)
- Disc golf courses (1)
- 18-Hole golf course (1)
- Driving range station (1)

A comparison of community feedback and NRPA guidelines reveals alignment in the need for the following new facilities, in addition to upgrades to existing infrastructure:

- Playground (1)
- Dog park (1)
- Swimming pool (1)
- Fitness zones (1)

As a developing community, Orleans must ensure its recreational infrastructure evolves with population trends and user needs. With increased leisure time and a growing focus on physical health, continued fiscal investment is essential to support and maintain high-quality recreational spaces for all residents.

5. SPECIAL POPULATIONS

As outlined in Section 3 of this Plan, Orleans' population skews heavily toward retirees during the winter months, with a significant influx of seasonal visitors in the summer. In response, the Town should prioritize enhancing recreational opportunities that serve both older adults and children under 17, helping to support aging residents while also attracting and retaining young families. Meeting the outdoor needs of seniors does not require complex or costly solutions, simple improvements such as benches along trails and safe, accessible parking can make a significant impact. Several locations, including Nauset Beach, Skaket Beach, Pilgrim Lake, and Kent's Point, already reflect this approach by accommodating passive recreation preferences. Additionally, parks and playgrounds remain essential amenities for families with elementary-aged children.

C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS AND POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

1. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CONDITIONS AND NEEDS

The vast majority of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with the number and condition of recreation areas for adults and children in Orleans. However, many residents also noted the need for upgrades to existing facilities—particularly basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts, as well as the Finch Skate Park. Continued maintenance and enhancement of these areas will require significant ongoing investment.



Sea Call Farm

SECTION 8

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Objectives outlined in this plan, as well as the criteria used to evaluate property suitability for acquisition, were primarily informed by the results of the OSRP Survey, the community workshop, and interviews conducted with town department heads and committee chairs. The subsequent charts detail the proposed actions, identify the responsible parties, and encompass the goals, policies, and specific actions to be undertaken by various town committees and departments.

GOAL 1	CONSERVATION: PROTECT ORLEANS' COASTAL, FRESH WATER, AND UPLAND ECOSYSTEMS.
Objective 1a	Protect water resources with a focus on those adjacent to conservation areas.
Objective 1b	Acquire and preserve natural areas to support wildlife habitat and marsh migration connectivity.
Objective 1c	Collaborate regionally on watershed protection efforts.
GOAL 2	OPEN SPACE: MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE WHILE ENHANCING PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP.
Objective 2a	Educating residents about Orleans' open space resources to improve access.
Objective 2b	Acquire or protect lands that provide key wildlife habitat, scenic value, or climate resilience capacity.
Objective 2c	Create an open space network where all residents live within a 10-minute walk of an accessible open space area.
Objective 2d	Protect significant historical and archeological sites.
GOAL 3	RECREATION: ENSURE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES MEET DIVERSE COMMUNITY NEEDS ACROSS ALL AGES, ABILITIES AND INTERESTS.
Objective 3a	Expand recreational programming.
Objective 3b	Upgrade or expand recreational amenities and improve facility maintenance.
Objective 3c	Improve equity and accessibility to recreation facilities.
Objective 3d	Enhance fresh and saltwater recreation facilities.



Smith Beach

SECTION 9.

TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The ten-year action program is designed to implement Orleans' OSRP. The action plan directly addresses the conservation and recreation needs of the community as expressed in the analysis of community needs.

The Plan calls for a variety of actions that fall into three major categories:

- **Expenditure** – Strategies involving direct revenue outlays. Expenditure items include land acquisition, development costs, equipment purchases, and miscellaneous expenses.
- **Management** – Strategies that utilize administrative skills and efforts to manage existing resources more effectively and to develop new programs to address recreation and conservation needs.

- **Regulatory** – Strategies to more effectively manage and control the use of conservation lands, and to limit adverse effects from human uses. (Includes bylaw amendments and other control strategies).

The Action Plan proposes continued efforts to protect land through acquisition. However, should new sites be identified in the future that would further the open space and recreation objectives of this Plan, the Town should evaluate those areas and take appropriate action to protect them. Further, it should be noted that the timetable set for implementation is subject to change.

Opportunities for acquiring open space cannot always be anticipated, and the Town must retain the flexibility to be able to act on each opportunity as it arises. The Action Plan has been designed to respond to changing local conditions, and sets out minimum, rather than maximum, efforts the Town wishes to take to pursue open space and recreation objectives over the next seven years. It is also noted that priority parcels for acquisition as well as seven-year action items are within areas mapped for Environmental Justice populations.

Ten-Year Action Plan (2025-2035)								
Goal, Objective, or Action Item	Description	Priority Timeframe (Years)				Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Potential Funding	Responsible Parties
		On-going	1-3	4-7	8-10			
GOAL 1	CONSERVATION: PROTECT ORLEANS' COASTAL, FRESH WATER, AND UPLAND ECOSYSTEMS.							
Objective 1a	Protect water resources with a focus on those adjacent to conservation areas					High		
Action 1a-1: Acquire and conserve parcels that protect water quality, especially near Pleasant Bay, Nauset Estuary, Cape Cod Bay, and freshwater ponds.		*				LWCF, NCRF, CPA, EEG, LAND, MET	Open Space Committee	
Action 1a-2: Manage stormwater through green infrastructure practices to enhance the functionality and ecological value of conservation areas. A. Require increased setbacks for new construction and vegetation buffers between resource areas (e.g., wetlands, coastal banks, ponds) and residences. B. Prioritize identified stormwater discharges in conservation areas for green infrastructure projects				*		Municipal Budget	DPW	
Action 1a-3: Create educational programs for the public, especially waterfront property owners, to raise awareness about the risks of overusing fertilizers, failing septic systems, and using household products with phosphorus or hazardous chemicals. Utilize the Freshwater Communications Framework to reach a broader audience.			*			EEG, MET, MVP	Conservation Department	
Objective 1b	Acquire and preserve natural areas to support wildlife habitat and marsh migration connectivity					High		
Action 1b-1: Manage invasive species and restore native plant communities in conservation lands.		*				MET, MVP, HMG, NRCS	Conservation Commission	
Action 1b-2: Complete the reconstruction of the Pilgrim Lake herring run.				*		NCRF, MVP, MET	Shellfish & Harbormaster	

Ten-Year Action Plan (2025-2035)								
Goal, Objective, or Action Item	Description	Priority Timeframe (Years)				Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Potential Funding	Responsible Parties
		On-going	1-3	4-7	8-10			
Action 1b-3: Map environmentally sensitive areas and plan for future open space acquisitions. Where possible, connect open spaces to create wildlife corridors.			*				CPP, LAND, CPA, LWCF	Planning Department
Objective 1c	Collaborate regionally on watershed protection efforts				Medium			
Action 1c-1: Collaborate with the Pleasant Bay Alliance to protect water resources in Pleasant Bay.		*					MET, DWS, RH, CPP	WMAC
Action 1c-2: Collaborate with the Town of Eastham to protect water resources in the Nauset Estuary and Rock Harbor.		*					MET, RH, CPP, LAND	WMAC
Action 1c-3: Collaborate with the Town of Brewster to protect water resources in Baker's Pond.		*					DWS, MET, CPP, LAND	WMAC
Action 1c-4: Promote collaboration among local conservation commissions for the regional management of the State Wetlands Act to safeguard regional groundwater and wetlands.		*					MET, EEA, CPA, LAND	Conservation Commission
GOAL 2	OPEN SPACE: MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE WHILE ENHANCING PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP.							
Objective 2a	Educating residents about Orleans' open space resources to improve access				Low			
Action 2a-1: Improve wayfinding by designing, printing, and distributing signage, maps, brochures, and QR codes that help residents locate public open spaces and promote safe, attractive walking and biking routes.				*	*		MT, RTP, Municipal Budget	Economic Development Officer
Action 2a-2: Initiate a public education campaign about the open space resources available to residents and visitors.			*				EEG, MOOR, Municipal Budget	Conservation Commission
Objective 2b	Acquire or protect lands that provide key wildlife habitat, scenic value, or climate resilience capacity				High			
Action 2b-1: Prioritize lands that fall within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as designated by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, as well as those that serve as habitats for federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, or special concern species.					*		CPP, LAND, CPA	Open Space Committee

Ten-Year Action Plan (2025-2035)

Goal, Objective, or Action Item	Description	Priority Timeframe (Years)				Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Potential Funding	Responsible Parties
		On-going	1-3	4-7	8-10			
Action 2b-2: Protect and prioritize lands that support climate adaptation and resilience.			*	*			MVP, CPA, CPP	Open Space Committee
Objective 2c	Create an open space network where all residents live within a 10-minute walk of an accessible open space area					Medium		
Action 2c-1: Conduct a service area analysis using half-mile radius of open space parcels. Consider access as a criterion for evaluating recommendations for new acquisitions or negotiations.			*				Municipal Budget, CPA, CPP	Planning Department
Action 2c-2: Improve connectivity between conservation lands and neighborhoods, especially pedestrian routes from the downtown core		*					MT, CPA, RTP	DPW
Action 2c-3: Support initiatives to enhance safe bike and pedestrian access throughout the Town.		*					MT, RTP, CPA	Transportation & Bikeways Advisory Committee
Action 2c-4: Negotiate with developers for pedestrian easements when land with public walking value is proposed for development.		*					Municipal Budget, MT, RTP	Open Space Committee
Action 2c-5: Improve public access to Town-owned land by defining paths and passive recreation on public open space where appropriate.				*	*		MT, RTP, CPA	Conservation Commission
Action 2c-6: Enhance public access to scenic waterfronts with a focus on conservation, equity, and ADA compliance. A. Create new public shoreline access at 72 Tonset Road. B. Create and implement a comprehensive management plan for town landings and other shoreside facilities, including the potential use of community docks.		*	*				LWCF, PARC, CPA, RH	Town Manager and Shellfish & Harbormaster
Objective 2d	Protect significant historical and archeological sites.					Medium		
Action 2d-1: Acquire or preserve lands that contribute to the character of the town, contain historical resources, and/or meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places or the Massachusetts Historical Commission.		*					CPA, CPP, LAND, LWCF	Historical Commission

Ten-Year Action Plan (2025-2035)								
Goal, Objective, or Action Item	Description	Priority Timeframe (Years)				Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Potential Funding	Responsible Parties
		On-going	1-3	4-7	8-10			
GOAL 3	RECREATION: ENSURE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES MEET DIVERSE COMMUNITY NEEDS ACROSS ALL AGES, ABILITIES AND INTERESTS.							
Objective 3a	Expand recreational programming.				Low			
Action 3a-1: Continue to provide programming for fall, winter and spring for year-round residents.	*					CPA, MOOR, EEG	RC&CED	
Action 3a-2: Develop recreational programs that address the needs of all residents, including cultural events, adult fitness programs, outdoor active recreation programs, environmental education, and specialized workshops.		*	*			MOOR, EEG, CPA	RC&CED	
Action 3a-3: Provide essential professional staff for coordination and servicing programs.	*					Municipal Budget	Town Manager	
Objective 3b	Upgrade or expand recreational amenities and improve facility maintenance.				High			
Action 3b-1: Complete renovations to the Eldridge Park playground and recreation facilities		*				PARC, CPA, LWCF	Town Manager	
Action 3b-2: Explore opportunities to incorporate a dog park, universal design playgrounds, courts, outdoor fitness areas, and a swimming pool.	*					PARC, CPA, LWCF	RC&CED	
Action 3b-3: Consider opportunities to partner with other communities on regional recreation facilities.	*					Municipal Budget	Town Manager	
Action 3b-4: Maintain Nauset Beach, Skaket Beach, and Finch Skatepark facilities.	*					Municipal Budget	DPW	
Objective 3c	Improve equity and accessibility to recreation facilities.				Medium			
Action 3c-1: Prioritize improvements in Environmental Justice neighborhoods, including outreach and infrastructure.	*					PARC, CPA, Municipal Budget	RC&CED and Planning Department	
Action 3c-2: Provide pedestrian pathways, trails, parking, and other infrastructure to ensure convenient access and enhance walkability to recreational areas for all residents.			*			PARC, CPA, LWCF, MT, RTP	DPW	

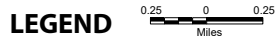
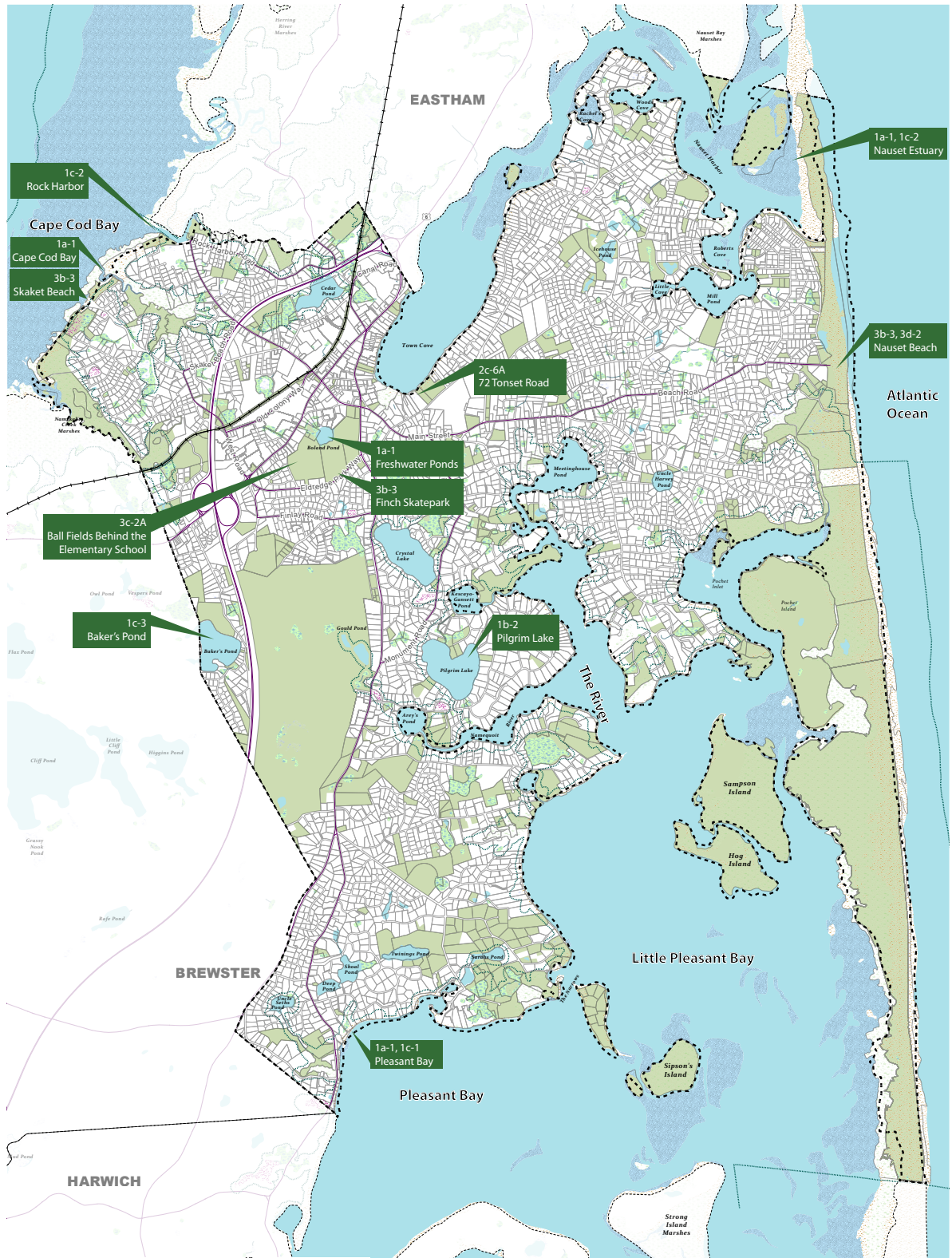
Ten-Year Action Plan (2025-2035)

Goal, Objective, or Action Item	Description	Priority Timeframe (Years)				Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Potential Funding	Responsible Parties
		On-going	1-3	4-7	8-10			
A. Make facility improvements to the ball fields behind the Elementary School to be universal accessible.								
Action 3c-3: Develop bike safe routes, on and off road on major Town roads to improve connectivity. A. Develop a plan to connect a bikeway to South Orleans, with a goal of eventually establishing a link to Chatham.			*	*		MT, RTP, CPA, LWCF	Transportation & Bikeways Advisory Committee	
Action 3c-4: Expand inclusive facilities such as ADA beach mats, sensory-friendly areas and universal design playgrounds, and restrooms accessible to all.		*				PARC, CPA, LWCF	DPW and RC&CED	
Action 3c-5: Install ADA compliant boat launch facilities and enhance universal access to waterfront locations.			*	*		PARC, CPA, LWCF	Shellfish & Harbormaster	
Objective 3d	Enhance fresh and saltwater recreation facilities.				Medium			
Action 3d-1: Complete a management plan for town beaches, landings and boat launching sites, including sea level rise analysis.			*			MVP, NCRF, MET	Shellfish & Harbormaster	
Action 3d-2: Implement the 2016 Nauset Beach Management Plan.		*				Municipal Budget	DPW	

Abbreviations:

- DPW** - Public Works & Natural Resources
- RC&CED** - Recreation, Culture, & Community Events Department
- WMAC** - Wastewater Management Advisory Committee
- EEG** – Environmental Education Grants (Massachusetts EEA)
- MET** – Massachusetts Environmental Trust General Grants
- MVP** – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0
- LWCF** – Land and Water Conservation Fund
- PARC** – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grants
- HMG** – Habitat Management Grant Program (MassWildlife)
- NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Stewardship and EQIP Programs)
- NCRF** – National Coast Resilience Fund
- CPA** – Community Preservation Act
- CPP** – Conservation Partnership Program
- DWS** – Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program
- RH** – Rivers and Harbors Grant Program
- MOOR** – Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation – Inclusive and Accessible Events Grants
- MT** – MassTrails Grant
- RTP** – Recreational Trails Program

ACTION PLAN MAP



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ----- Orleans Town Boundary ----- Other Town Boundaries ++++ Railroad ----- ACEC □ Town of Orleans Tax Parcels ■ Protected & Recreational Open Space and Chapter 61 Lands | <p>DEP Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Salt Marsh □ Wooded Marsh □ Cranberry Bog □ Marsh/Bog □ Open Water □ Tidal Flats □ Beach/Dune |
|--|--|



Community Workshop at Town Hall

SECTION 10.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following signed letters of support have been received from the respective boards, commissions, and agencies:

- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Recreation Commission and/or Parks Department
- Town Manager
- Select Board
- Cape Cod Commission
- Board of Health (recommended, but not required)

Comments provided by these entities have been incorporated into the final report.



Town of Orleans

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699

Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

October 1, 2025

RE: Orleans Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

To Whom it May Concern:

The Orleans Planning Board has reviewed the 2025 update of the Orleans Open Space & Recreation Plan. The Town of Orleans places great value and emphasis on land conservation and recreation facilities, which are of high importance to maintaining environmental integrity and residential quality of life. We are pleased to endorse the plan as a reference and guide for future actions by the Town.

The goals and recommendations of the plan are consistent with those of the Orleans Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

John Ostman, Chairman
Orleans Planning Board



Town of Orleans Conservation Commission

Town Hall • 19 School Road • Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3699

Tel: (508) 240-3700 Ext. 2425 / Fax: (508) 240-3388

MEMORANDUM

To: Orleans Select Board

From: Orleans Conservation Commission

Chair Drusy Henson 

Re: Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update 2025

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025


On Thursday, September 18th, 2025, the Orleans Conservation Commission voted to support the final version of the 2025 Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan update.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who participated in creating and completing this important update.



9/19/25

TO: Orleans Select Board

FROM: Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee
Chair, Jamie Balliett 

CC: Orleans Planning Department

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025

On Thursday, September 18th, 2025, the Recreation Advisory Committee voted 5-0 to endorse the final version of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025.

Thank you to all of those involved in the development of this well-done Plan.



TOWN OF ORLEANS

19 School Road Orleans, MA 02653-3699
Phone (508) 240-3700
<http://www.town.orleans.ma.us>

SELECT BOARD
TOWN
MANAGER

October 6, 2025

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Review of the Orleans Open Space & Recreation Plan

Ms. Cryan,

The *Orleans Open Space & Recreation Plan (2025)* represents a collaborative effort between Orleans residents, community stakeholders, and the Town of Orleans. Development of the plan was guided by an extensive public outreach process, which included an online survey that generated over 568 responses, targeted stakeholder engagement, and a community workshop held at key milestones throughout the planning process.

This plan updates and builds upon the 2017 *Open Space & Recreation Plan*, capturing the Town's many achievements to date, including capital improvements across municipal and conservation properties. More than 20 detailed site and building assessments were conducted as part of this effort and will serve as valuable tools for current and future park planning and improvement initiatives.

Looking ahead, the plan's goals and objectives have been refined and expanded to incorporate new priorities. These include enhancing the resiliency of town-managed open spaces, and supporting new programs and facilities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community.

I enthusiastically support this effort and respectfully submit the *Orleans Open Space & Recreation Plan (2025)* for your review and approval.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Newman
Town Manager



Town of Orleans

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699

Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

October 3, 2025

RE: Orleans Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Select Board wishes to express its endorsement of the 2025 Orleans Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Board reviewed the plan on October 1, 2025 and voted unanimously to endorse its transmittal to your office for review and approval. We found the goals and recommended actions to be consistent with long-term interests of residents as well as protective of natural resources.

Extensive public outreach was conducted as part of the planning process, including a town-wide opinion survey and community workshop. The level of public input provides confidence that the plan was well-conceived and reflective of resident concerns and opinions regarding the open space and recreation needs of the community. The participation of relevant boards and committees of the Town in plan preparation further increases our support for the plan.

Orleans has benefitted greatly from its commitment to protect remaining open space from development. The Town goals for open space can only be achieved by continued efforts to strategically acquire or otherwise preserve natural spaces. Our partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services is a necessary relationship, and one we hope will continue in the future.

We recommend state approval of the Orleans OSRP plan.

Sincerely,


Kevin Galligan, Chairman
Orleans Select Board

3225 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 226
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

(508) 362-3828 • Fax (508) 362-3136 • www.capecodcommission.org

September 8, 2025

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Orleans Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Cape Cod Commission staff has reviewed the Town of Orleans' Open Space and Recreation Plan and would like to recommend its approval by the Division of Conservation Services.

The plan provides a comprehensive assessment of the town's open space and recreational needs and establishes a framework for addressing the community's goals through statements regarding protection and enhancement of open spaces and public recreational opportunities to meet the needs of Orleans' current and future populations. Staff appreciates the town's collaborative efforts to protect and manage its natural resources and open spaces with neighboring towns and local conservation partners. The plan's inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest provides both a reference document and memorializes the status of these important community resources.

With limited availability of large undeveloped land parcels, the town recognizes it must take a strategic and inventive approach to planning for open space and recreation and is focused on connecting existing properties available throughout the community to form cohesive open space areas. The town is also committed to multi-generational, inclusive and equitable access to its open space and recreation resources. A mix of engagement methods and site assessments were pursued that contributed to the development of the plan's goals, objectives, and action items.

Through goals and objectives addressing natural and water resources protection, preservation of historical and archaeological resources, and provision of a variety of publicly accessible recreational opportunities, among others, the Orleans plan promotes local goals consistent with the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan. The update summarizes work completed since the last plan and reflects alignment with several other regional planning documents, including the Cape Cod Area Wide Water



Quality Management Plan (the 208 Plan), the Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy: Ponds and Lakes, and the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan. In addition, the Orleans plan includes an extensive agenda of action items with sufficient detail to guide implementation by responsible town departments and committees.

The Orleans Open Space and Recreation Plan is a comprehensive document that will serve the town well in guiding open space and recreation management and decision-making. We recommend your support of this plan and appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Kristy Senatori
Executive Director

Cc: Douglas Fromm, Orleans Representative to the Cape Cod Commission
George Meservey, Orleans Planning and Community Development Director
Kimberly Newman, Orleans Town Manager



Town of Orleans

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699

Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

September 23, 2025

Select Board, Town of Orleans, Massachusetts

Dear Select Board members,

On behalf of the Open Space Committee, I am writing to express our full support of the Orleans Open Space and Recreation Plan. Many Town staff and volunteers worked hard to update and complete this plan while applying the desires and concerns of residents from the town. It articulates well the current and future needs of Recreation, Conservation and Open Space in the Town of Orleans.

We look forward to working together to achieve the goals, objectives, and actions set out in this plan.

Respectfully,

Lynn O'Connell

Open Space Committee Chair

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Eldredge Park

SECTION 11.

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Hopkins Lane Gardens

SECTION 12.

APPENDIX

- A MAPPING**
- B PUBLIC MEETING NOTES**
- C PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS**
- D SITE ASSESSMENT FORMS**
- E ADA ACCESS SELF-EVALUATION**

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