



# *September*



# *2022 Newsletter*



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# Climate Change Awareness on Washington Street



September is Climate Change Awareness month. This time last year, we reflected on how the Land Bank may play a role in mitigating the impacts of our changing climate conditions, while simultaneously staying true to our mission of public land access and conservation. This September, we are pleased to share that we have partnered with SCAPE, ReMain Nantucket, and the Town of Nantucket (TON) to move forward with the planning stages of a resiliency initiative on Washington Street.

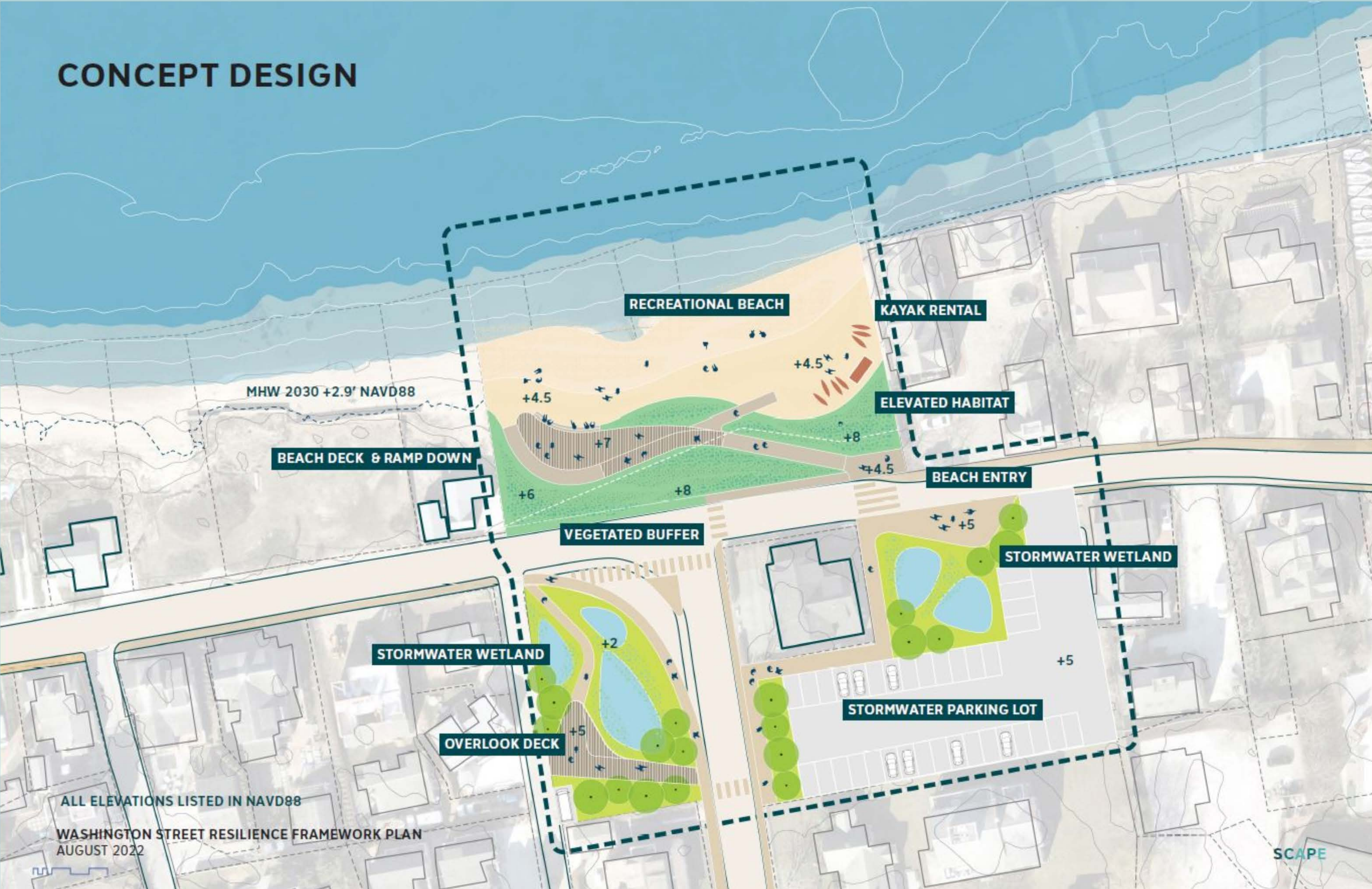
The Washington Street corridor is one of Nantucket’s key transportation routes, and is simultaneously highly vulnerable to rising sea levels, decreased depth to groundwater, and increased stormwater flowage. Positioned along the shoreline of Nantucket Harbor, it also provides abundant recreational opportunities and valuable coastal habitats. Situated at the intersection of these factors, Washington Street represents the quintessential nexus of Nantucket’s climate concerns – and solutions.

With the expertise of SCAPE’s landscape architecture studio, we have been able to conceptualize improvements to the Washington Street area that will enhance flood storage capacity (seawater and stormwater), public recreation, and habitat protection, while improving multi-modal access to and from the downtown corridor. While we have been brainstorming solutions integrating all the effected parcels along Washington Street, we are furthest along with our concept for the corner of Washington and Francis Streets. This is in large part because the majority of property at that intersection is owned by the Land Bank and Town of Nantucket, thus providing a unique opportunity to implement a cohesive design strategy.



In the figure shown below, you can see a variety of nature-based solutions are integrated into the landscape. These features utilize different tools (primarily topography) to direct the flow of water and extend the lifespan of Washington Street. This design incorporates recreational beach access, elevated habitat (such as a dune), raised boardwalks, and stormwater wetlands. The elevational features will serve as a natural barrier to high tide flooding, while the stormwater wetlands provide water storage capacity in the event of heavy precipitation. Together, they will reduce the flood impacts to Washington Street directly and prolong use of the road. This combination of attributes also satisfies our criteria of maintaining this as a public recreational area and protecting or improving the beach/dune habitats. These solutions, while not intended to be permanent, have the potential to grant the Town additional time to implement longer term goals, such as a downtown flood barrier or raising Washington Street.

We are still in the early stages of this project, and have yet to contend with several obstacles. These include fluctuating sea level predictions, private landownership, and extensive environmental permitting. Nonetheless, we are excited about this opportunity to collaborate on tackling these invigorating challenges. A final thank you to TON, ReMain, and SCAPE for their pro-active partnership in this effort. Stay tuned for more updates on this project to come!







# Oh Deer!



## Reminders for the 2022 Hunting Season

Hunting season is just around the corner! For many this is a cause for excitement, and for others, a potential cause for concern. Hunting is more than just a casual hobby, and the vast majority of the time is done responsibly and with safety and respect for others as top priorities. Additionally, hunting can play an important role in controlling the deer population. This has benefits for the health of the deer herd itself, the incidence of tick-borne illness, and the conservation of our native plant communities.

As an organization dedicated to public land access, the Land Bank is taking this opportunity to remind hunters of mandatory hunting regulations, and non-hunters of steps that can be taken to put their minds at ease during this time of year.

The hunting dates for the 2022 season are as follows:

- Archery: October 3 – November 26
- Shotgun: November 28 – December 10
- Primitive firearms: December 12 – December 31

Most Land Bank properties are open to hunting, with only a few exceptions. Please see the map below, which shows that hunting is prohibited at the Burchell Farm and Trimpi trail systems. These specific properties will also be marked with signage at the entrance to state the prohibition of hunting. For other properties that are closed to hunting, visit the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's website: [www.nantucketconservation.org/properties/hunting/](http://www.nantucketconservation.org/properties/hunting/)

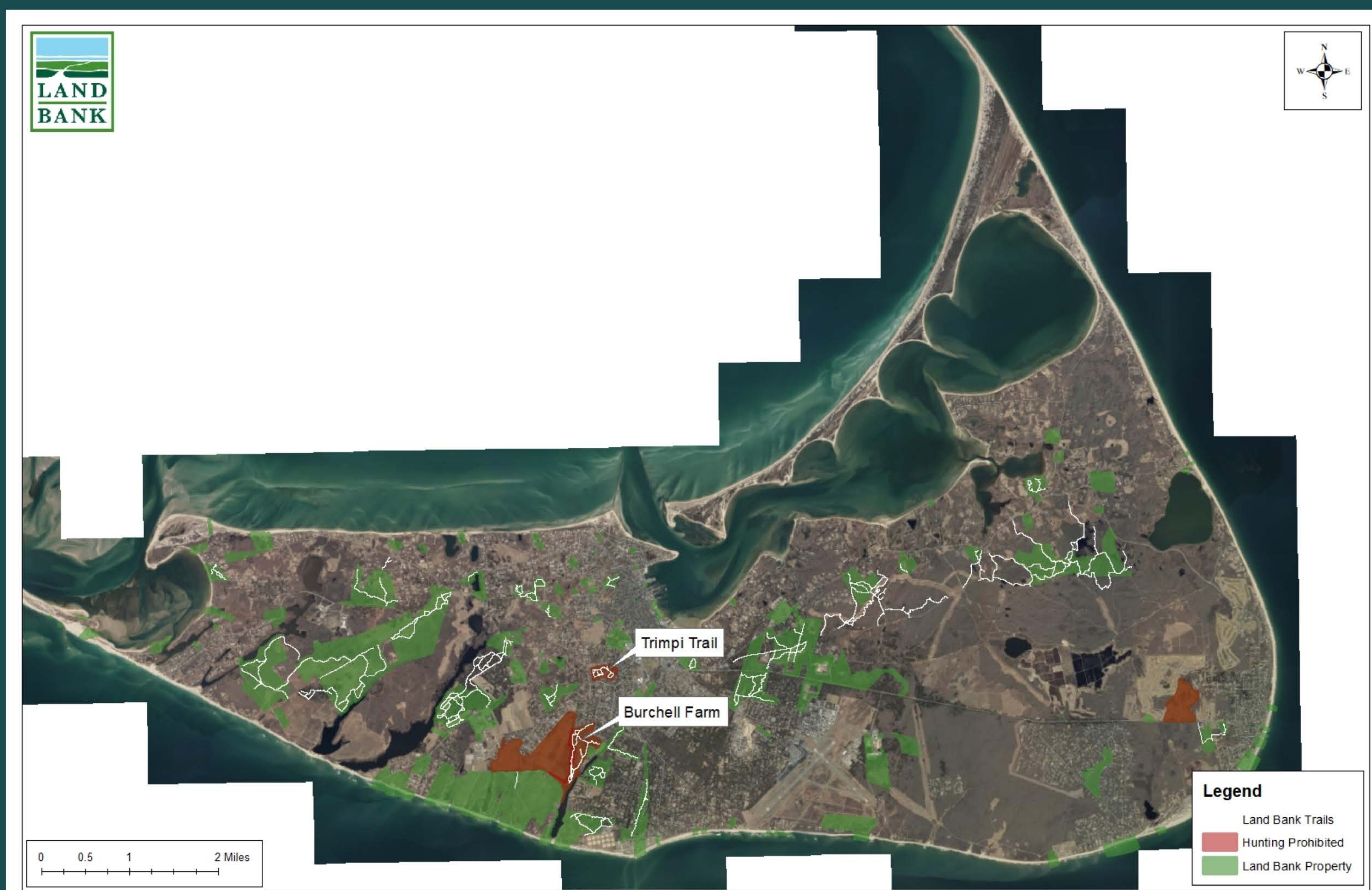
Hunters, please remember:

- No hunting on Sundays
- No hunting within 500 ft of a dwelling
- Be aware of which properties are not open to hunting
- All carcasses/remains must be disposed of. Hunters have the option to do so free of charge at the dump, located at 188 Madaket Road
- Please hunt safely and be aware of pedestrians, dogs and other pets, bicyclists, and other non-hunters who are out enjoying conservation land

Non-hunters, please take note:

- If you are worried about hunting season, feel free to seek out properties where hunting is prohibited.
- Keep dogs on leashes and preferably wearing bright orange hunting vests or reflective collars while out walking
- Wear orange or other bright colors while out recreating

Hunting season represents a window of time when public lands are shared perhaps more than ever. Land Bank properties are open to the public for many purposes, and it is up to all of us to be mindful of others using the property. For Land Bank-specific questions feel free to call our office at 508-228-7240, and for general hunting information please visit the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife webpage: [www.mass.gov/hunting-regulations](http://www.mass.gov/hunting-regulations)





# ★ Staff Spotlight ★

## Meet Joyia, Alex, Cory, & Lucas

### Our 2022 Seasonal Field Assistants

As we enter September and the end of the field season, we are looking back on all that we accomplished with the help of our amazing seasonal staff! With a team of Alex, Joyia, Cory, and Lucas, we were able to complete some of our biggest summer projects. These four were busy every day collaborating with our other field staff working on rare plant surveys, habitat assessments, pond monitoring, invasive species removal, GIS, gardening, and trail maintenance, just to name a few tasks! Read more below about our awesome summer crew, their experience with the Land Bank, and where they are off to now.

#### **Joyia Smikle, Invasive Species & Garden Technician**

Joyia grew up mainly in Conyers, Georgia (about 25 miles east of Atlanta) and moved to Massachusetts in 2016. When she was little, she designed and made buildings and thought she wanted to be an architect -- but she eventually realized her larger interest was in making cities better places to live by creating a greener, more sustainable, safer, and equitable place for all communities to call home.

Joyia was drawn to the Land Bank while seeking a summer job that was both environmental and in the field. The Land Bank offered her the perfect job as invasive species specialist and gardener. This entailed regular inspections of more prominent properties to water plants, weed, or remove invasive species to make sure the properties look beautiful for the public. She also occasionally designed landscaping plans.

The most interesting thing about the job was learning more about different types of plants and how to identify them. This helped when it came to designing landscaping plans: understanding what plants are best for different environments, and how to treat them if needed. The biggest challenge was bushwacking trails, where she frequently found herself losing her footing. Her boss spared her and made sure that bushwacking fell on another person's to-do list.

Joyia's favorite property is the Discovery Playground at Hinsdale Park. People who go there are visibly happy to be there. The playground equipment is phenomenal, and there is so much to do and see. She wishes she had a playground like it growing up.



She is currently enrolled in a 4+1 program at UMass Amherst, having earned a Bachelor degree in landscape architecture with a double major in urban geography and double minor in sustainable community development and Afro-American studies. In May 2023, she will earn a Masters in Regional Planning!

In 10 years, she envisions herself somewhere in the world being a city planner whose focus will be on uplifting underprivileged communities, increasing resilient green spaces in urban areas, eliminating food deserts, and promoting health and wellness. While she doesn't know if she'll return to Nantucket or the Landbank, she intends to always keep her options open. As she puts it, "All I know is that I've had a wonderful summer!"



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## Meet Joyia, Alex, Cory, & Lucas

### Our 2022 Seasonal Field Assistants

#### Alex DuMont, Ecology & Land Management Technician

Alex grew up in a suburb just outside of Albany, New York. He grew up playing sports and music, and studying hard, but the most memorable and impactful part of his childhood was spending school vacations at his family's backcountry camp in Maine. Located on a large pond near Moosehead Lake, the cabin is inaccessible by car and has no running water or electricity. Every summer they lived there for 6-8 weeks. His brother and he would spend hours exploring the pond, forests, and bogs. At night, they would walk down to the edge of pond, staring with wide eyes at the endless expanse of stars and shivering as the howl of coyotes in the distance sent chills down their spines. These experiences bred in him a passion and love for the natural world.

He had originally heard about the Land Bank during a brief visit to the island a few years ago. He was struck by the importance of protecting Nantucket's habitats and natural resources. Looking further into the Land Bank during his search for summer work, he was intrigued by the unique history of its founding and the stewardship that the staff is passionate about. Beyond that, the multifaceted nature of this position was perfect for applying what he has been learning in his graduate program. Most of his work hours were spent outside in the field, and the few rainy days were spent in the office doing data entry and using GIS.

The most interesting aspect of his work at the Land Bank has been the diversity of experience. Throughout the summer, he used GIS mapping software, conducted rare plant surveys, delineated wetlands, measured the density of Nantucket pine forests, surveyed horseshoe crabs, removed invasive plants, bushwacked proposed trail routes, and that isn't even everything! He learned something new and exciting every day. He is looking forward to applying these invaluable experiences and what he has learned in the context of his education. A perfect example of this is learning to use GIS software because he is taking a course specifically on geographical information systems this semester. It will be fascinating to apply this newfound knowledge as well as to critically reflect on work as he progresses through the course.

The biggest challenge of the job was finding enough time to accomplish everything that needs to be done. Due to the phenology of ecosystems and the flora within, field work is often time sensitive. Plant surveys, invasive management, and shore bird monitoring for example are dependent on the life cycle of a specific flora or fauna. Work must be triaged based on these life cycles and available staff.

His favorite Land Bank property is hands-down Smooth Hummocks Coastal Preserve. Situated along the south shore, this property is dominated by rare coastal grassland and heathland habitats, which Alex spent countless hours sampling. On a more personal note, he remembers numerous evening walks in Smooth Hummocks with the sunset stretching across the horizon and the sound of the waves crashing against the beach.



Alex completed his undergraduate studies of Psychology and Legal Studies at Brandeis University in 2018 and is currently a graduate student at the University of Albany studying Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy. The program focuses on modern conservation issues within the context of a rapidly changing climate, while also integrating a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving. He is on track to receive his degree in December of 2023.

In ten years, he sees himself continuing to work in the field of conservation, whether through research, field work, or management, although he wants to keep his future open to unexpected and exciting possibilities.

Alex definitely expects to return to Nantucket. He expressed his desire to see the finished result of several long-term projects he was involved with this summer. On top of that, the beautiful beaches, diverse ecosystems, and amazing people he has encountered over the summer will invariably draw him back. This is a truly special place and community.



# ★ Staff Spotlight ★

## Meet Joyia, Alex, Cory, & Lucas

### Our 2022 Seasonal Field Assistants

#### **Cory Partida, Ecology & Land Management Technician**

Cory worked alongside Alex DuMont this summer. He was born in Washington State but his family has spent the last 15 years on Nantucket. The opportunity to make a difference in the community and learn how to do field work that is relevant to his education drew Cory to seek a summer job with the Land Bank. After meeting with Rachael Freedman about what work with the Land Bank would look like this summer, he realized that this is a place he wanted to be. Working on habitat restoration projects, performing surveys for various plant species, as well as working with a GPS were among the things he wanted to be doing and will be doing at school.

The most interesting thing about the Land Bank was getting to see all the diversity of projects the Land Bank is involved in. He doubts he could have found a job anywhere else that gave him so much exposure to his areas of interest, such as working with plants, groundwater, and land management.

One of the biggest challenges of the work was tolerating the summer heat wave. In the beginning, it could also be frustrating not always knowing what certain plant species were or what some terms were, but his knowledge grew with daily experience in the field.

His favorite property is Smooth Hummocks, because it's so serene and he spent the most amount of time working in the area, surveying rare species and plant communities.



Cory is currently studying at Bridgewater State University, and will graduate with his Bachelor's degree in biology this December. In 10 years, Cory sees himself working for a state department and doing ecological and environmental protective projects and surveys. After finishing his college studies, Cory plan to return to Nantucket and would like to return to work for the Land Bank.



# ★ Staff Spotlight ★

## Meet Joyia, Alex, Cory, & Lucas

### Our 2022 Seasonal Field Assistants

#### **Lucas Boyd, Property Maintenance Assistant**

Lucas, our Property Maintenance Assistant for the second year in a row, is from Newton, MA and grew up in a large family as one of six kids. Obviously, that meant his parents needed to keep them active and on the go. His family had a place in Quechee, Vermont and they would frequent the serenity of the outdoors as an outlet from the busy Boston area.

When considering summer positions, the ability to call the outdoors “the office” for the summer really was very attractive. He would describe his job as a landscaper who enjoys making sure the public properties look gorgeous for all to enjoy.

The most interesting part of his job was the projects that his boss Rob and he were called to complete outside of landscaping services. The Land Bank is a massive operation that is always preventing or putting out fires, which keeps the crews busy. The biggest challenges of work were the hordes of ticks that seem to love him and the frequent poison ivy, a fact of life with being outside every day.

Lucas will graduate from Ithaca College in spring 2025 with a major in finance and minor in computer science. In ten years, he wants to be the CEO of his own startup and have multiple streams of passive income.

His favorite property is Settlers Landing because it is his favorite place to go eat Millie's. Lucas would love to return for a third summer working for the Land Bank. However, following his career path remains a priority. Next summer will depend on many variables, but as of now he plans to be in New York City.





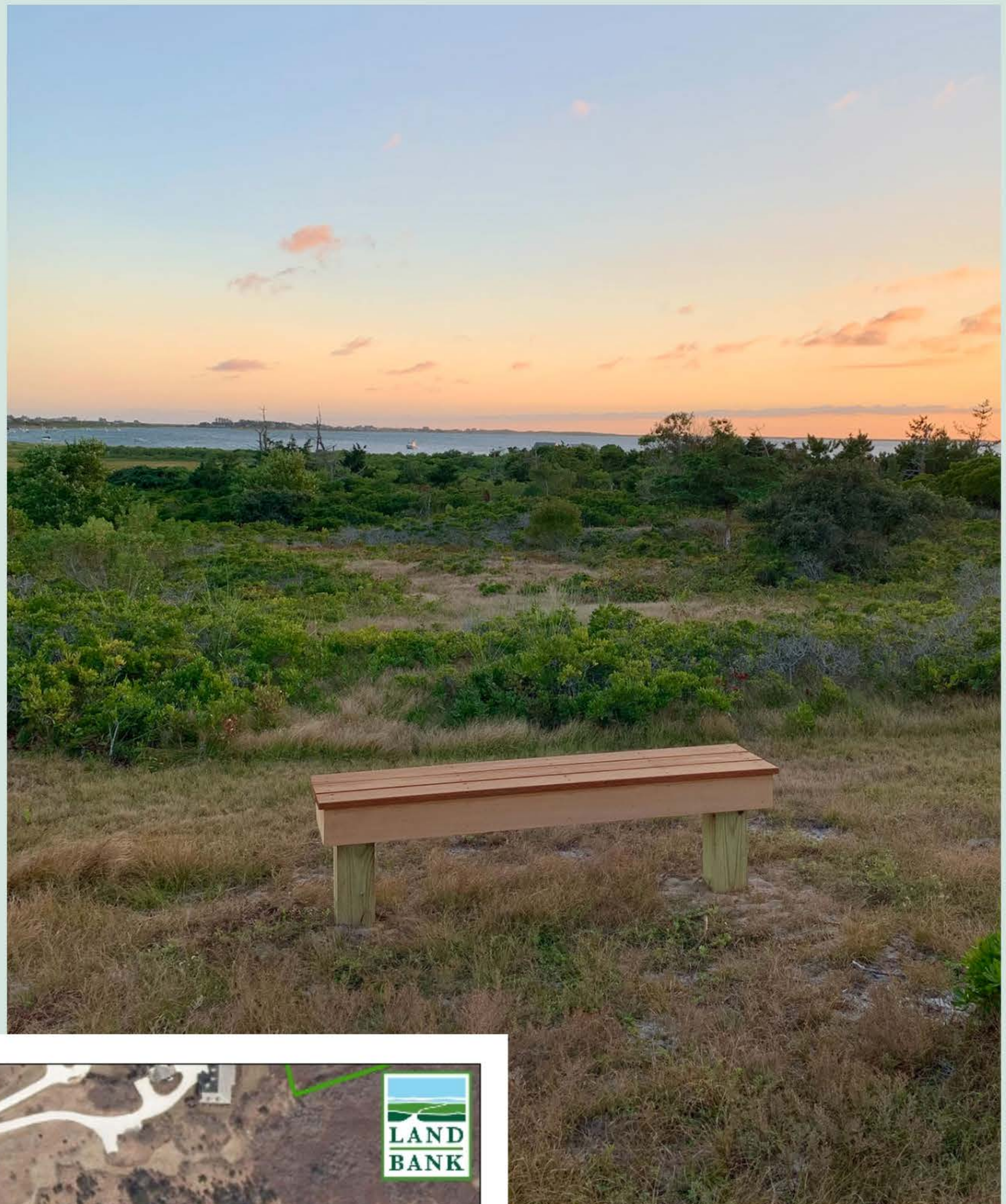
# Property Spotlight

# Wood Trail

Walking a new trail for the first time is a source of immense satisfaction for the Land Bank, and we were lucky enough to do just that this past August! Over the past several months, our staff has been working in-house and with the necessary permitting agencies to establish a new trail loop at our Wood property, located at 55 Warrens Landing Road.

This sizeable, 17-acre property has primarily been used for its beach access in the past, however, its west-facing topography, acreage, and existing parking area made it the ideal space to incorporate a trail.

The trail starts from the beach parking area, before heading northeast and up a slight hill where the elevation overlooks Madaket Harbor. There are two benches installed along the trail where visitors can sit and soak in the breathtaking landscape.



After crossing the dirt road leading into the property, the new trail forms a loop, offering an unparalleled view of the grasslands and downslope marshes in the area.

Stop by 55 Warrens Landing Road to explore the trail and catch a gorgeous sunset the next time you're in Madaket! And of course, you can take a dip in the ocean to cool off afterwards!