

Vision Statement

Recreation encourages the compatible use and enjoyment of the natural areas and resources of Martha's Vineyard. The access to and use of these resources will lead to a greater appreciation of their value now and to future generations.

*Compatible use can be defined as activities that do not harm, degrade, or compromise the biodiversity of an area.

Problem Statement

Recreational opportunities are viewed as increasingly limited on the Vineyard. Land management practices need to have clear and defining guidelines for compatible use. Opportunities for recreation should strike a balance that promotes sustainable use of natural resources and access to them. The message of wise use (stewardship) should be pervasive in all communication efforts that detail the use and care of lands over time.

Examples of

- Access – complaint by many, hunters in particular complain about the lack of access to conservation areas and private lands. Beach access to Norton Point during nesting season etc...
- Management – Best Practices – Land owners (all groups) should have long-term objectives in place that clearly define compatible uses and non-uses when determined. Also many new threats exist today with recreational activities that can be non-intentional, but harmful. (An example would be Eurasian watermilfoil or aquatic weeds spread by boat propellers etc..)
- Balance – access to areas should be less of a tradeoff (you lose in trades sometimes!) but more of a determined and agreed upon commitment to allowing activities that are appropriate for the long-term use and viability of resources for future generations.
- Communication – The use of lands should also correspond with a strong stewardship message, that is, help us maintain these valuable resources by reporting potential problems (Milfoil example, Garlic Mustard etc..) Illegal ATV use.