



Barnstable County

Regional Government of Cape Cod
3195 Main Street | Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630

Barnstable County Economic Development Council

February 12, 2025

Paul Jahnige, Director
Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation
100 Cambridge Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Massachusetts Regional Outdoor Recreational Asset Inventory Grant

Dear Mr. Jahnige:

On behalf of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council, I am writing in support of the Cape Cod Commission's application for the Massachusetts Regional Outdoor Recreational Asset Inventory grant.

The vision for the future of Cape Cod, as articulated in the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan, is a region of vibrant, sustainable, and healthy communities, and protected natural and cultural resources. The provision of open space and outdoor recreational opportunities is a critical element of achieving this vision. Outdoor recreational opportunities are consistently one of the most frequently cited reasons why people visit and move to Cape Cod.

With over 500 miles of coastline and beaches, almost 900 freshwater ponds, and more than 100,000 acres of habitat, wetlands, and protected open space, the natural beauty, environmental resources, and historic character of the region have made Cape Cod a globally-recognized visitor destination. The Cape boasts several well-known outdoor recreation destinations – most notably the Cape Cod National Seashore. Each of the 15 towns on Cape Cod hosts a wide range of opportunities to recreate, both on land and in the water.

While recreational opportunities abound on Cape Cod, identifying them can be a challenge. There is so much to do and explore, and this grant will help bring that information together and offer it to the public in an engaging and accessible format. This grant will allow the Cape Cod Commission and its partners to compile existing data, gather new information about the Cape's outdoor recreational sites and assets, and create a web-based application that will help residents and visitors find places and experiences that are new and exciting. Compiling resources in one place to highlight recreational opportunities across the region will benefit the Cape's residents and visitors, connect people with the outdoors, and support the local economy.

I urge you to strongly consider this application for funding.

Sincerely,

Robert Talerman
Chair, Barnstable County Economic Development Council