

## Ashland Street: Dune Walkway Profile

Site Assessments: March 26, 2024 and August 27, 2024

Walkway Conditions and Observations	
Road to Beach	152 ft
Boardwalk Length	82 ft
End of boardwalk to beach	70 ft
Walkway width	5.3 ft
Boardwalk Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asphalt apron,</li> <li>Pressure treated plywood connected by cable</li> </ul>
Attached pathways*	None
Benches	4
Additional Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Access point</li> <li>Wide enough for vehicular access.</li> <li>Wooden posts and beachgrass separating walkway from adjacent vehicle access way.</li> <li>Seasonal Mobi Mat installed to extend wooden walkway over sand to beach</li> </ul>
*Human-made pathways connected to the municipal walkway	



Ecological Conditions and Observations			
Community Types Present	Rare Species	Other Native Species of interest	Species of Concern
Not applicable	None observed on assessment dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beachgrass (<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>)</li> <li>Beach pea (<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>)</li> <li>Common Milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>)</li> <li>Sea rocket (<i>Cakile edentula</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beach rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>)<sup>w</sup></li> </ul>
<i>W = NH invasive watch list</i>			



Entrance



Walkway Entrance



Landward Side

## Walkway Observations

- This location features a flat, wide pathway that is not situated on a dune.
- The boardwalk is noticeably wider than others observed.
- There are four benches along the south side of the walkway, all positioned parallel to it. One bench is located at the point where the sand portion of the walkway meets the beach.
- The sand and vegetation are higher than the surface of the walkway along the north and south edges, leading to sand buildup and encroachment onto the walkway (observed March 26, 2024).
- No dunes are present adjacent to the walkways although small remnant dunes are present in front of homes to the south (figure 1).
- The beach entrance supports vehicle access to the beach to the north side of the walkway.
- The walkway is lined with beachgrass on either side (observed 8/27/24); the beachgrass to the north of the walkway is denser and healthier than that to the south.
- Planters with Canna lilies are present along the south side of the walkway.
- Mobi mat observed in August (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Small dune system in front of homes to the south.



Figure 2: Mobi mat observed in August

## Potential Action Items

- Periodically remove excess sand from the walkway surface to maintain accessibility.
- Explore opportunities to use the removed sand beneath the walkway to raise its elevation and improve resilience.
- Allow the small, fragmented dunes to continue developing. Limit disturbance.
- Restore sand dune to create a narrow path on the seaward end of the walkway.
- Consider orienting the seaward end of the walkway away from the dominant wind and wave directions.

## Resources

- GoBotany – Native Plant Trust: <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org>
- MA Office of Coastal Zone Management Tips: [Basics of Building Beach Access Structures that Protect Dunes and Banks](#)
- Planting Guide for Tidal Shoreline Erosion Management in New Hampshire (beach and dune sections): <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/tidal-erosion-planting-guide.pdf>