Ashland Street: Dune Walkway Profile

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

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



Community			
Types Present	Rare Species	Other Native Species of interest	Species of Concern
Not applicable	None observed on	Beachgrass	Beach rose
	assessment dates	(Ammophila breviligulata)	(Rosa rugosa) ^w
		Beach pea	
		(Lathyrus japonicus)	
		• Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)	
		Sea rocket (Cakile edentula)	







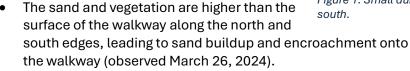
Entrance

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.



- 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: <u>Basics of Building Beach Access Structures</u> 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