



***SAVING THE
CAPE:
A HISTORY &
A FUTURE
OF LAND
CONSERVATION
ON CAPE COD***



2023

THE COMPACT
OF CAPE COD CONSERVATION TRUSTS, INC.



The People of
the First Light
have protected
open space on
Cape Cod for
more than 10,000
years





A report upon the public holdings of the shore towns of Massachusetts, J. B. Harrison, 1892 for The Trustees of Public Reservations

1892

“Cape Cod will be a paradise as long as the wildness and freedom remain unspoiled. Unless great areas here are made public holdings, free for the people’s enjoyment forever, the time will come when the tired dwellers in the cities, who are driven by the heat of summer to seek rest by the sea, will find here the city all over again, and be cribbed, cabined, and confined in conditions very like those from which they are trying to escape.” (p. 49)

LAND is the resource base
for all of our natural benefits

- If you want clean water, save land



MONOMOY RIVER,
Harwich / Chatham

LAND is the resource base
for all of our natural benefits

- If you want to keep farms and good soils intact, save land



MELPET FARMS,
DENNIS

LAND is the resource base
for all of our natural benefits

- If you want native plants and animals to thrive, save land



DANFORTH PROPERTY,
MARSTONS MILLS

LAND is the resource base
for all of our natural benefits

- If you want to preserve scenic views,
save land



**DENNIS POND,
YARMOUTHPORT**

LAND is the resource base
for all of our natural benefits

- If you want to create linked walking trails,
save land



Great Island,
Wellfleet

**1714 – Provincetown adopts a law to prevent the felling of trees
“to keep the sand from being driven into the Harbour by the
wind.”**



Henry David Thoreau, *CAPE COD* c. **1850**

“...an exceedingly barren and desolate country, of a character which I can find no name for; such a surface, perhaps, as the bottom of the sea made dry land day before yesterday.”





The Cape was denuded by the need for wood products and pastures into the 20th Century.

Falmouth, **1916**



After WWII, the Cape's forest was cut over again for rampant residential and commercial development.

Foundation excavation for a single-family house, Cotuit, 2022



11-acre clearcut for ground-mounted solar array, Cotuit Road, S. Sandwich, 2023

*15-acre clearcut
and topsoil
stripped for
housing
subdivision,
Old Kings Highway
(Route 6A),
Yarmouthport,
2024*



1892 - the new Trustees of Public Reservations funded a survey of public open space on the Cape and found a dearth of it.

Eastham: “no considerable public holdings”

Truro: “no park or common or right on the shore”

Wellfleet: “recently bought a small playground by the high school”

Yarmouth: “formerly a town landing on Bass River, but it was sold”

Barnstable: “no considerable public holdings for places of resort”

Dennis: “no park or common belonging to the town”

Brewster: “there is a town landing on the bay at the end of a street”

Harwich: “a green is in front of the academy”

Chatham: “no common or park”

Orleans: “town owns a small area around the library”

Sandwich: “no town holding of any kind for a place of public resort”

Bourne: “no place of public resort”

Mashpee: “no holdings for places of public resort”

Falmouth: “no public holding except a town landing”

Wareham: “no public holdings for public resort”

Provincetown: “4000 acres owned by the State – an extensive public reservation” *The Provincelands*

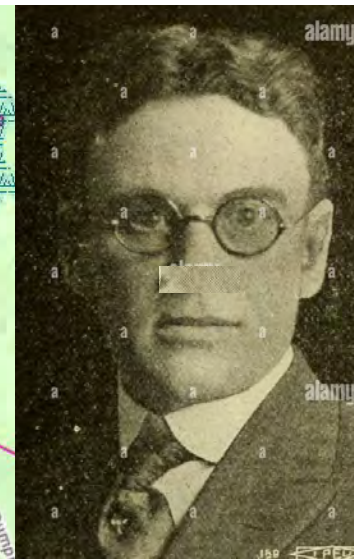
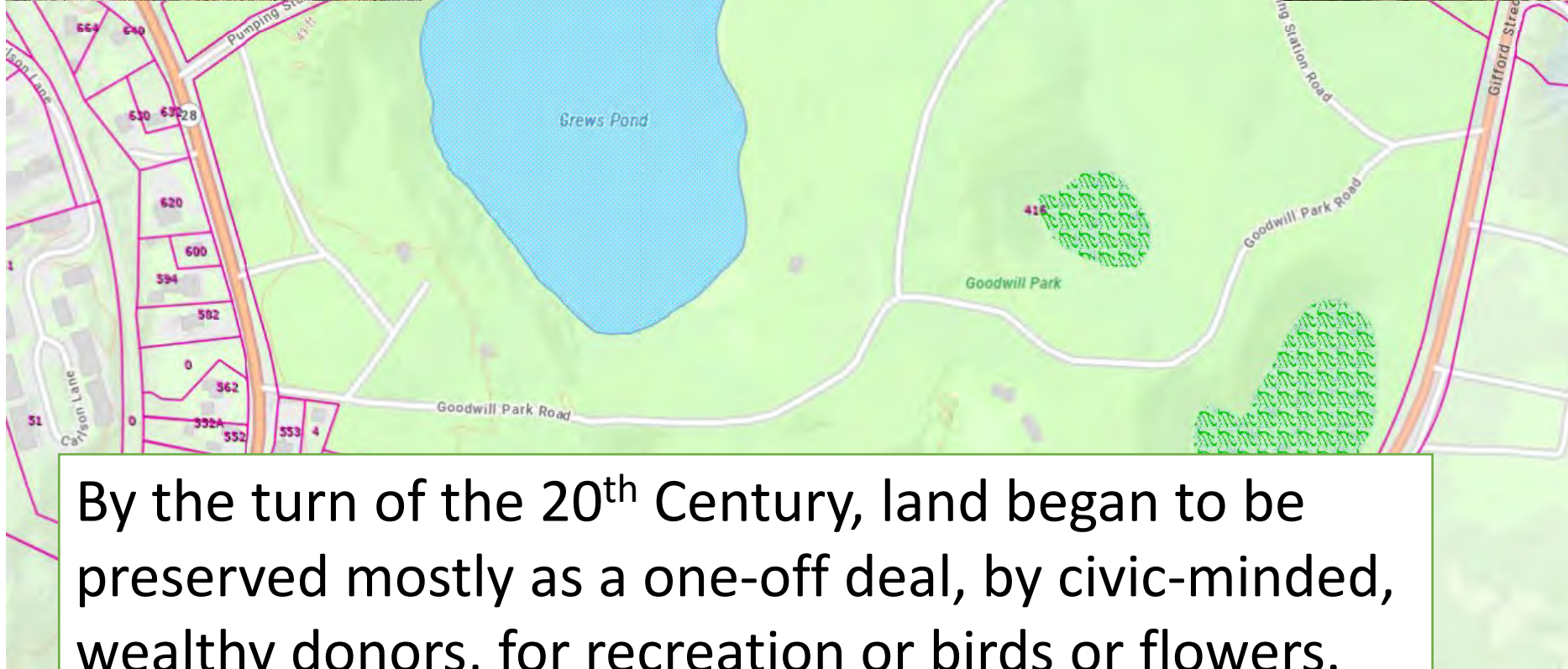




1893 – State reasserts claim to the public Provincelands from encroaching development

1962 – the 4000 acres are given by the State to the Cape Cod National Seashore





1894

Joseph Story Fay of Boston and Woods Hole donates 71 acres to the new Trustees of Public Reservations, "in consideration of our pleasant relations with the people of Falmouth."

Subsequent donations by the Fay, Gifford, Swift and Jenkins families through 1927 increased the size of Goodwill Park to 86 acres.

It had been used informally as Goodwill Park prior to 1894 by the public.

By the turn of the 20th Century, land began to be preserved mostly as a one-off deal, by civic-minded, wealthy donors, for recreation or birds or flowers.



In **1895**, the women of the Eastham Village Improvement Society raised money to purchase the windmill and two adjoining properties from private ownership for \$ 113.50.

Finally, Eastham had a public open space, now the Town Green.

Why did so few Cape Cod towns have a town common like Falmouth's?



1902 – Village Improvement Society of Dennis chartered to “improve and ornament the streets and public grounds of the Village of Dennis by planting and cultivating trees and performing such other acts as shall tend to beautify the village.”

1905 – VIS bought the Soldiers’ Training Field on the Old Kings Highway as a public green space



John Bodfish (1878-1956) of Barnstable donated 2 acres at Sandy Neck “to see that all had public access to Sandy Neck and Cape Cod Bay.”

1920



BEACHES...

The Town of Barnstable now owns 4,700 acres of the Sandy Neck barrier beach and the Great Marsh behind it. As many as 500 vehicles per day use the beach in the summer, which is patrolled 24/7.



BIRDS...

Wellfleet Bay
Wildlife Sanctuary



Mass Audubon

1929 – Oliver L. Austin, Jr. and his father establish the Austin Ornithological Research Station on the Bay in South Wellfleet. He later wrote the definitive *Birds of the World*. In 1958, they sold the Station to Mass Audubon, where now almost 1000 acres are preserved.



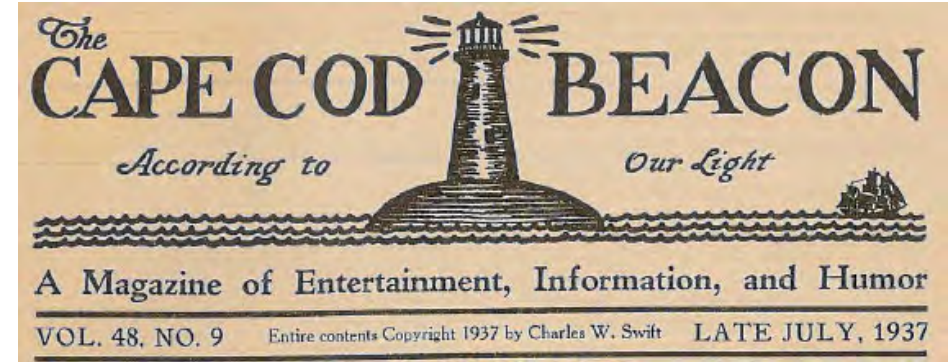
...FLOWERS



1931 – The Cape Cod Horticultural Society opens its 9-acre park in Osterville center, the oldest private nature park open to the public on Cape Cod.



1934 – Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce declares the need for the “protection of Cape Cod’s natural beauties, and the preservation of its charm” as the car culture starts



1937 – Editor and artist Harold Dunbar of Chatham proposes a National Park from Orleans to Provincetown “to be kept inviolate from Progress forever.”






1934 Addie Nickerson donates 1,727 acres in Brewster to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a state park. Dedicated to her late husband Roland C. Nickerson and their grandson Roland Jr.

The park has now grown to more than 1,900 acres, including Cape Cod Bay shore purchased in the 1980s.

Most popular camping site on Cape Cod by far.



1941-44



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquires Monomoy Island off Chatham as a Wildlife Refuge for migratory birds. Served as a bombing range during WWII. In 1970, 2,600 acres of the island were designated as a federal **Wilderness Area**, the only one in Massachusetts, to protect its wild character.



1958 –Mass. Fish & Game buys 1,400 acres from the Crane family in Hatchville and names it after Frances Anita Crane (1887-1954). She and her brother John managed the Coonamessett Resort (golf, airstrip, polo, pond beach) from 1925-1957. Since 2000, the refuge has been a flagship for controlled burns for eco-restoration of the grassland.



1957 –Massachusetts adopts the first Conservation Commission Act in the U.S., giving local boards the duty to protect and develop natural resources and watersheds, and identify and accept land for conservation, rather than recreation. Barnstable was one of the first towns in Mass. to adopt a Commission in 1957. (Falmouth in 1961).

In **1961**, Miss Lucy Chapman (1885-1972) of Brewster was the Cape's first land donor to a Conservation Commission, giving 3.6 acres on Main Street to the Brewster Conservation Commission.





Rachel Carson worked in Woods Hole and was the first woman to go out on a federal fisheries scientific cruise. She went on to write *The Sea Around Us* and *Silent Spring* in 1962, a blueprint for environmental action to protect human health and wildlife.

A bronze statue of Carson located on the waterfront park in Woods Hole in 2013.

1959 – Rachel Carson advocates for a national park on Cape Cod, among other sites: “We must save the wilderness of beach and high dunes where Cape Cod, after its 39 miles thrust into the Atlantic, bends back towards the mainland.”





The Cape Cod National Seashore Act was signed by President Kennedy (here with MA Senator Leverett Saltonstall at the signing) in **1961.**

At 27,000 acres, CCNS is one of the smallest national parks, but a top US Park destination in the East, attracting 4 million visits per year who spent \$548 million in 2022, per NPS.



Congressmen Boland and O'Neill introduced the bill in 1958



Sen. SALTONSTALL's staff did much of the final CCNS bill drafting

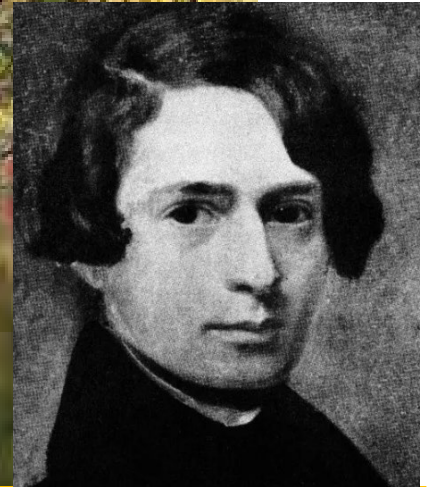
“A single act of Congress is of course insufficient to preserve the Cape's beauty and heritage. **We all can and must do our parts.**”

- - *Jonathan Moore (1933-2017), Orleans*

David B. H. Martin (1925-1995), of Barnstable, crafted the novel idea of designing the Cape Cod National Seashore around the existing villages and private inholdings of the Lower Cape, a first in the nation. He drafted the 3-acre zoning district adopted by the six towns for land in the Park. He later drafted the charter for Barnstable County's regional government, which persists to the present.



“We all can and must do our parts.”
Rise of the towns and land trusts



“If the inhabitants of a town were wise, they would seek to preserve these things—a river, a meadow, a forest, though at considerable expense... It would be worth the while if in each town there were a committee appointed to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment...” *H.D.T.*

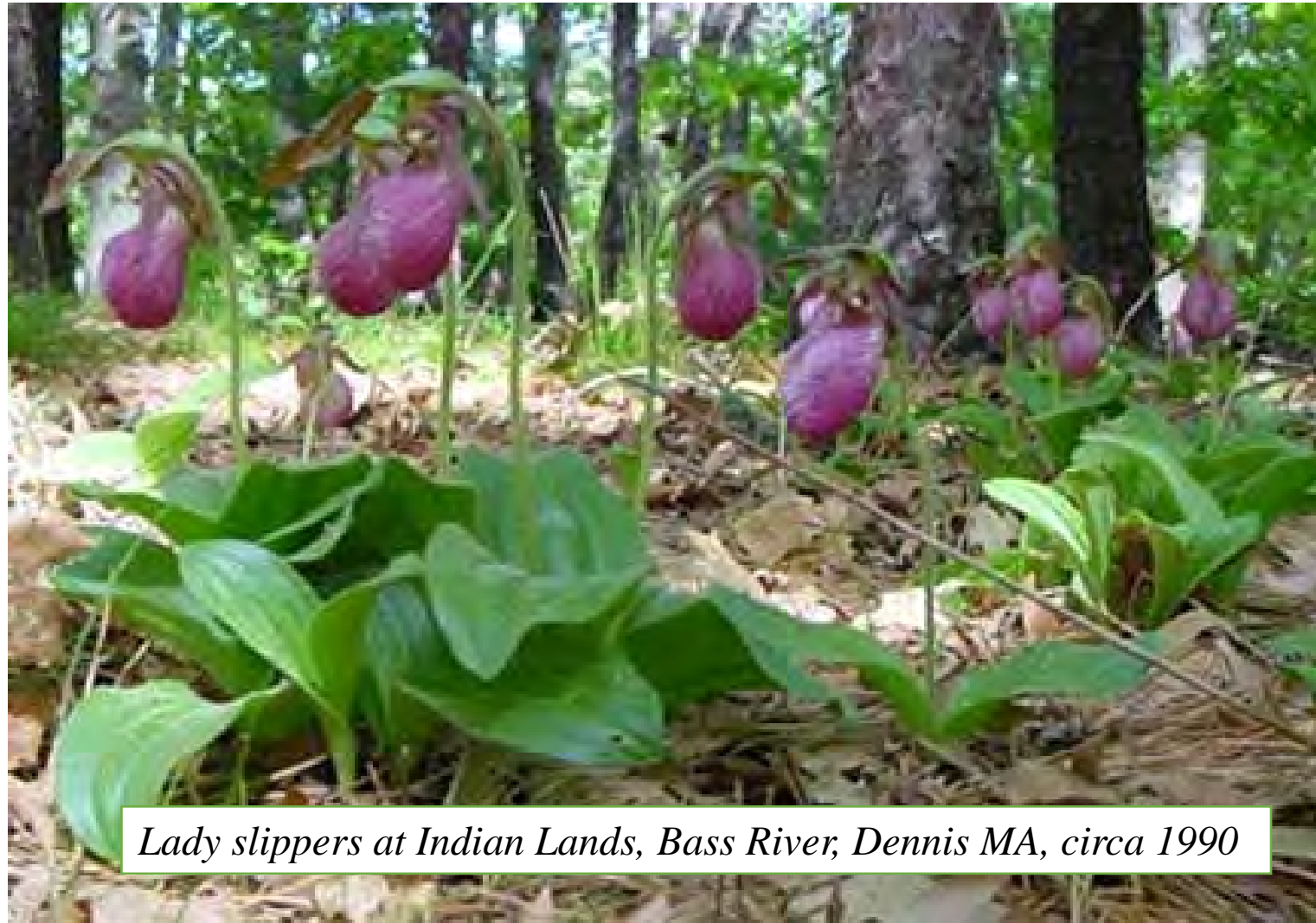
*The Punch Bowl,
Beebe Woods,
Falmouth*

1967 – Dennis becomes the first town to identify a package of multiple properties for the Town to purchase for conservation and passive recreation, including lands at Crowes Pasture, Scargo Hill, Fresh Pond and Bass River.



Norton H. Nickerson (1938-2011) of Dennis

Finally, town governments decide to be more intentional in making a comprehensive approach to open space preservation.



Lady slippers at Indian Lands, Bass River, Dennis MA, circa 1990

1980s - BOOM TIME ON OLD CAPE COD

1988 - "A Boston Globe poll found that 75 percent of Cape Cod residents surveyed support a ban on some types of commercial development, and that more than 40 percent would back a freeze on residential construction."

NDS' DAILY NEWSPAPER

March 21, 1991

7-Day Home Delivery: \$2.85

HOUSING GROWTH ON CAPE COD

	1980	1990	% change
Barnstable County	99,946	135,192	35.3
Barnstable	16,436	23,370	42.2
Bourne	7,169	8,999	25.5
Brewster	3,489	6,367	82.5
Chatham	5,003	6,301	25.9
Dennis	12,156	14,502	19.3
Eastham	3,625	4,863	34.2
Falmouth	14,414	18,168	26.0
Harwich	6,510	8,325	27.9
Mashpee	3,582	7,002	95.5
Orleans	3,678	4,593	24.9
Provincetown	3,066	3,802	24.0
Sandwich	4,358	7,236	66.0
Truro	1,571	2,175	38.4
Wellfleet	2,629	3,576	36.0
Yarmouth	12,260	15,913	29.8

Cape led '80s housing

By THOMAS DUFFY
OTTAWAY NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON — Paced by explosive growth in Mashpee and Brewster, the number of housing units in Barnstable County grew at a faster clip than any other mainland county in the state over the last decade, according to census data released this week.

The number of houses in Barnstable County grew from just under 100,000 in 1980 to 135,192 in 1990, for a rate of 35.3 percent, according to data compiled by the Massachusetts Institute for Social

and Economic Research.

Leading the way was Mashpee, where the number of houses spurted more than 95 percent from 3,582 to 7,002. Following closely was Brewster, where an increase from 3,489 housing units to 6,367 units translated into an 82.5 percent rate.

Sandwich showed a growth rate of 66 percent, with the number of housing units rising from 4,358 to 7,236.

Trailing the pack on the Cape — but still well above the state average — was Dennis, where the number of housing units grew 19.3 per-

cent from 12,156 to 14,502.

"It's just more documentation that supports everything you see around you," said Marilyn Fifield, a research analyst for the Cape Cod Commission.

Massachusetts as a whole increased its number of housing units by 12 percent from 2.2 million to 2.4 million.

The fastest growing county, according to the data, was Nantucket, where the number of houses climbed 46.8 percent from 4,784 to 7,021. More than two-thirds of those new houses appeared to be vacation houses, according to the

Sandwich, Brewster and Mashpee had the highest growth rates in the state, not just on the Cape

1980s - BOOM TIME ON OLD CAPE COD



\$114,236,000

Total purchase price paid for all open space purchases by Cape Cod towns (1985-1988)

\$98,292,000

Total local taxpayers' expenditures for open space (1985-1988)

\$21,607

Average final net cost per acre to local taxpayers (1985-1988)

4,549

Total acres open space acquired by 14 of 15 Cape Cod towns (1985-1988)

Brewster, Bourne

Towns most overachieving in open space acquisitions (local funds spent / total valuation, 1985-88)

600 acres, Brewster

Largest new conservation area assembled, Punkhorn Parklands

23%

Percentage of Cape Cod land mass considered protected open space (1988)

1983-88 – The State begins a push to provide major funding to create new parks and beaches on the Cape, including at High Head in Truro, South Cape Beach & Quashnet River in Mashpee, Washburn Island (330 acres) in Falmouth (below), and beachfront for Nickerson State Park in Brewster.





1985 – The 300 Committee forms as a grass roots effort to encourage the Town to acquire 300 acres of open space to celebrate the Town’s 300th anniversary. Since then, the land trust has helped to preserve more than 2500 acres in Falmouth, often with the Town’s financial support.

2025 – T3C celebrating its 40th anniversary!



1986 – Six Lower Cape land trusts and Barnstable form The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., the oldest regional network of land trusts in America.

Today, 32 land trusts and watershed groups belong to The Compact.



Ansel Chaplin (1931-2017) of Truro was the founding President of The Compact and served for the first 15 years.

“If it’s money that talks to preserve open space on Cape Cod, then we will find the money,” he said in 1987.

1982	Land Trust Alliance (US)
1986	The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.
1990	Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
1990	Bay Area Open Space Council (CA)
1991	Maine Land Trust Program
1991	Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts
1994	Gathering Waters WI
1994	South Carolina Land Trust Network
1995	PA LT Assoc.
1997	Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance (OH)
1999	RI LT Council
2002	Alliance of Florida Land Trusts
2003	Texas Land Trust Council
2004	Heart of the Lakes (MI)
2004	Blue Ridge Forever (NC)
2004	Indiana Land Trust Alliance
2004	Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council (CA)
2005	Montana Association of Land Trusts
2005	Prairie State Preservation Coalition (IL)
2006	CT Land Conservation Council
2006	Kentucky Land Trusts Coalition
2008	Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
2008	Tennessee Land Trust Network
2009	Washington Assoc. of Land Trusts
2011	Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
2011	New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition
2012	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
2019	Forever Maryland
2019	Gulf Partnership



THE COMPACT
OF CAPE COD CONSERVATION TRUSTS, INC.

The Compact was founded in 1986 to provide technical support to local and regional land trusts and watershed associations.



Association to Preserve Cape Cod



Brewster Conservation Trust



Eastham Conservation Foundation



Harwich Conservation Trust



Sandwich Conservation Trust



Orleans Conservation Trust



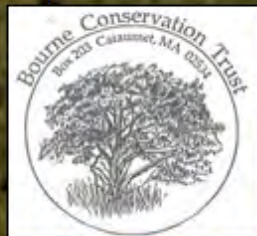
Friends of Herring River

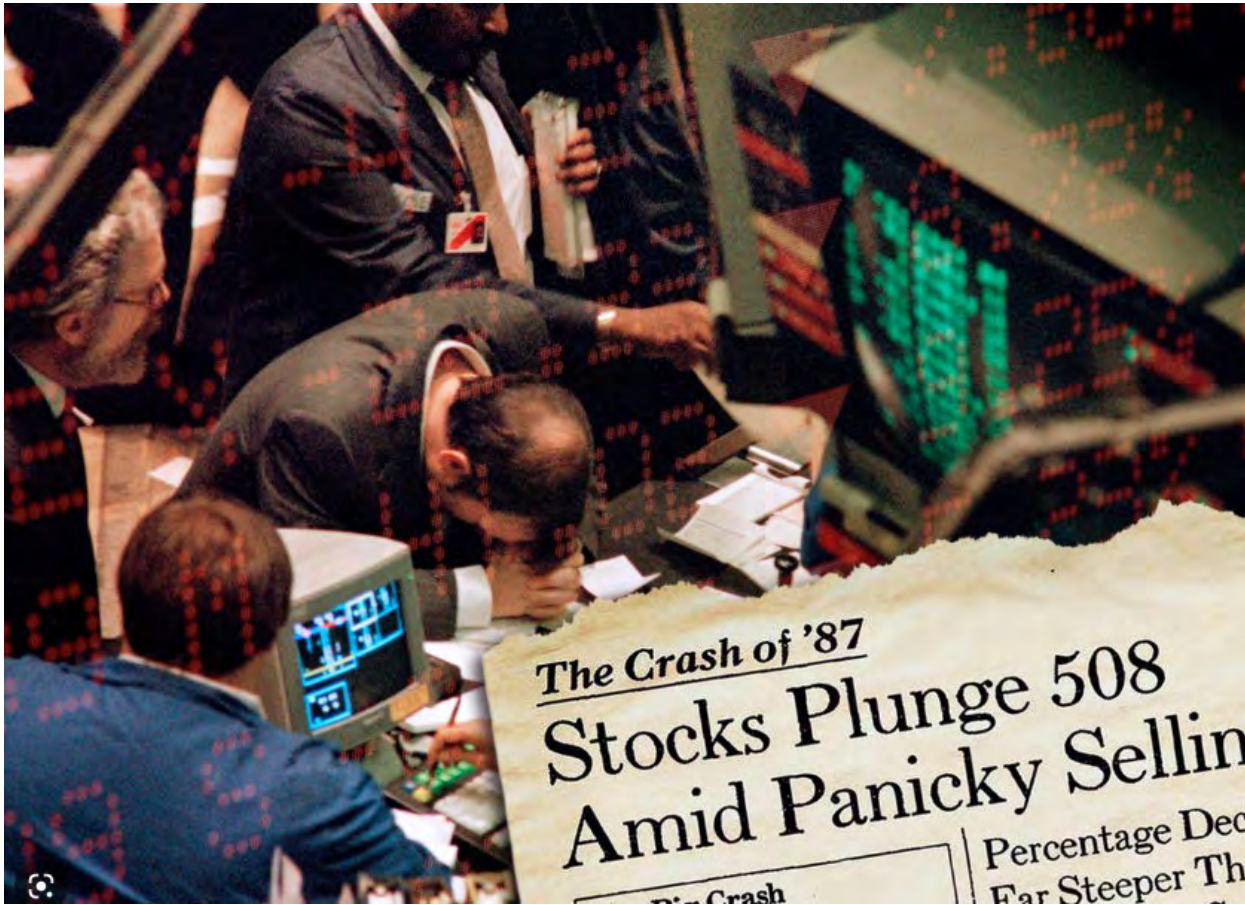


Massachusetts Audubon Society



Chatham Conservation Foundation





1987 – Building Boom on Cape Cod crashes with the stock market, and towns rein in spending on open space. A first attempt at a Land Bank for the Cape, like the ones on the Vineyard and Nantucket, fail in 1988 and 1996.

Statistics courtesy of Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

Acres of Open Space Purchased by Cape Towns

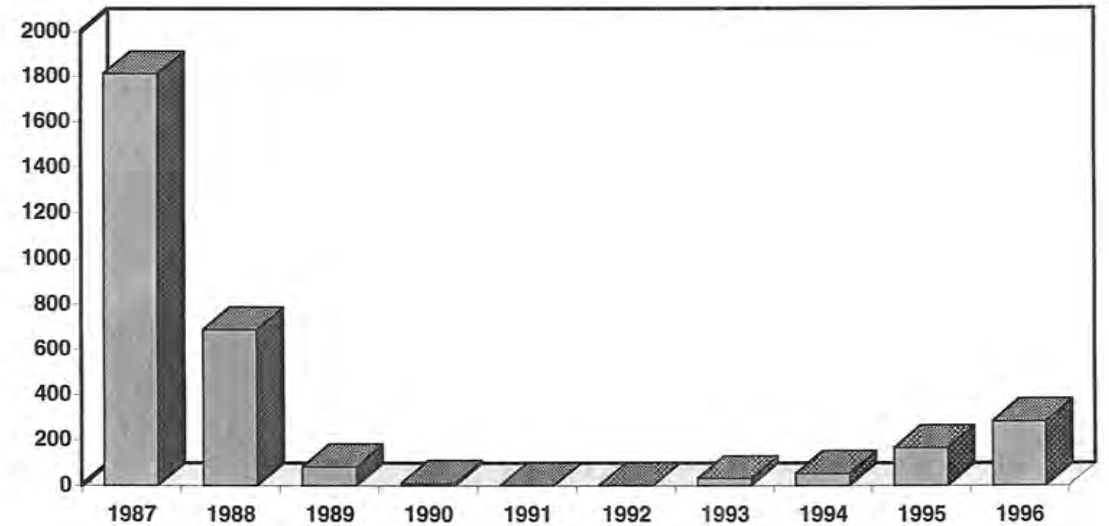


Chart prepared by Cape Cod Commission



Barnstable County Commissioners Robert O'Leary and Vicky Lowell helped to write the bill and rallied the 15 Cape towns

Long-time broker Bob Wilkinson testified in favor and made sure the CC Board of Realtors supported the bill



Susan Nickerson and Jaci Barton led the Friends of the Cape Cod Land Bank grassroots campaign



Elliott Carr, Cape Cod Five president, gathered all Cape bank leaders to endorse the bill

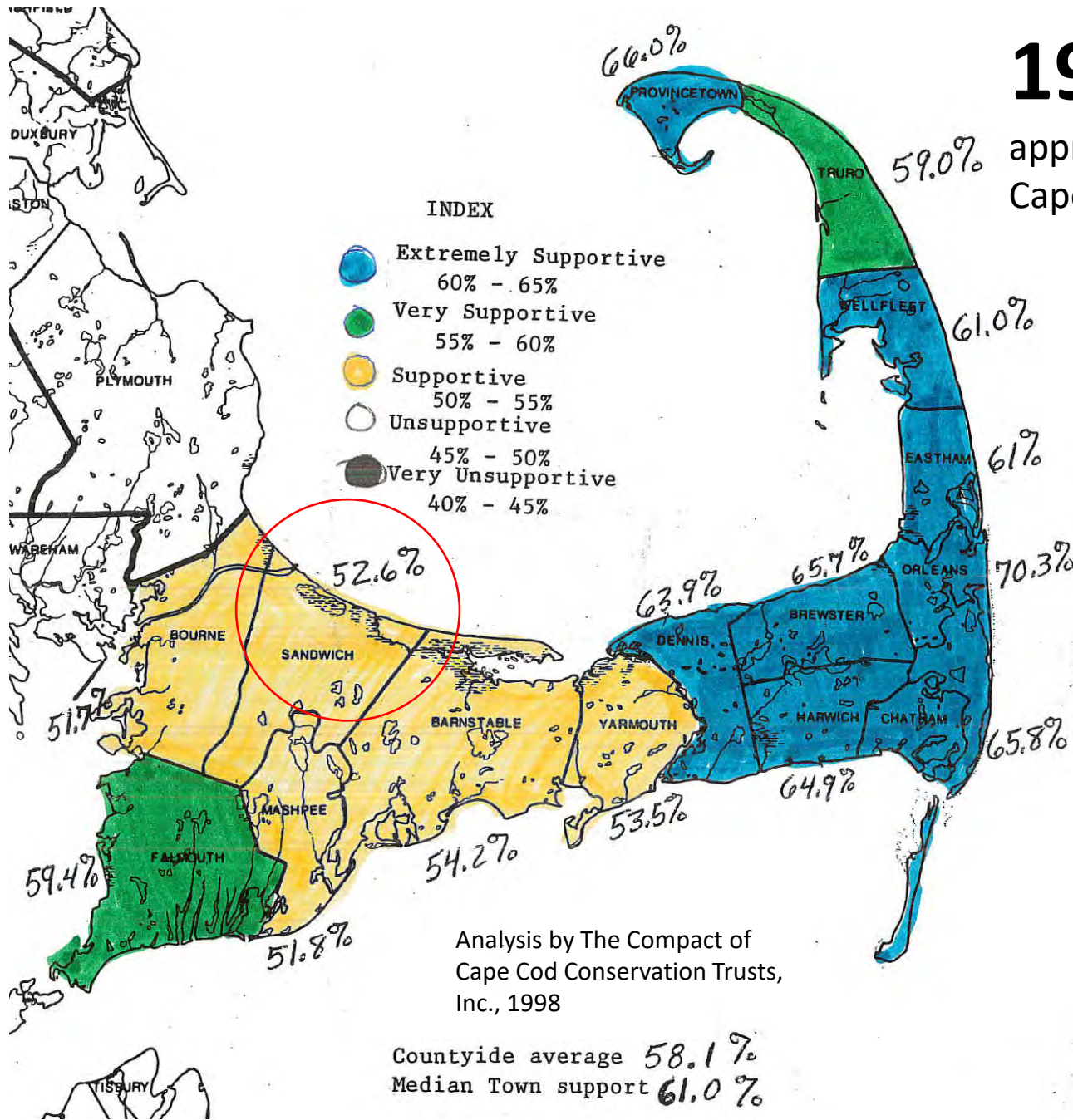
1998



State Senator Henri Rauschenbach, & State Reps. Eric Turkington and Tom George pushed the bill through the legislature



1998 – 58% of Cape voters (majorities in all 15 towns) approve a 3% surcharge on property tax to create the Cape Cod Land Bank for towns to buy open space





1999-2007 – Cape Cod Land Bank Results

About 40% of the 223 projects involved direct cooperation between the nonprofit land trusts and town government

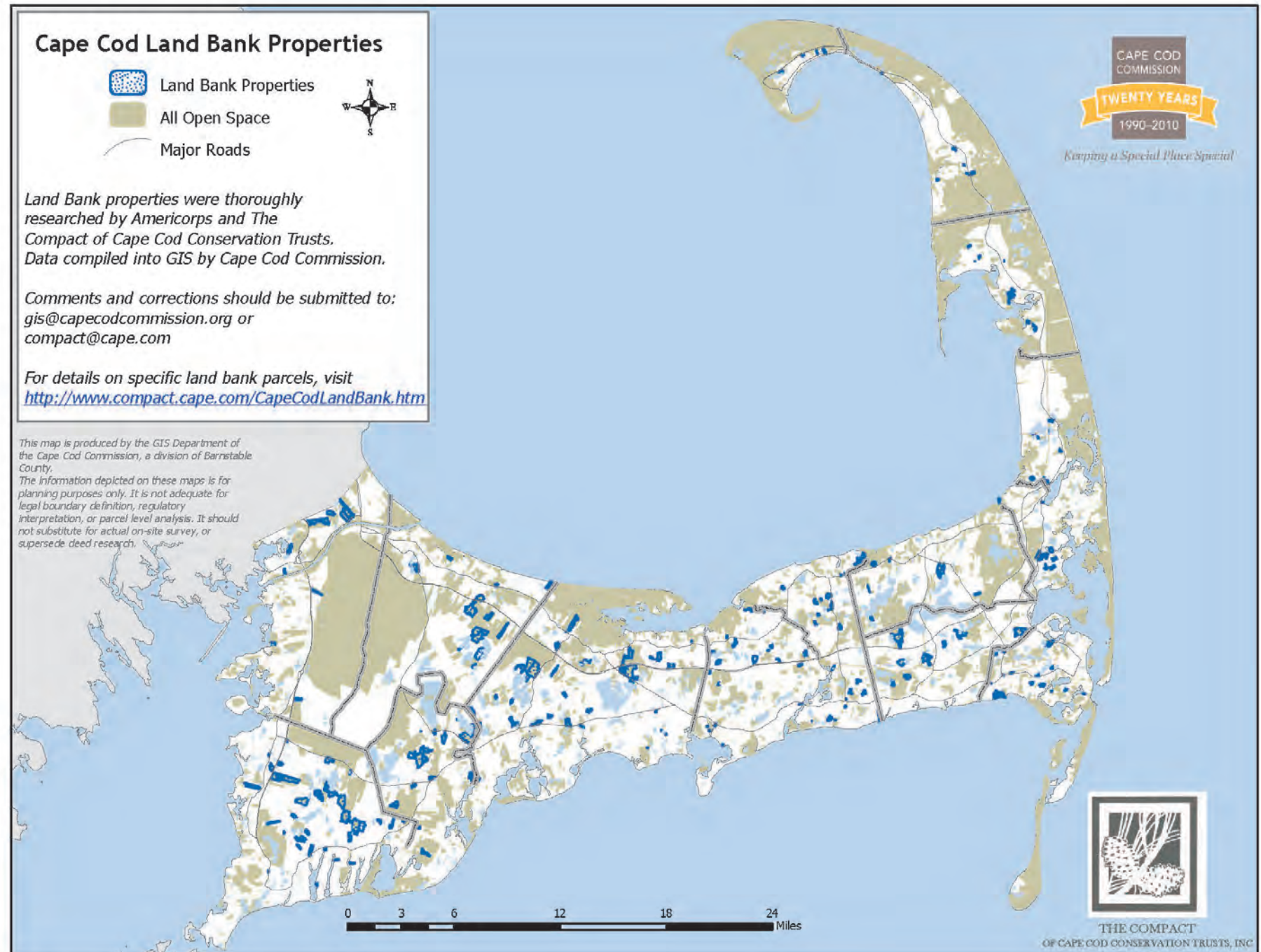


LAND BANK RESULTS, 1999-2007

\$213,633,762	Total purchase price paid for all Land Bank properties, all 15 towns (1998-2007)
\$145,475,704	Total Land Bank local expense on purchase price (3% surcharge on property taxes in 15 towns)
\$43,832,177	Other public dollars used in Land Bank purchases (town, state, federal grants; mitigation)
\$15,000,000	Start-up grant from State (pro-rated, 3-year allotment to each town based on Land Bank levy)
\$9,325,881	Private dollars raised by non-profit land trusts to subsidize Land Bank purchases
\$32,688	Average final net cost per acre from local taxpayers' 3% Land Bank surcharge
233	Number of completed projects
4,450	Total acres acquired, using Land Bank funds
6%	Estimated amount of remaining developable land on Cape Cod acquired through Land Bank
278 acres, Mashpee	Largest new conservation area assembled, Santuit Pond Preserve (inc. 83 acres in Barnstable)
40%	Percentage of completed Land Bank projects with assistance from non-profit land trusts
2,175	Total acres preserved by non-profit land trusts separate from town projects (1999-2007)
30%	Percentage of Cape Cod land mass considered protected open space (2007)
\$24,000,000,000	Total real estate sales activity, Cape Cod, 1999-2007 (except sales <\$50,000 or > \$1,000,000)

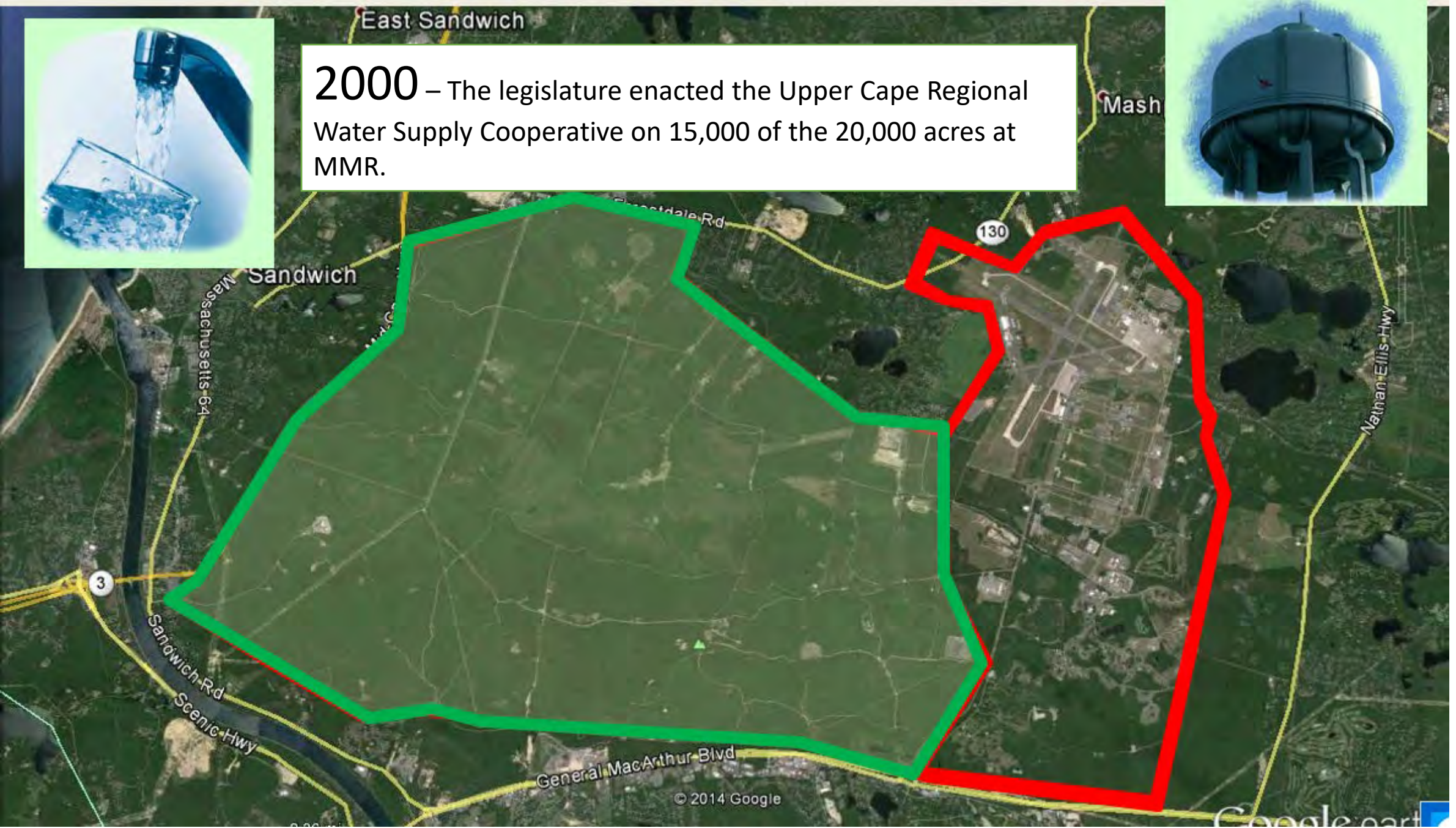
All 15 Cape towns participated in the Land Bank, purchasing more than 4,450 acres of open space in less than 10 years.

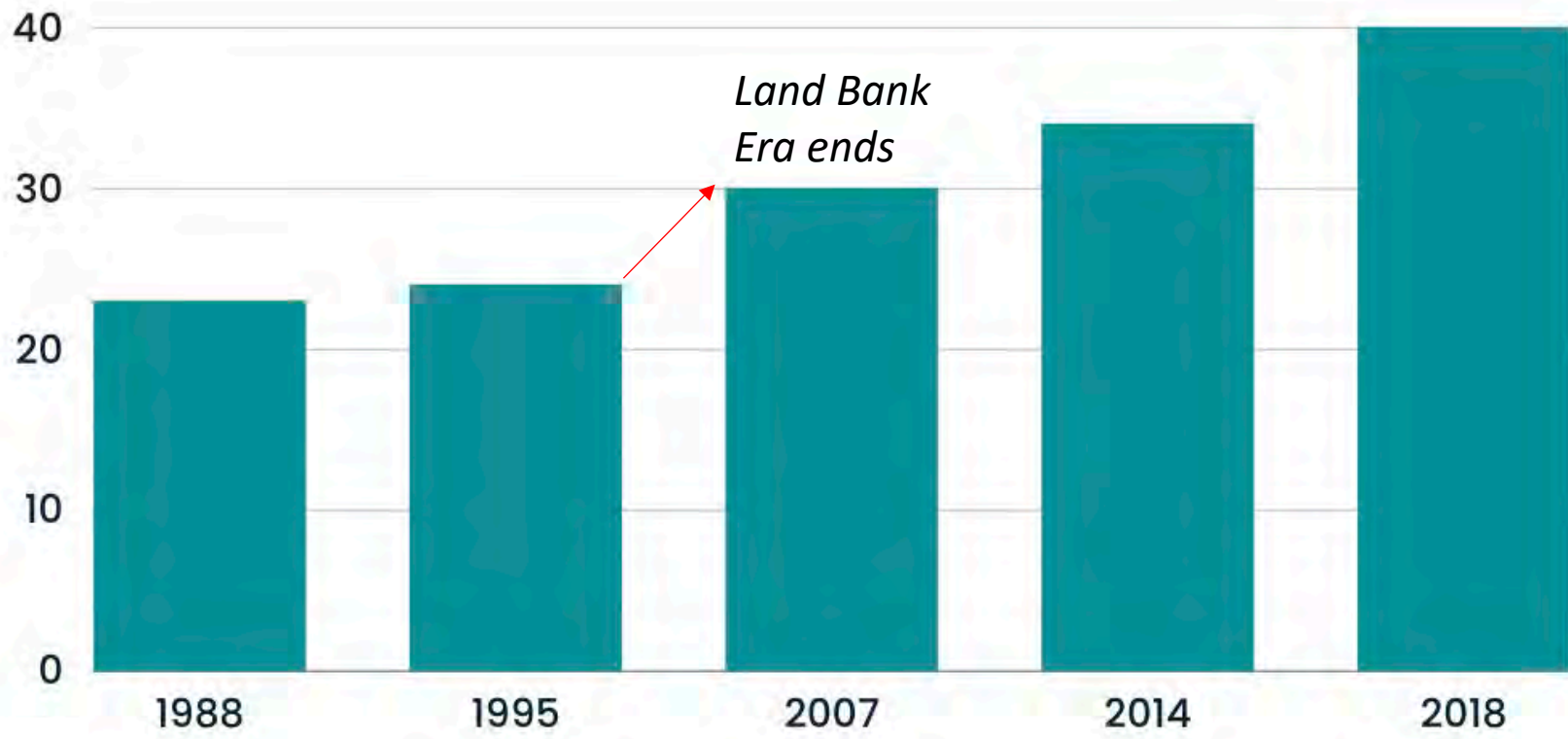
By 2007, all towns adopted the Community Preservation Act (Chatham and Provincetown also kept their Land Bank until its 2020 sunset.)





2000 – The legislature enacted the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative on 15,000 of the 20,000 acres at MMR.





Cape Cod, legally-protected open space, 1988 to 2018, by percent of land mass

Cape Cod has almost doubled its protected open space between 1988 (23%) and 2018 (40%).



2012 – First Native American-led land trust east of the Mississippi, is founded on Cape Cod.



2015 – The Dennis Conservation Land Trust fosters the first welcome to the Native Land Conservancy, inviting indigenous people to enjoy its properties for cultural practices and ceremony.

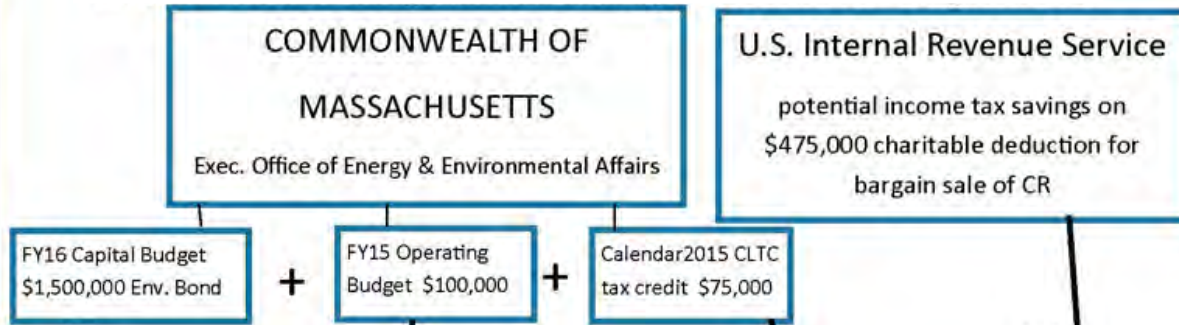
2021 - This Cultural Respect Easement was extended to all DCLT properties and made permanent.



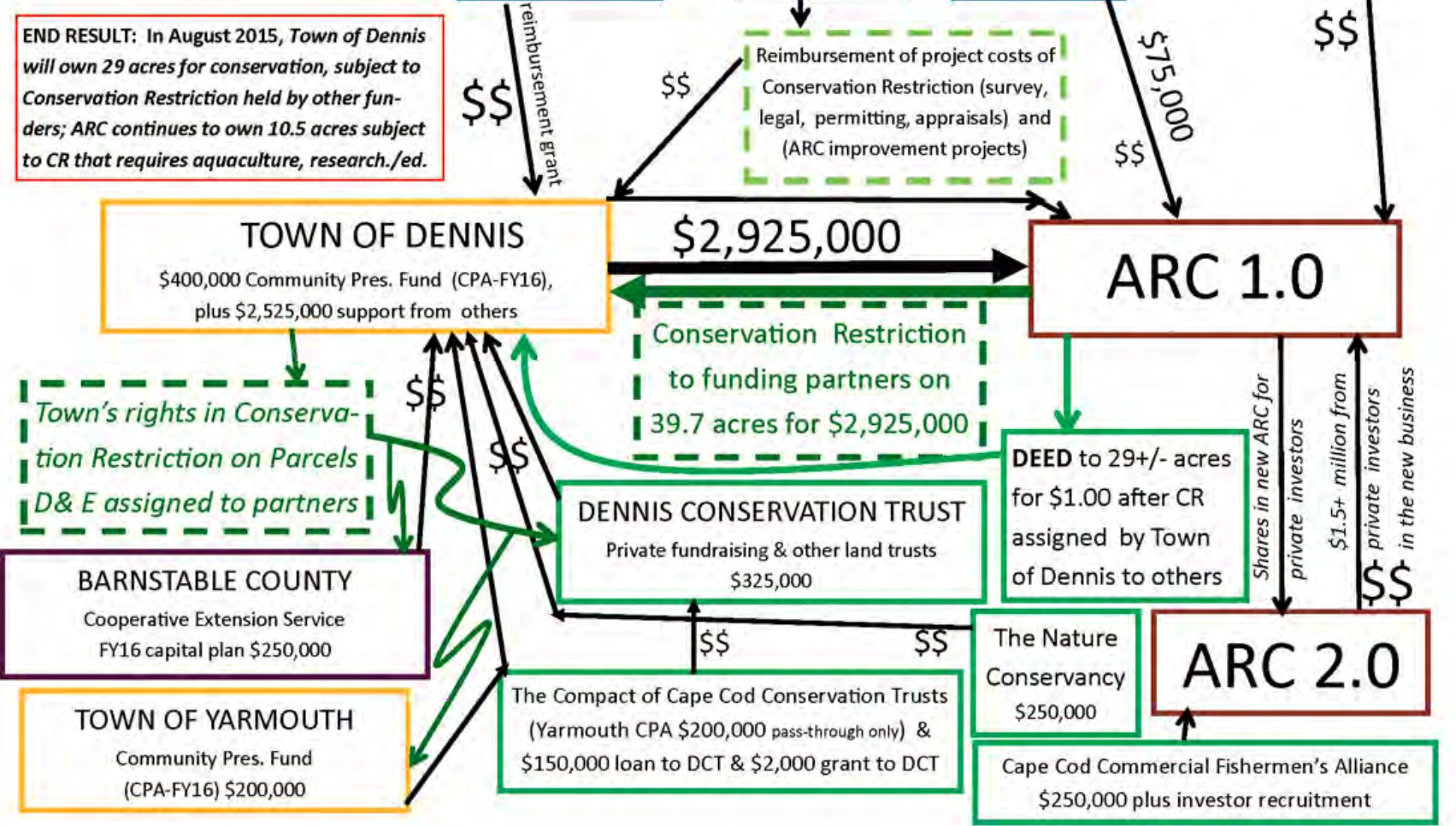
Total purchase price for CR & Deed = \$2,925,000, plus \$75,000 tax credit/refund = \$3,000,000

Total appraised value for CR = \$3,400,000 (O'Leary Nov. 2014; confirmed by Coneen review appraisal, March 2015; \$3,450,000 by Pastuszek, April 2015)

END RESULT: In August 2015, Town of Dennis will own 29 acres for conservation, subject to Conservation Restriction held by other funders; ARC continues to own 10.5 acres subject to CR that requires aquaculture, research./ed.



"We expect that The Compact will continue to serve as a national model of land trust collaboration among land trusts."
 — Robert Bowers, Chairman, Land Trust Alliance (Wash. D.C.), 2002



The Compact helps to negotiate complex land acquisitions and arrange funding from public and private sources, such as the \$6 million business reinvestment and open space protection of 40 acres and a shellfish hatchery on Chapin Beach in Dennis in **2015**

2021 – 1,500 voters at Brewster Special Town Meeting unanimously approve \$26 million in bonding to buy the 127-acre Cape Cod Sea Camps on Long Pond and Cape Cod Bay

...another public-private partnership...





Did we
save Cape
Cod?

Have we
saved
enough
of Cape
Cod?

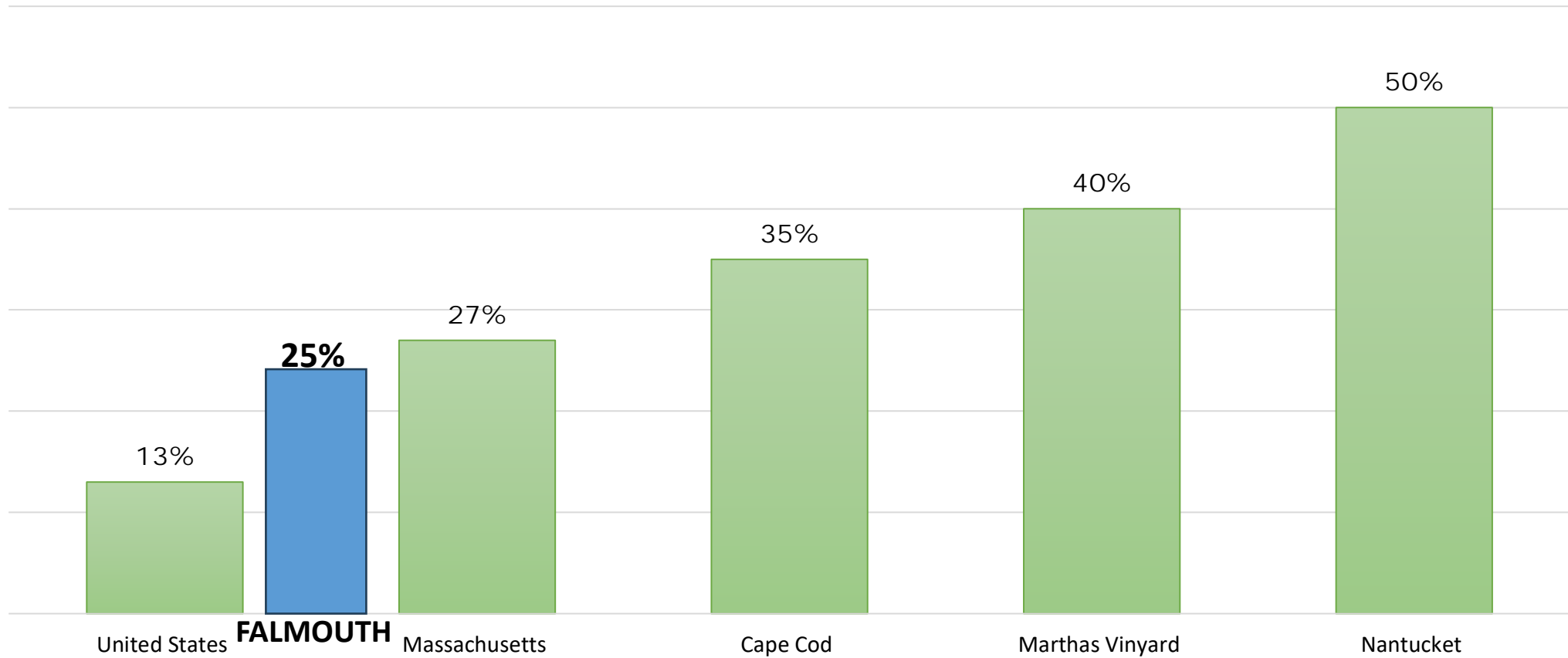
TOWN	PERCENT UPLAND PROTECTED	PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA (ACRES)
HARWICH	18%	0.19
DENNIS	25%	0.23
FALMOUTH	25%	0.22
YARMOUTH	26%	0.17
CHATHAM	27%	0.47
BARNSTABLE	30%	0.25
MASHPEE	30%	0.32
ORLEANS	30%	0.47
EASTHAM	34%	0.60
BREWSTER	36%	0.54
SANDWICH	37%	0.49
BOURNE	46%	0.61
WELLFLEET	55%	2.62
TRURO	70%	4.75
PROVINCETOWN	79%	1.77
COUNTY TOTALS	36%	0.42

Source: MassGIS, 2018

Did we save Cape Cod?

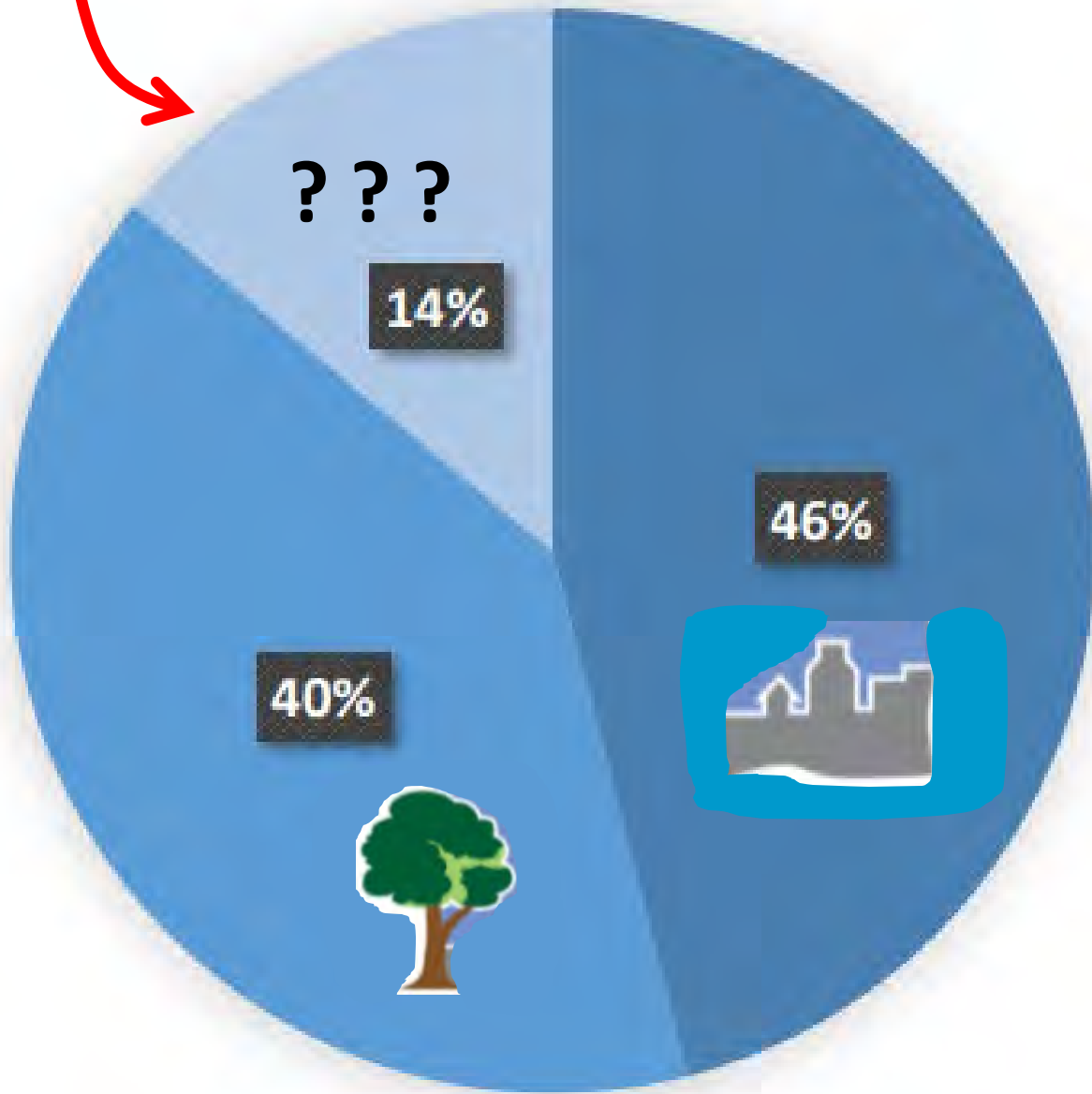
Have we saved *enough* of Cape Cod?




Percentage of Protected Open Space



What should be the fate of the remaining 14% of the Cape's developable land?

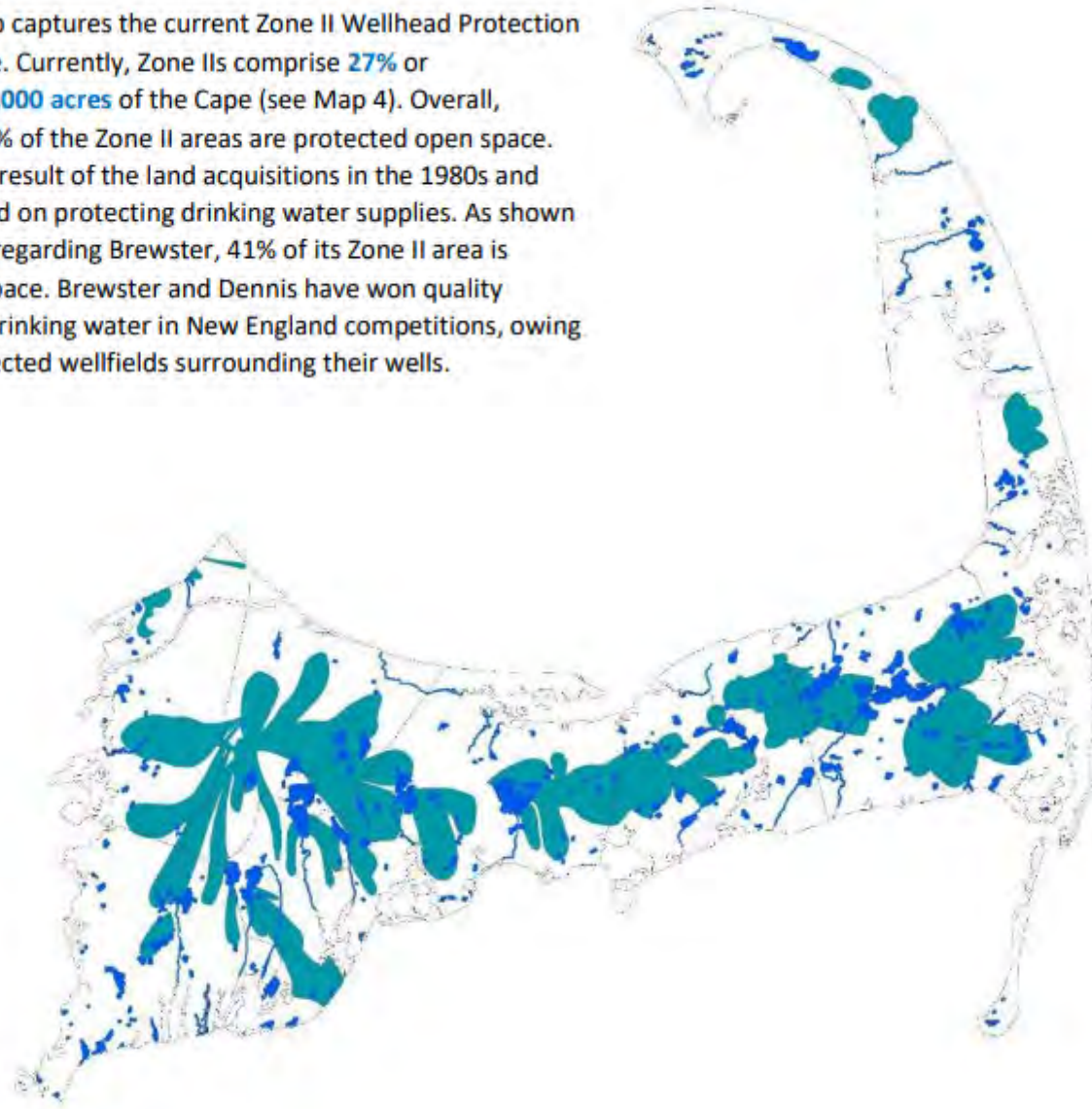
**2022,
APCC**



- Developed 
- Protected Open Space 
- Undeveloped and Unprotected 

Only 36% of our wellfield zones (public drinking water supplies) are protected against development.

The following map captures the current Zone II Wellhead Protection Areas on the Cape. Currently, Zone IIs comprise **27%** or approximately **70,000 acres** of the Cape (see Map 4). Overall, approximately 36% of the Zone II areas are protected open space. This is primarily a result of the land acquisitions in the 1980s and 1990s that focused on protecting drinking water supplies. As shown in the case study regarding Brewster, 41% of its Zone II area is protected open space. Brewster and Dennis have won quality awards for their drinking water in New England competitions, owing to the large, protected wellfields surrounding their wells.



Map 4. MassDEP designated Zone II Wellhead Protection Areas.



DEVELOPMENT

Eastham Board Approves New House in Seashore

A rare vacant lot, with a \$740K price tag, is deemed buildable

March 2023

By Christine Legere

EASTHAM — A 1.3-acre vacant lot located off Cable Road and within walking distance of Nauset Light Beach is on the market for \$740,000 — and it is being touted as “a rare opportunity to live in the National Seashore Park surrounded by parkland.”

That certainly is the truth.

Most of the undeveloped lots in the Cape Cod National Seashore were taken by eminent domain by the National Park Service in the decade or so following the establishment of the Seashore as a national park in 1961. The landowners were paid an amount based on a fair market appraisal, ac-

senting the current owners Frank and Linda Noto, had pursued site-plan approval to establish that a house could be built on the lot. That approval by the planning board has boosted the presumed value of the property from the town’s assessment, \$51,100, to its current asking price of \$740,000. The lot went on the market on Nov. 1, shortly after the expiration of the period during which the approval could

have been appealed.

According to Denise Kopasz, the real estate broker who listed the property, the Notos had planned to build a house there but have instead put it on the market “due to a change in family circumstances.” They currently own a house on the adjacent lot.

The Cape Cod National Seashore includes land in Province-

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Even our jewel, the Cape Cod National Seashore, is not fully protected from further development; there are 600 private properties still in CCNS

*PETERSON FARM,
Falmouth*



NEW PATHS
FOR THE 21st
CENTURY:
Undevelopment

Eco-restoration

Sustainable
Agriculture

Climate Resilience

New Partners

Open Space
Retention

UNDEVELOPMENT

We are finding ways to “Take Back the Cape” – opportunities to take blighted spots and restore them to public open space



Yarmouth bought the oldest motel on Rt 28 in 2019, sited in the Mill Creek floodplain

The three adjoining commercial properties on Route 28 have been planted to meadows and undevelopment opened the public view from the highway to the Mill Creek estuary



If we let Mother Nature take back the Cape, she will. She is sometimes our best project partner.



Surf Drive in Falmouth was chock-a-block with inappropriate housing on the beach. We let Hurricane Bob in 1991 take on the un-development work.



After the hurricane, some owners rebuilt according to revised building codes....



...while others took federal buy-outs not to rebuild, opening up the glorious ocean view and sandy beach enjoyment for the public.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

1. Preserve open space in a natural condition
 - Carbon sink of forests and marshes
 - Prevent cutting of trees
2. Include climate considerations in land acquisition and land management decisions
 - Coastal margins for salt marsh migration
 - Larger parcels should be prioritized for purchase
 - Restore native habitats (invasive plant removal)
3. Undevelopment of coastal areas and floodplains
 - Identify opportunities (storm-damaged structures cheaper to buy)
 - Storm waters can move more freely with less development

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



In 1990 the Lloyd Family donated 28 acres to BLT at Meadow Point at the south end of Cotuit.

Here we see sea level rise in action, drowning the red cedars (stumps) in the foreground and killing the cedars in the background with saltwater inundation.

2018 - the Town of Falmouth and The 300 Comm Land Trust cooperate to save the 46 acre Tony Andrews Farm for continued agricultural leasing and a community garden run by Farming Falmouth, Inc.



**SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE**



In 2020, The 300 Committee purchased an agricultural easement on the Pariah Dog Farm in Teaticket



**SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE**



Farming Falmouth is currently raising \$1,250,000 to purchase a 6-acre farm on Locustfield Road that will include farmer housing. The goal is to save farming and grow farmers!



**SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE**

NEW PARTNERS

Watershed Groups

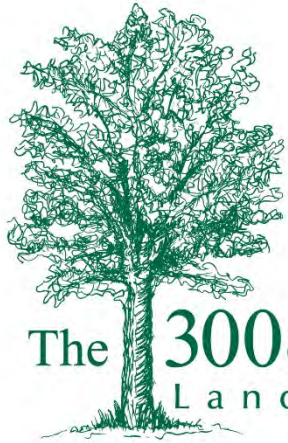
ECORESTORATION is another theme for the future of land conservation. Old cranberry bogs can be repurposed & re-wilded as freshwater wetlands, herring runs, and settle nitrogen from septic systems before it enters the bays.

2023 – Barnstable Clean Water Coalition used \$1.3 million in state funds to buy 65 acres of bogs at the head of Marstons Mills River in Barnstable for restoration

2021 – Falmouth's Coonamessett Bog eco-restoration is the landmark success on Cape Cod



Cape Cod
Wave
photo



The **300** Committee
Land Trust

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS

57 acres North
Falmouth, being
purchased for
\$6 million by The
300 Committee
Land Trust

\$2 million from
Town Meeting
approved



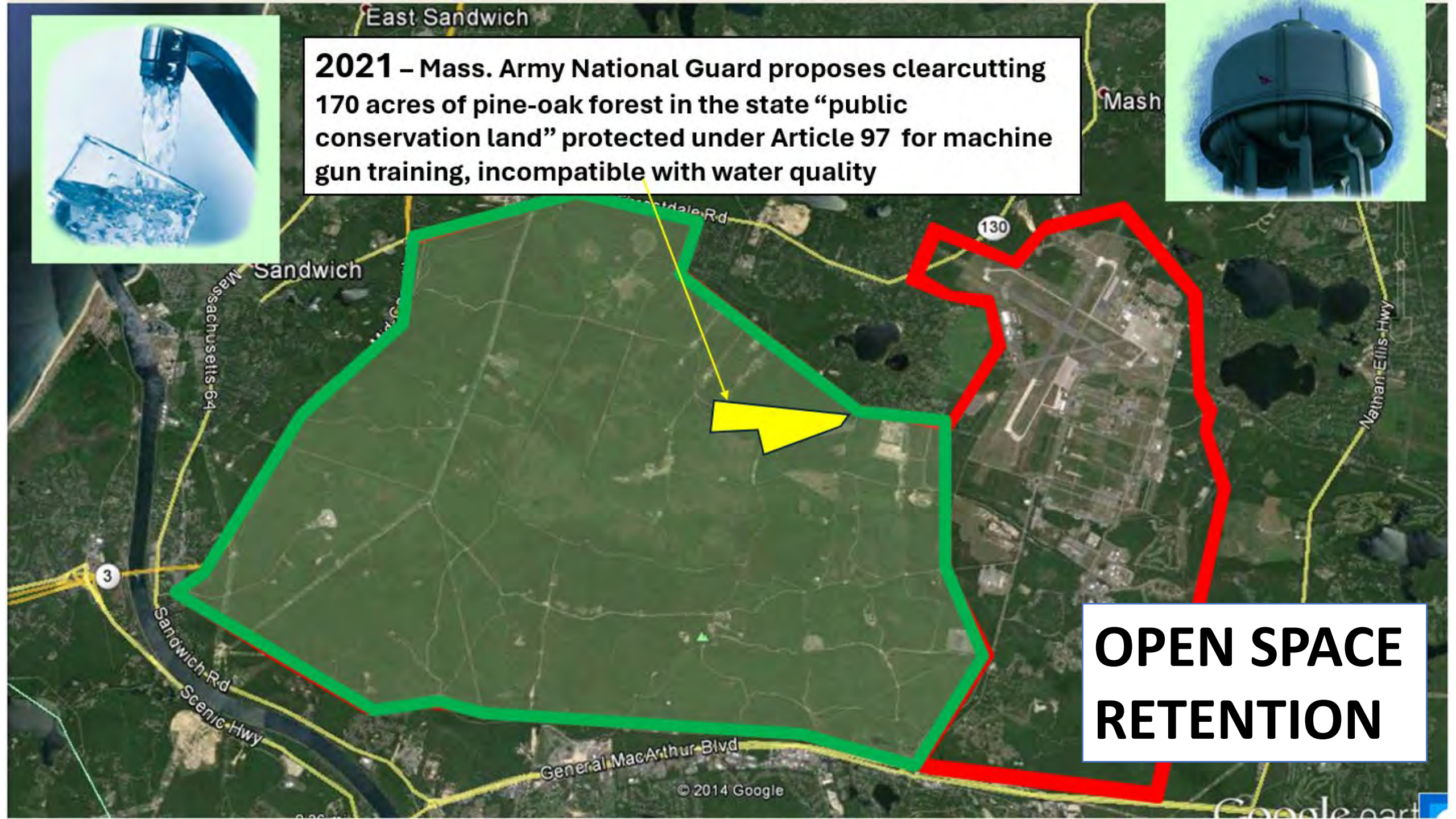
NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS

57 acres North Falmouth, being purchased for \$6 million by The 300 Committee Land Trust

\$1 million sought from Habitat for Humanity to build 13± homes on 7.5 acres of dilapidated house site



2021 – Mass. Army National Guard proposes clearcutting 170 acres of pine-oak forest in the state “public conservation land” protected under Article 97 for machine gun training, incompatible with water quality



**OPEN SPACE
RETENTION**

“The time must come when this coast will be a place of resort...but this shore will never be more attractive than it is now.”
H.D.T., *CAPE COD*, 1855



**“We will spend
this century
trying to defend
what we thought
we preserved in
the last century.”**

***--Mark Robinson,
2000***



**Santuit Pond Bog,
Mashpee**