



MEADOW ON THE COVE

■ Introduction

The Town of Orleans acquired the property comprised of two parcels with a total area of 2.4 +/- acres land, referred to as the Meadow on the Cove, in 1999 for \$650,000.

In accordance with Book 8623, Page 21 of the Confirmatory Deed, the March 29, 1999 Special Town Meeting Article 31 for the Proposed Land Bank Acquisition states: *Voted, voice vote carried unanimously, motion carries that the Town authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, by purchase, by eminent domain or otherwise, for preservation, open space, conservation and passive recreation, the land and building(s) situated thereon at in the Town of Orleans at 29-31 South Orleans Road.*

Management

The Orleans Conservation Commission is responsible for the overall management of the property, including periodically reviewing usage, issues and problems and recommending improvements.

The Orleans Parks and Beaches Department provides routine maintenance, such as seasonal pruning, cleanup and trash removal. The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services is the State agency that oversees the care and use of land purchased for conservation, open space, and recreational purposes.



■ Site Description

The **Entrance** to Meadow on the Cove is located at 29-31 South Orleans Road (Route 28) near Main Street and fronts Town Cove with 220 feet of shoreline. A sign “Meadow on the Cove” announces the Conservation Area.

Access to the site is down the preexisting driveway to a 6-car parking lot with a view to Town Cove. One space is designated handicapped accessible. There is a bicycle rack near the parking area next to the information sign.

There is a 4'- wide mulched path to the bench at the top of the Coastal Bank. There is another bench near Route 28 at the high point of the property under the street trees.



There are trees of substantial size along the property lines framing the view to the Cove. The trees to the south extend out from the lot line and form a small woodland from the parking area with several large native pines and lindens. This woodland area opens up near the shore with junipers and native grassland.

The north side of the property below the parking area that provides the view was the result of a major effort to remove invasive species such as bittersweet and milkweed vine. The area was burned, mowed, tilled, planted with seed, and finally planted with plugs of native grasses and wildflowers. The lower part of the field was largely little blue stem and has been maintained.

The Coastal bank was completely overgrown and through the work of the Barnstable County Funds and the Parks and Beaches Department, it has been cleared and replanted. Tupelos, hazelnuts and native grasses and wildflowers have been planted on the bank. There is a freshwater seepage at the bottom of the bank that supports elderberry.



■ **Land Uses, Limitations and Prohibitions**

Conservation-managed lands are purchased for a variety of active and passive **recreational uses**.

The Meadow on the Cove area features:

- Bird watching
- Maintaining native flora and fauna
- Scenic viewing

There are **limitations** on hours of use of the property and use by groups as follows:

- The area is closed from sunset to sunrise.
- Groups of more than 10 people require a permit from the Conservation Department

In addition, certain activities **are prohibited** at all areas under the management of the Conservation Commission, including:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Littering
- Domestic trash disposal

- Unrestrained dogs
- Open fires and cooking
- Storing of small boats
- Erection of tents or camping
- Use of soaps, detergents or shampoo
- Discharge of firearms
- Damaging any structure or landscape
- Harassing wildlife

■ **Implementation Actions**

Action Required:

- Maintenance of parking area and field
- Town budget funding for routine maintenance

Party Responsible:

Parks Dept.
TA/BOS