



TOWN OF TRURO

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PRESS RELEASE

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Town of Truro Announces Temporary Closure of Longnook Beach for Bluff Safety Evaluation

Longnook Beach will remain temporarily closed as a safety measure to allow for comprehensive evaluation of the adjacent bluffs in response to concerns about the bluffs' stability. The evaluation process will involve a thorough examination of the bluffs and beach access. The primary goal of this closure is to ensure the safety of all visitors to Longnook Beach.

Longnook is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike, known for its beautiful sandy shores and impressive cliff views. However, the dynamic nature of the Outer Cape's shorelines, exacerbated by the steep topography at Longnook Beach, pose safety risks periodically to beachgoers. In 2005, the town closed Longnook for a period that included Memorial Day Weekend when cliff erosion posed a threat. In August 1973,

the life of an 11-year-old male was taken by the Longnook bluff when part of a 165-foot cliff collapsed burying him under 20 feet of sand.

While the dynamic conditions mean that some risk is inherent at Longnook Beach, the steepened slope of the coastal bank with areas that are undercut, areas of slumping, and collections of large rocks perched precariously above the footpaths and beach heightened concerns. In late spring, the Town used a 60-foot long arm excavator and a loader to moderate the slope of the coastal bank and establish pathways—a longstanding practice to address winter erosion, and while the efforts provided some access, they proved to be no match for the severity of erosion occurring at this location.

The parking lot and beach access are closed to avoid the potential for a catastrophic event that could result in injury or death. The town understands that this closure is inconvenient and is frustrating for regular beachgoers, especially during the summer. However, the Town of Truro remains committed to prioritizing the safety of its residents and visitors.

Jersey barriers, fencing, and signage indicating that beach access is closed were installed, and a staff team is working with consultants to immediately establish a monitoring plan that includes regular measurements of the coastal bank. An alternatives analysis that will review at least three approaches to access management will be conducted and will provide recommendations for balancing safety at and public access to the beloved beach.

The Town of Truro appreciates the understanding and cooperation of the public during this temporary closure. As timelines for remediation are determined, conditions change, and more information is available, further updates will be provided on the Town of Truro website at www.truro-ma.gov. The Town of Truro is committed to maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all visitors. This temporary closure is a proactive measure to ensure the long-term safety and enjoyment of Longnook Beach.

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