

Regional Dredging and Beach Nourishment Planning, Design, Permitting and Oversight Edgartown, MA

Project Characteristics:

- *Private/Municipal Partnership*
- *Beneficial Re-use of Dredged Material*
- *Dune and Beach Nourishment Design*
- *Habitat Restoration*
- *Environmental Permitting*
- *Construction Oversight*
- *Awarded Best Restored Beach of 2013 by the ASBPA*

The Edgartown Beach and Dune Restoration project on Martha's Vineyard is an example of a successful private/municipal partnership, where vital private funding revived the Town's dredging and beach nourishment program, to restore local beaches. With much needed economic support provided by the private Cow Bay Corporation to the Town of Edgartown, a public/private partnership between the two entities was established in 2007, and a \$4M regional nourishment project began to restore the badly eroded County, Town, and private beaches located in Edgartown. The project was designed to beneficially reuse dredged sediments from local navigational projects to provide safe boating in navigable waterways within the Town and to keep the private beaches private by using municipal navigation dredge spoils for nourishment.

As no single navigational source would provide sufficient sand volume necessary for the regional program, and with very narrow dredging windows due to marine fisheries restrictions, the project was phased and a detailed investigation of navigational sources of sand for the beach nourishment ensued. Phase I of the Edgartown Beach and Dune Restoration project was initiated in October of 2009 and included dredging, dewatering, barging, trucking and grading of 30,000 cubic yards of sand. The beach compatible sand was placed along a 3,140-foot stretch of shoreline to reconstruct the almost non-existent dunes on the public Bend in the Road and private Cow Bay Beaches.



During the summer of 2010, the neighboring Town of Oak Bluffs, undergoing financial hardship and anxious to perform dredging within their navigation channel in Sengekontacket Pond, joined the municipal/private partnership with the Town of Edgartown and the Cow Bay Corp. The partnership expedited Phase II of the project by allowing use of a combination of dredged sand from both Towns and upland sand barged from off-Island to meet the design template. Construction commenced in October of 2010 and the 100,000 cubic yard regional beach nourishment project was finished in March 2011.

Each Phase of this multi-faceted project required daily communication with various Town of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown departments, the Edgartown Dredge Advisory Board, numerous contractors and project stakeholders, and various state and federal regulatory agencies. The complexities associated with design, permitting and coordination of this project were complex, but the results greatly benefit storm protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat.