



GURNET SAQUISH BEACH

PRE-WORKING SESSION - OCTOBER 15, 2019





ABOUT GURNET SAQUISH





HISTORY OF GURNET SAQUISH BEACH

1605 first map showing Gurnet/Saquish. 1638 Gurnet/Saquish is granted from Duxbury to Plymouth. 1690 Plymouth sells Saquish to Ephraim and George Morton. 1694 Plymouth sells the Gurnet to John Doty, John Nelson & Samuel Lucas. From 1714-1832 the Thomas family privately owned most shares of Duxbury Beach and parts of Gurnet however the right of access through the property existed providing a historical right-of-way. The first house was built by the Burgess Family on the Gurnet in 1720. In 1832 Nathaniel Thomas' great grandchildren sold rights to Duxbury Beach to the town of Duxbury. 1984 Post and cable fencing of right-of-way is completed, defining a roadway from the bridge to the Gurnet.



GURNET SAQUISH BEACH TODAY



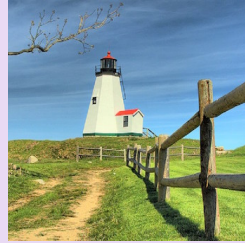
Gurnet Saquish Beach is privately owned by 393 individual owners. Access is restricted to property owners (lot), resident owners (cottage) and their family & guests. It is located at the end of the peninsula at the entrance to Plymouth Bay in Plymouth, Massachusetts east of Clark's Island and west of Gurnet Point. Its only access by land is from Canal Street in Marshfield or the Powder Point Bridge at Duxbury Beach 5 miles to the north by foot or by 4-wheel drive.

Because there is no electrical connection with the mainland, houses operate under solar, wind, or propane power. The nearest retail and service area is in Hall's Corner, Duxbury. Entrance to the Gurnet Point and Saquish is guarded by security services during peak times. Visitors are required to check in prior to entering the beach.



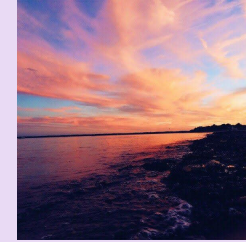
PROPERTY DETAILS

There are 546 lots located on the Gurnet Saquish owned by 393 individual owners. 205 properties are residencies (with cottages). The others are vacant or unbuildable lots.



Gurnet

- 50 Residencies on Gurnet
- Lighthouse owned by the U.S. Government



Saquish

- 15 Residencies on Western Point
- 32 Residencies on the Head
- 108 Residencies on the Beach

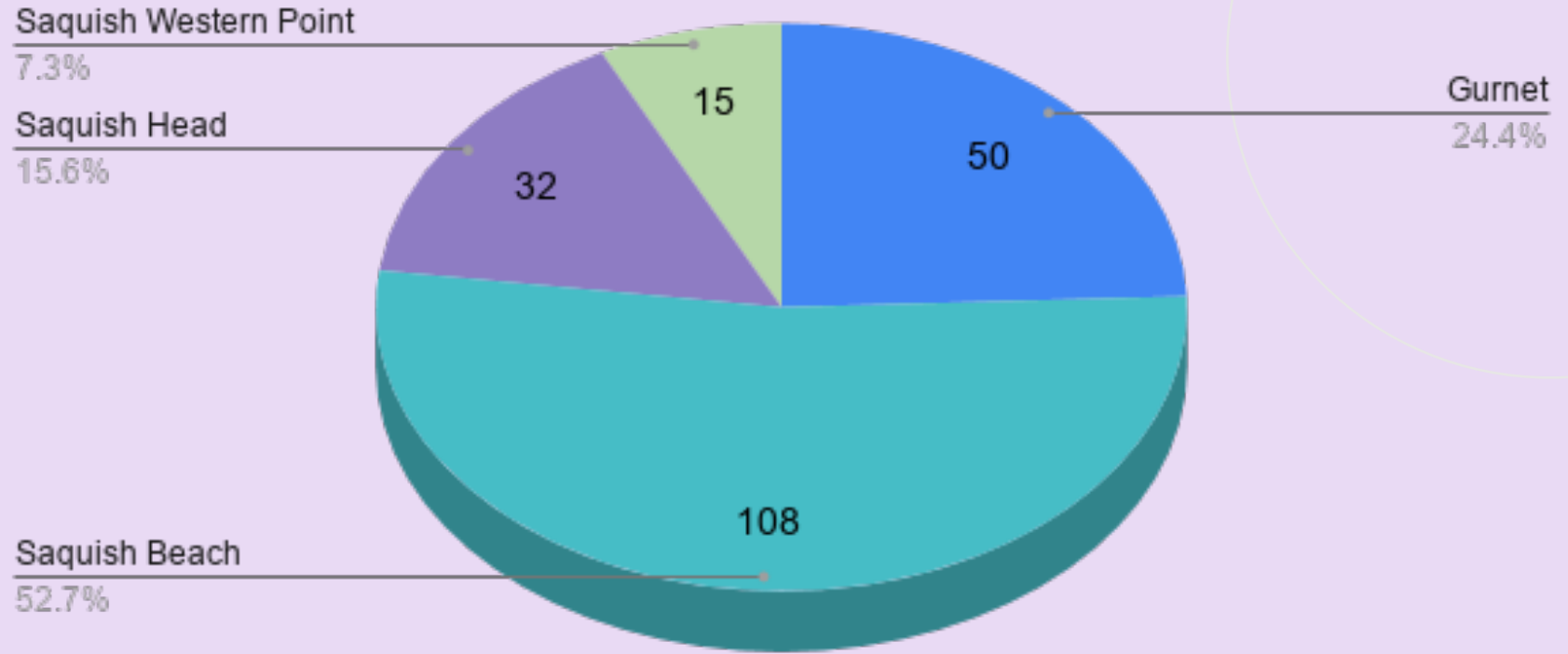
The majority of the 205 residencies (with cottages) are occupied May thru September full time during the nesting/brooding season. 8 of those residencies ONLY access to their property is through Saquish Beach Blvd. Many residents commute to work daily from these properties.

Some of these properties are occupied year round. Some residencies also open their property for summer rental.



PROPERTY DETAILS

2019 Gurnet Saquish Residency Breakdown





ORGANIZATIONS

There is no organization that governs all of Gurnet Saquish.

The Gurnet Saquish Corporation & Saquish Beach Land Trust are two separate organizations that are not affiliated and completely independent of one another. Residents are not required to participate in either one; participation is optional.

Gurnet Saquish Corporation

Gurnet Saquish Corporation, a non-profit 501(c) 4 Corporation who receives no grants or funding from the Town of Plymouth.

Membership is encouraged however not required. Membership averages 175 members per year. There are currently 25 directors on the board. Conservation efforts include:

- Road maintenance
- Snow fencing and grass planting to preserve dunes in critical areas
- Breakwater fencing at "the curve"
- Forming and maintaining a "beach management plan" with the town of Plymouth conservation commission;
- Gatewatch security to prevent trespassing on our fragile environment
- Fundraising to underwrite all of these efforts.

Saquish Beach Land Trust

Consists of 58 members who own private residency dwellings (cottages) located on Gurnet/Saquish and who bought into the Saquish Beach Land Trust.

The land owned by the trust extends from the centerline of the Boulevard south east to the mean low water line on the front beach. It is unbuildable and covered by the sea at high tide. Members are guaranteed access via an easement on the deed.

The Board of Trustees consists of 7 voting members, 1 Treasurer & 1 Secretary.

9 lots are owned by the Saquish Beach Land Trust. The other 8 lots are privately owned and NOT included in the trust.



ACCESS & GATEWATCH

The Gurnet Saquish Beach is a private beach only accessible by owners, residents and their guests.

Access

Year round:

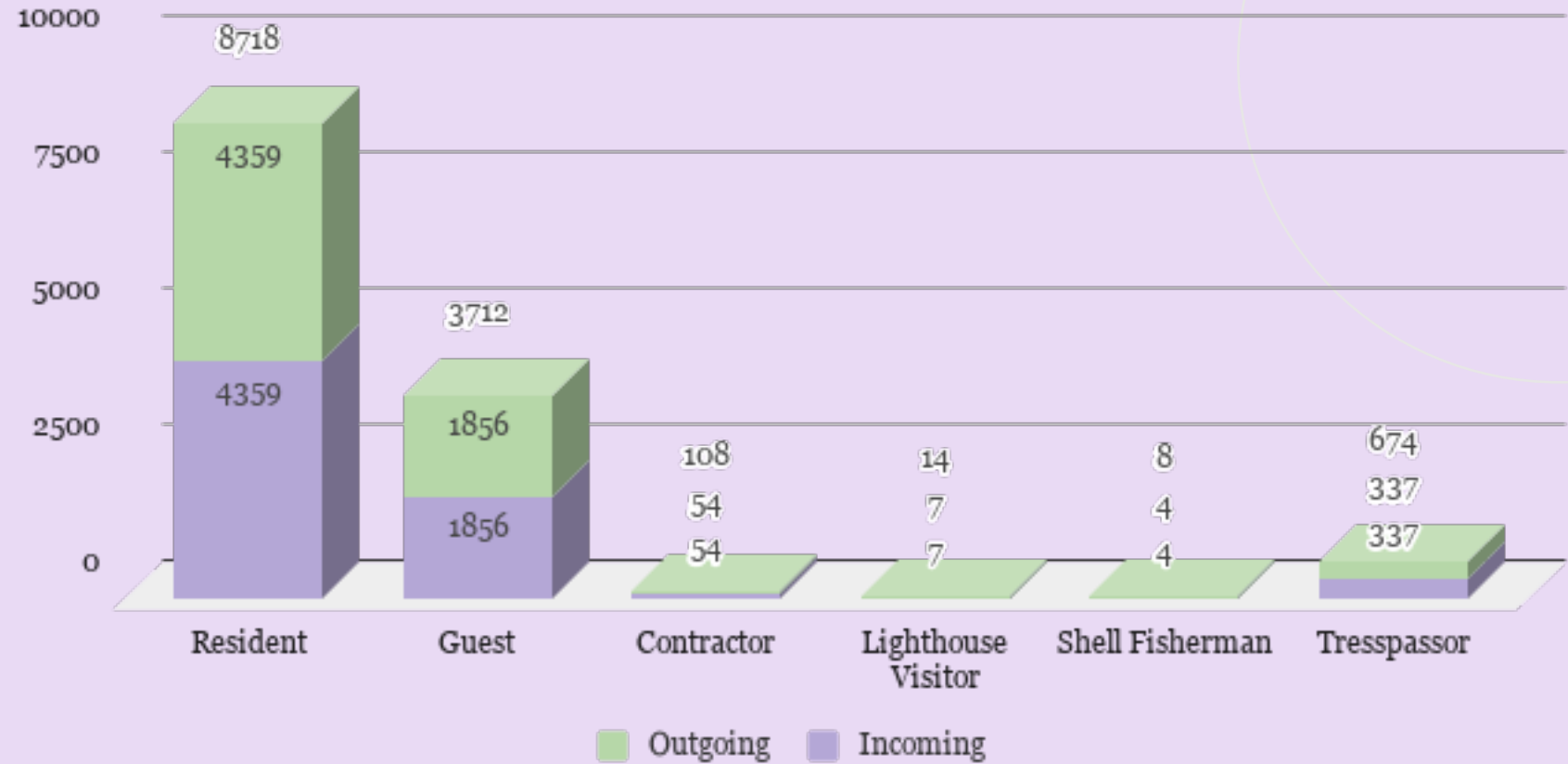
- Owners (lot and cottage), family & friends/guests have access to their privately owned property.

Peak Season:

- Resident/owners with an up to date sticker have access to pass year round, day or night.
 - 1,500 stickers issued past 3 years.
- Guests with an up to date window tag have access to pass year round, day or night.
 - 3,000 passes issued past 3 years.
- Memorial Day thru Labor Day:
 - Guests in the guestbook will be stopped by gatewatch but allowed to pass once confirmed.
 - All others should be turned away.
- The Duxbury Beach Reservation has done an excellent job over the years keeping roads safe and accessible by Gurnet Saquish Residents.

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**ACCESS &
 GATEWATCH**

Gurnet Saquish Traffic
 2019 Total (During Staffed Hours)





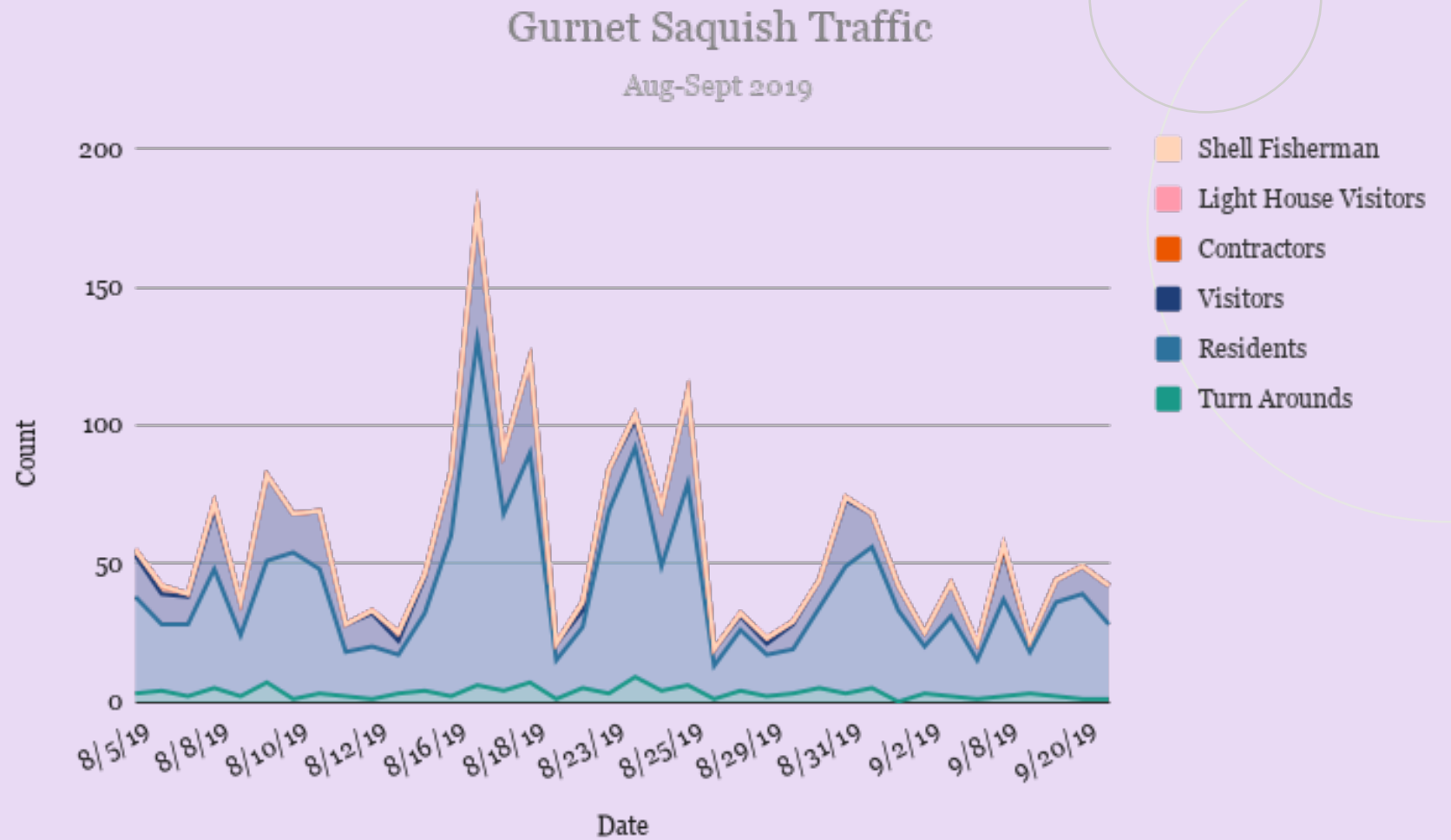
ACCESS & GATEWATCH

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Gatewatch

- Located at the guard shack at the entrance of the Gurnet.
- Run by Maximum Security Inc.
- Employs 4 primary staff and 2 alternate staff to support Gurnet Saquish
- Staffed Memorial Day thru Labor Day:
 - Weekends up until the week of July 4th.
 - Week of July 4th 8 am-1 pm 7 days.
 - Weekends & 3 weekdays (random) through Labor Day.
- Staffed 1136 hours (\$30, 470/year)
- Residents can call the gatewatch number to notify of day guests.
- There is a physical book that guest names are tracked in.
- There is no wifi and limited solar power at the guardshack.


ACCESS & GATEWATCH





ISSUES & CONCERNS





ISSUES & CONCERNS

Access

205 Owners, residents and their guests have rights to access their property year round.

Resident Participation

Because properties are privately owned. 100% participation in anything (including a Habitat Control Plan (HCP)) is highly unlikely.

Discontent

While we would like to help in the solution of protecting and growing endangered/threatened species, restrictions to residents (such as access) will result in discontent and could have a negative impact to efforts.

Liability

Without participation in a Habitat Control Plan (HCP) residents are not “covered” and could be held personally liable for taking of plovers.

HCP Participation

Unmanageable or unrealistic requirements may apply financial burden and penalties.

Successful Population Growth

As the bird population increases the cost of monitoring the population also increases to the point it is no longer sustainable. Example: Duxbury Beach Preservation.

Lack of Alternative Measures of Protection (Predator Management, Breeding Programs, Physical Barriers, Habitat Restrictions)

What are the highest risks to the birds? What alternative methods can be considered (other than restricting access) to aid in population growth?

Lack of Funding

Where is the money coming from to support these efforts.

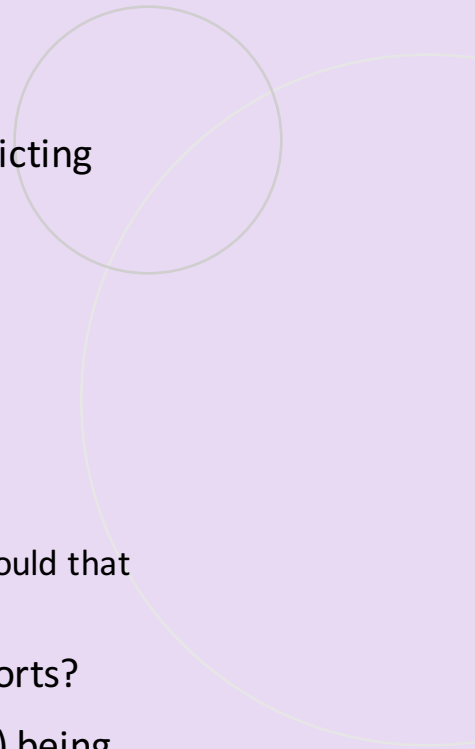


QUESTIONS





OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. What are the highest risks to the birds in ranked order?
 2. What alternative methods can be considered (other than restricting access) to aid in population growth?
 3. What is being asked of Gurnet Saquish residents?
 4. Habitat Control Plan (HCP):
 - a. Are you suggesting an HCP?
 - b. If so would it modify Duxbury's to include us?
 - c. Or would we be asked to create a new one for Gurnet Saquish?
 - d. If we were asked to create a new one for Gurnet Saquish, how would that protect us on Duxbury Beach Reservation Inc. property?
 5. Where are funds going to come from to support additional efforts?
 6. Why are participants in HCP's (like Duxbury Beach Reservation) being penalized by excessive financial burden for successful population growth (the bigger the population the more monitors required)?
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THANK YOU

