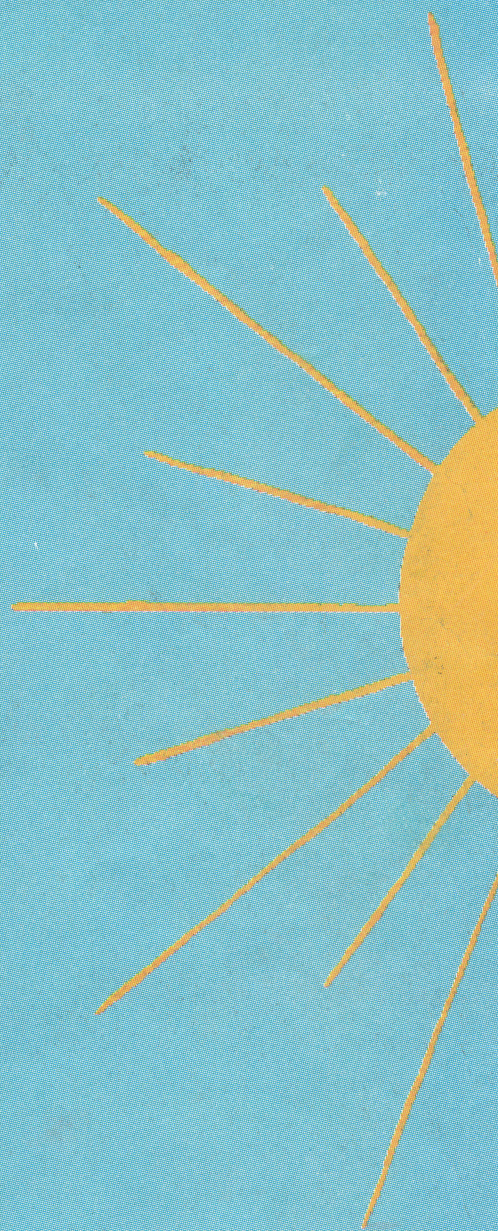


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# **Bonnet Shores Master Plan**

## **May 2000**

**For The Bonnet Shores Fire District Council**

**Consultants:**

Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc.  
Architecture – Planning – Interior Design  
with  
Pawlowski Associates  
Landscape Architects and Planners

**Credits and thank you to:**

**The Long Range Planning Committee  
The Bonnet Shores Fire District Council  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Taxpayers**

and

**The Town of Narragansett  
Department of Community Planning and Development  
*Clarkson Collins, Planner***



# BONNET SHORES MASTER PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

In the winter of 1998, the Bonnet Shores Long Range Planning Committee invited the firm, Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc. (NCA), in association with Pawlowski Associates, to assist the Bonnet Shores community in preparing a comprehensive Master Plan.

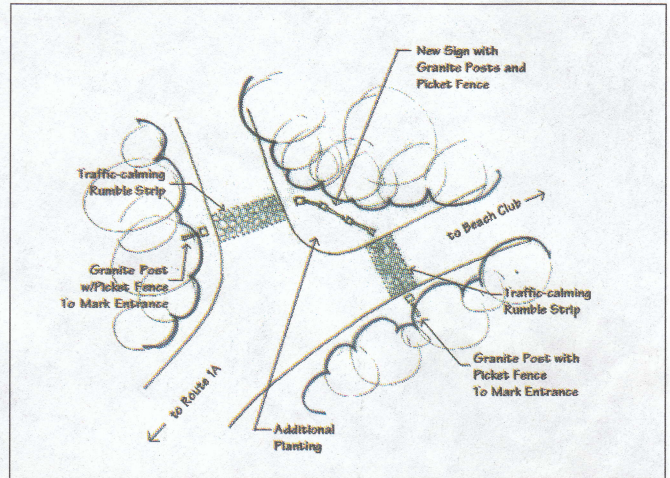
The Bonnet Shores community undertook this Master Plan process motivated by several concerns, including: growth, protection of open space, preservation of existing character, and the need for guidelines to direct planning for the future.

With these issues in mind, a year-long community-based planning process began. The process was a collaborative effort between the residents and property owners of Bonnet Shores, members of the Long Range Planning Committee, Town of Narragansett officials and the consultants. Funding for the planning process was provided by State and Town sources.

The final Master Plan document is the product of community meetings, surveys and workshops in which literally hundreds of Bonnet Shore residents participated during the summer of 1999. This Master Plan report is very much the result of the enthusiastic participation of those who care about Bonnet Shores. All of the issues identified, recom-

mendations made, and guidelines for implementation and maintenance are the result of mutual collaboration.

The Master Plan is intended to provide a long-range context in which future decisions can be considered. In this way, those responsible for making decisions about the future of Bonnet Shores can maintain the focus of goals and objectives reached through consensus.

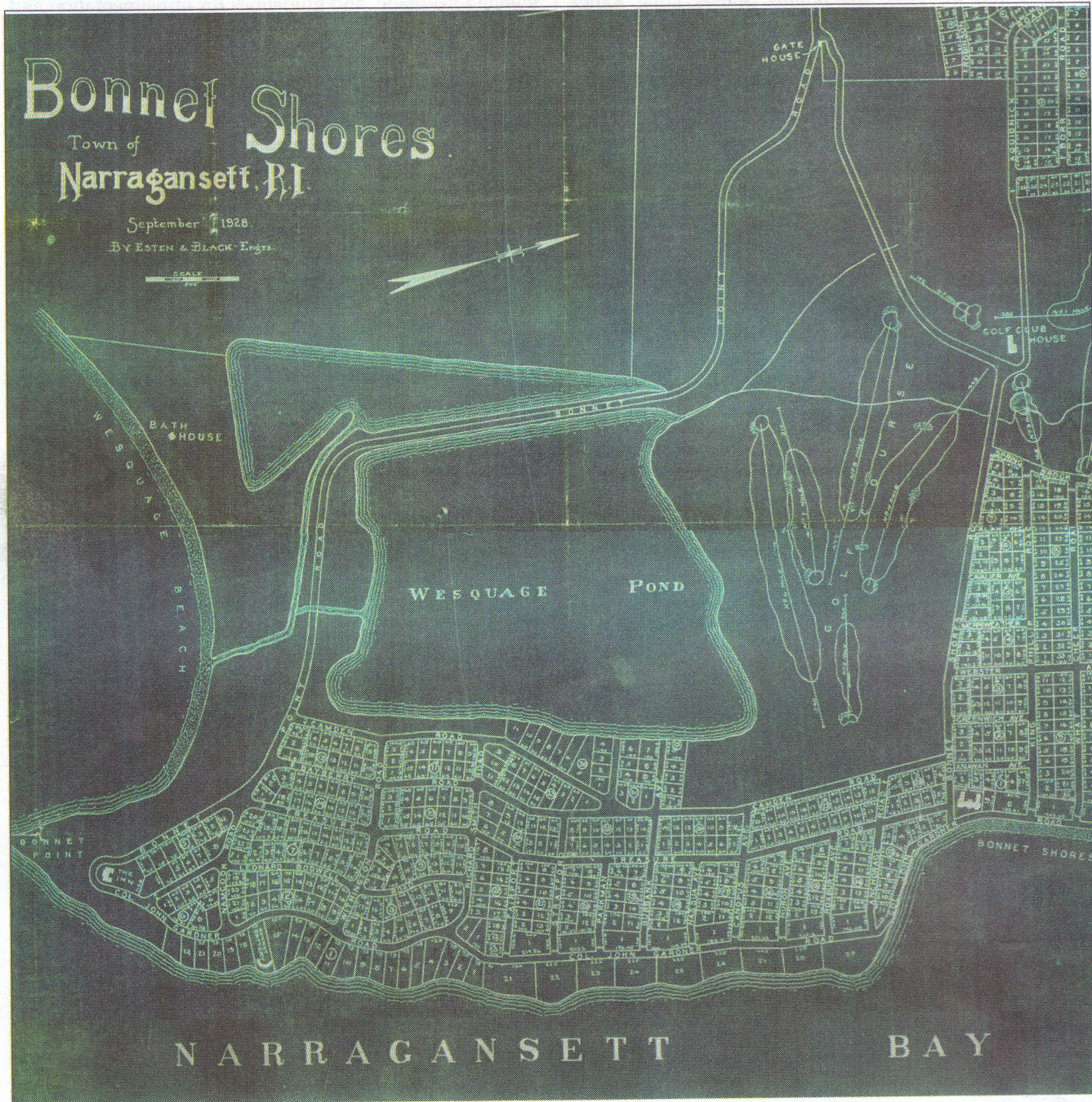


Conceptual entry plan showing traffic calming measures



Proposed new entrance with planting, signage and pavement treatments





**Bonnet Yesterday**  
1928 map of Community Plan







## MASTER PLAN VISION

*The vision for the Bonnet Shores community's future includes protecting and preserving the existing characteristics that define Bonnet Shores. These include the scale of buildings and streets, styles of housing, community diversity, privacy and the strong feeling of community and neighborliness. Environmental characteristics that should be protected and enhanced include the beaches, cliffs, scenic views and existing open spaces.*

## VALUED COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Bonnet Shores is a small-scale community within the Town of Narragansett. It is almost exclusively residential, with a mix of year-round and seasonal (primarily summer) residents.

Bonnet Shores is rich in outstanding natural resources. Bounded by Narragansett Bay on two sides and facing Conanicut Island to the east, it offers spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and the bay. With Wesquage Pond in its midst and ample open spaces, the existing natural features and other amenities have collective value to residents.

The architectural character of Bonnet Shores is varied, with styles ranging from grand Colonial Revival and Tudor homes to cozy Cape Cod style homes, and even an area of log cabins. This mix contributes significantly to the community's special character.

There are also many publicly-owned amenities which are the financial responsibility of the Fire District. These features and amenities include:

- ▶ open space
- ▶ a community center used for public entertainment and meetings
- ▶ a playground and playing field
- ▶ a mooring area, boat launch, and protected east-facing swimming area
- ▶ a sandy south-facing beach on the south edge of the community
- ▶ an historic site with a cliff-side overlook
- ▶ fish dockage at Westquage Pond

The Bonnet Shores Land Trust, established in 1991 through an Act of the Rhode Island General Assembly, is a non-profit entity that receives donations of land for the preservation of open space.

The Bonnet Shores Beach Club is a member-owned separate entity with a management structure located within the Fire District.



Picturesque architecture and close proximity to the sea make Bonnet Shores special.



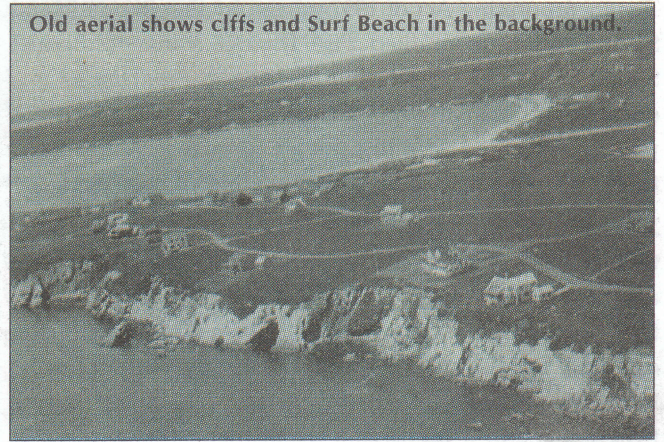
## HISTORY

In 1928 Bonnet Shores was envisioned by its developers as a summer resort to rival Newport in prestige and amenities. However, the stock market crash in 1929 and the Depression scaled development to a more modest level.

The original Master Plan for Bonnet Shores included a golf course, beach club and a pavilion consisting of cabanas and bathhouses at the sandy beach. There was also a club house on Bonnet Shores Road where social activities for residents of the community were held.

The 1938 hurricane partially destroyed the old club house and the remaining portions were converted into three separate homes, which still stand today. A new club was formed, located on the edge of Wesquage Pond and Narragansett Bay.

Old aerial shows cliffs and Surf Beach in the background.



Growth continued, with summer houses gradually converted to year-round use, so that by 1960 there were over 100 winterized residences. In 1999 there were over 850 houses, with the potential for over 200 new ones on developable, vacant lots.



Aerial view of Bonnet Shores.  
Inset right is early photo of the club house.