



Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore

Timeline of Events

Prehistory

12,000 Years Ago

Glaciers recede and sea levels rise, creating the coastal landforms of Cape Cod and the Truro Highlands.

**12,000 Years Ago
– 1950's**

Coastal erosion, Native Americans, pilgrims, shipwrecks, fishermen, artists, lighthouses...

North Truro Air Force Station

1950's

North Truro Air Force Station (NTAFS) constructed.

1985

NTAFS deactivated; caretakers remain.

Dec. 30, 1994

Former NTAFS property transferred from US Air Force to the National Park Service (NPS).

Highlands Center

Summer 1996

Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) North Atlantic Coastal Laboratory ("Biolab") construction complete.

1998

CCNS *General Management Plan* identifies a science, education, and arts center from several possible reuse options for the former NTAFS.

**January
1999**

Site Plan and Environmental Assessment for the former NTAFS presents Highlands Center for science, arts, and culture concept.

**February -
October 1999**

NPS Program Coordinator consultant organizes and holds extensive meetings with groups of artists, educators, scientists, and NPS and community representatives.

Summer 1999

NPS conducts first ranger-guided tour of Highlands Center.

NPS architectural/engineering (A/E) consultants complete "Electrical Utility Study" and "Study of Existing Wastewater, Water and Fire Suppression Systems" at the former NTAFS.

Fall 1999

Roundtable workshop held with national specialists addressing Highlands Center redevelopment strategies.

January 2000	<p>CCNS chosen as one of five learning center sites, part of the nationwide NPS Natural Resource Challenge, thereby funding NPS Atlantic Learning Center.</p> <p>NPS A/E consultant files complete <i>Building Condition Assessment</i> for numerous buildings.</p> <p><i>Renewable Energy Opportunity Assessments</i> prepared under grant from the Federal Energy Management Program with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.</p>
April 2000	<p>Agreement signed with Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation to assist with organizational development and project outreach.</p>
Summer 2000	<p>National Park Foundation/Unilever Recycling at Work grant received for recycled plastic lumber picnic tables and other site amenities.</p> <p>Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod creates picnic grove.</p> <p>Payomet Performing Arts Center in Truro presents first Storyteller session at the picnic grove in cooperation with NPS.</p>
Fall 2000	<p>AmeriCorps Cape Cod and CCNS conduct clean- up of site for Highlands Center potential Program Partners tour.</p>
Winter 2000	<p>NPS issues <i>Call for Interest for Program Partners</i>.</p> <p>First CCNS formal group tour of Highlands Center for potential Program Partners.</p>
Spring 2001	<p><i>Call for Interest</i> submissions from 27 organizations, agencies, and institutions reviewed.</p>
May 2001	<p>Highlands Center, Inc. (HCI) incorporated for purpose of fostering the project.</p>
Summer 2001	<p>Independent study finds adjacent FAA radar dome poses Highlands Center no risk.</p> <p>NPS A/E consultant firms complete <i>Building Rehabilitation and Demolition Analysis</i> for additional buildings at the Highlands Center.</p> <p>NPS real estate consultant completes <i>Market Assessment of the Highlands Center</i>.</p> <p>Final showcase presentation of Shakespeare by the Shore workshop is presented by Payomet Performing Arts Center and Cape Cod Community College.</p>
Fall 2001	<p>NPS Highlands Center project receives \$775,000 from Congress to begin utility system upgrades.</p>
Winter 2001	<p>Initial re-roofing and gutting for the NPS Atlantic Learning Center (ALC) buildings occurs.</p>
March 2002	<p>NPS "Landscape Site Plan Report" complete.</p>
April 2002	<p>A partnership agreement signed, identifying Highlands Center, Inc. as project fundraiser for the next two years.</p>

Summer 2002

A design for NPS Atlantic Learning Center rehabilitation approved and a construction contract issued.

Payomet Performing Arts Center continues storytelling sessions and presents scenes from Romeo and Juliet as part of the Cape Cod Community College production, Shakespeare by the Shore.

Fall 2002

CCNS receives grant for the NPS Atlantic Learning Center which will, in association with NASA and the National Park Foundation, develop science and technology remote sensing educational programs and teacher training.

September 2002

Presented by Payomet and Cape Cod Community College, Shakespeare by the Shore has its second annual showing at the Highlands Center picnic grove, furthering the vision of free outdoor Shakespeare on the Cape.

Local sculptors display work, with curator, Joyce Johnson, on Highlands Center grounds for the autumn art exhibit, during "Truro Treasures Weekend."

Winter 2002

Highlands Center for the Arts and Environment changes its name to Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore.

February 2003

Independent film "Freebox," by Shandor Garrison, is filmed at Highlands Center.

Spring 2003

NPS issues "Request for Proposals for Program Partners and Request for Qualifications for a Management Partner".

Construction at NPS Atlantic Learning Center begins. This consists of the first two main quadrangle-facing buildings to undergo renovations.

CCNS Maintenance Division constructs an ocean overlook platform on site

Tour of Highlands Center for Potential Partners draws 31 individuals from 16 different non-profit and governmental organizations. A separate tour is held for architects and engineers on behalf of potential partners.

Summer 2003

Value analysis design discussions for water and wastewater utility rehabilitation plans begin for project approval.

Payomet Performing Arts Center and Cape Cod Community College offers scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream in a free presentation of Shakespeare by the Shore.

Continued storytelling sessions are presented by Payomet Performing Arts Center in cooperation with the National Park Service and Highlands Center, Inc.

Four program partners are selected and a management partner is conditionally selected pending completion of fundraising agreement.

Broadway Theatre and Movie Director André Gregory hosts the HCI sponsored event "Imagine the Future", held in order to raise awareness regarding Highlands Center objectives.

<p>Fall 2003</p>	<p>Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks tours Highlands Center grounds and expresses his support. This is the highest ranking Interior official to visit CCNS in more than 20 years.</p> <p>Selections of the Highlands Center Program Partners are announced by NPS Northeast Regional Director.</p> <p>A “Truro Treasures Weekend” open house provides the public with an opportunity to visit the site. Approximately 300 visitors tour the grounds and meet with members of HCI and NPS.</p> <p>HCI co-sponsors a silent art auction with Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill.</p>
<p>April 2004</p>	<p>Program Partners sign letters of intent to lease space from the National Park Service.</p>
<p>June 2004</p>	<p>NPS Director Fran Mainella tours the Highlands Center and receives briefings on site history and current status of the rehabilitation plans.</p>
<p>Summer 2004</p>	<p>Free summer activities are offered at the Highlands Center, including ranger- guided Cold War history tours, a Storytelling Project by Payomet Performing Arts Center and Shakespeare by the Shore with Cape Cod Community College and PPAC.</p>
<p>September 2004</p>	<p>Highlands Center, Inc. (HCI) sponsors <i>Reminiscing: Life at the North Truro Air Force Station in the ‘50s, 60s, and ‘70s</i> at the Truro Public Library as a part of the 13th annual “Truro Treasures Weekend”.</p>
<p>Winter 2004</p>	<p>The contract for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal is negotiated and finalized by NPS planners and engineers and the primary contractor.</p>
<p>December 2004</p>	<p>A coastal observation shed is installed on the bluffs south of the Highlands Center. A NPS Research Permit is issued to Graham Giese of the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies to utilize the facility for observations.</p>
<p>February 2005</p>	<p>Project goals, implementation vision, and Partner roles are discussed and defined after a three day “charrette,” or community planning meeting. Attendees represent a variety of disciplines including art, science, architecture, planning, advocacy, academia, and business.</p>
<p>Summer 2005</p>	<p>In association with the North Atlantic Coastal Laboratory, an automated solar-powered National Weather Service climate station is placed onsite at the Highlands Center. The station is the only national climate network in the world to produce observations every five minutes and also make them available in real time every 15 to 60 minutes.</p> <p>As the implementation phase evolves, Highlands Center, Inc. (HCI) and the NPS sign an agreement for HCI to take on a new role as Management Partner.</p>
<p>March 2006</p>	<p>A 164 foot wind-monitoring Meteorological Tower (MET Tower) is installed by the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst with funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).</p>
<p>Spring 2006</p>	<p>AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s (ACC) fourteen Wellfleet members give the Highlands Center its seventh annual ACC spring cleaning and revitalization.</p>

June 2006	After being located on Route 6 in Truro for seven years, the Payomet Performing Arts Center makes a move and begins its first season underneath its new frame tent at the Highlands Center, creating an exciting infusion of live performing arts on site.
July 2006	Highlands Center Partners collaborate to create Highlands Fest, a demonstration and celebration of the Highlands Center mission. The public spends the day learning about and experiencing the Highlands Center vision by attending various lectures, performances, tours, and discussions.
Winter 2007	Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill joins as a Program Partner. Castle Hill's role will include overseeing the operation and facilitation of a new wood-fired kiln, the only of its kind on Cape Cod.
April 2007	A little more than a year from the date of its installation, the meteorological (MET) tower at Highlands Center fulfills its purpose of on site wind monitoring. The data collected is used to determine the feasibility of wind turbines on site in the future.
May 2007	Northeastern National Guard Units conduct training exercises at Highlands Center. Civil Support Teams practice their efficiency in responding to a weapons of mass destruction event.
July 2007	AmeriCorps Cape Cod conducts the eighth annual Highlands Center clean-up day. Homeward Bound, Truro DPW, and park staff plant native species, install seating on the coastal overlook platform, create a loop trail by connecting two walking paths, paint a building, and engage in other site beautification tasks.
July 2007	Second annual Highlands Fest successfully attracts and educates both visitors and Cape locals. \$1 million water and wastewater treatment project is completed by the NPS and its contractors.
Fall 2007	Payomet Performing Arts Center welcomes Kevin Rice as its new Artistic Director, taking over for Payomet's founder, Guy Strauss. Ninth annual Highlands Center clean-up day with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. With NPS maintenance, Corps members plant native trees, make entry and general site improvements, and create a path to the overlook site.
Spring 2008	Cape Cod National Seashore receives \$40,000 from a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative grant for a wind turbine feasibility study at the Highlands Center. Studies will include a bird and bat survey in addition to studies with FAA to determine any potential turbine-radar interferences, among other projects. First printing of Highlands Center Program Partner brochure.
July 2008	Three monumental, steel wind sculptures created by artist Donald Gerola installed at the Highlands Center for a 5-year period. Gerola's involvement coordinated through HCI. Third annual Highlands Fest: The Wonders of Wind attracts over 200 people.

July 2008	Construction of the wood-burning kiln facility begins. HCI is partnering with Castle Hill for programming at the kiln, including a construction workshop.
September 2008	The wood-burning kiln is built and its first firing is accomplished.
November 2008	The wood-burning kiln is fired for a second time in conjunction with a Castle Hill workshop.
	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducts a weekend search and rescue training exercises on site.
May 2009	Members of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Wellfleet and Bourne Houses plant native shrubs and trees, install a wayside panel on the overlook, and a solar gate light with seashore staff for the 10 th annual Clean Up Day.
	A wind feasibility study kicks off with consultant team Boreal. Avian studies at the ball field and helipad commence.
July 2009	Three photo banners of images by Helen Strong are installed on the bowling alley in preparation for Truro’s 300 th anniversary.
	HCI installs a new flag pole in the quad. Truro’s 300 th Anniversary Parade ends at Highlands Center on July 19 th with attendance by 300 people. Guests remain at the site for a ceremony on the quad, which includes the raising of the flag by former North Truro Air Force Station veterans.
Fall 2009	Rebecca Alvin releases a short documentary about Highlands Center, formerly the North Truro Air Force Station, entitled “Out of Service.”
May 2010	Members from the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Wellfleet House and seashore maintenance staff plant native shrubs, build 4 flower boxes, install a panoramic photo banner by Randall Zmed, and prep two mural areas during the 11 th Annual Clean Up Day.
July 2010	Highlands Fest: Reflections of the Coast takes place on July 10 th with the painting of murals led by AmeriCorps Cape Cod, a kiln unloading by Castle Hill, screenings of Portrait of a Coast, and music at the Payomet tent.
April 2011	AmeriCorps Cape Cod members and seashore staff build benches and a raised garden bed, and plant native shrubs on Earth Day for the 12 th Annual Clean Up Day.

Produced by Barnstable County’s AmeriCorps Cape Cod