GRADING AND RAKING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAND BEACH AT SAUBLE BEACH

PURPOSE:

To establish a Council approved policy for grading, maintaining, and raking the sand beach at Sauble Beach which takes into consideration the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the sensitive eco system and the needs of the tourists and beach visitors.

POLICY:

This policy will apply to all sand beach fronting the Lake Huron shoreline in Sauble Beach under the jurisdiction of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, with the exception of areas where the Piping Plover, an endangered species, has nested and until such time as the Piping Plover leaves the nesting area.

Prior to the first raking and maintenance each year, the Town will consult with the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Town and the MNR will determine an appropriate level of maintenance in areas which are protected by the Endangered Species Act as Piping Plover habitat.

Within the areas determined to be Piping Plover habitat, no raking will take place from such time that the beach is clear of winter snow and ice in order to maintain important habitat features as protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Prior to May 15 of each year, when and where appropriate and where such debris causes concerns for health and safety, Town staff will remove large winter debris such as logs, trees and docks from the sand beach. All large debris will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

In areas protected by the Endangered Species Act, removal of debris will be performed only in conjunction with consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Should a pair of Piping Plover establish territory in an area not previously identified as protected habitat, beach raking and maintenance should be discontinued in that area to protect the birds and their habitat.

The areas of storm water outlets will be checked and if required, a grader will re-establish a swale to allow runoff to Lake Huron. This function will occur as required during the summer and fall seasons and will be performed in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources.
In areas where permitted, an industrial tractor with a rake attachment will rake the entire beach to remove smaller debris and sticks. All small debris will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The areas of storm water outlets will be checked and if required, a grader will re-establish a swale to allow runoff to Lake Huron. This function will occur as required during the summer and fall seasons.

The entire beach will be raked graded to a smooth surface from the water’s edge to the commencement of the dunes.

A rototiller will be used to control areas where grasses are growing on the beach surface and to within five (5) meters of the dunes. These areas will then be raked again to remove the grasses that have been disturbed. As a general rule, vegetation removal should not occur in the habitat of the Piping Plover by means of rototiller, mechanical device or by hand at any time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section: Public Works</th>
<th>Policy Number: PW.12.1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-section: Parks</td>
<td>Effective Date: March 15, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject: Grading and Raking and Maintenance of the Sand Beach at Sauble Beach</td>
<td>Revision Date: November 21, 2012</td>
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<td>November 6, 2012</td>
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RAKING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAND BEACH AT SAUBLE BEACH

The beach will be raked from the strand line (30 feet from the water’s edge) to a point not more than 30 feet from the commencement of the dunes in areas not protected by the Endangered Species Act and under the jurisdiction of the Town.

When required, a rototiller will be used to control areas where grasses are growing on the beach surface and to within 30 feet of the dunes. These areas may also be mechanically raked to remove the grasses that have been disturbed. In areas protected by the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources will be required. As a general rule, vegetation removal should not occur in the habitat of the Piping Plover by means of rototiller, mechanical device or by hand at any time.

Upon notification from the Ministry of Natural Resources that the Piping Plover have left the beach area, the Town will consult with the Ministry of Natural Resources prior to any raking or maintenance of the beach in order to preserve the habitat areas.

Swales which develop from storm water runoff provide important foraging habitat for Piping Plover and their young. These features should not be modified within the areas identified as Piping Plover habitat. In extenuating circumstances (ie. health and safety concerns), modification may be acceptable if performed outside of the breeding season (April to September) in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources.
Maintenance of the beach shall include but not be limited to placement of garbage containers, garbage collection, special event set up and organization, parking and access maintenance.

During the shoulder seasons (May 15 to June 30 and September 8 to October 15 of each year), the raking will be performed as required and at the discretion of the Public Works Department.

During the months of July and August, the portion of sand beach from Main Street to Fourth Street will be raked at least three (3) times per week due to heavy use.

During the months of July and August, the portion of sand beach from Fourth Street to Fifth Street and the portion north of Sixth Street will be raked at least twice per week.