



Saugeen Shores Beach Maintenance Plan



Town of Saugeen Shores Beach Maintenance Plan

February 2021 Version

GIS Data Source: Town of Saugeen Shores and County of Bruce

Introduction

The Saugeen Shores waterfront has long been a desirable destination with 18 km of shoreline that marries soft sands, vegetation and rocky shoals. The Waterfront Master Plan recognized 10 destinations (or zones) based on similar geography, facilities and marketing opportunities. These 10 destinations have been the basis of organizing this plan and defining beach maintenance activities for each destination.

The level of service that has been described in each destination is considered to be the “existing” level of service that the Municipality is able to provide. In extenuating circumstances, there may on occasion, be an increase or a decrease in service. Every attempt will be made to communicate changes in the level of service to citizens utilizing www.saugeenshores.ca and other notices as required.

Level of Service

Level of service as in many cases can be a subjective observation based on ones expectations, personal preferences and memories of the past. This document will strive to define the current level of service in a quantitative fashion to allow for deliberations and changes if required.

The current level of service, for the most part, is defined by how things were done in that past and what resources have been available. An in-depth look at what is being offered by the Town on its waterfront for upkeep and maintenance is essential to weigh the many factors that will affect beach users of today and in the future.

Level of service can be viewed in terms of quality, function, safety, environment, resources, expectations, regulations, etc.

Changes in level of service will impact operating budgets and will be considered by Council as part of budget deliberations annually. Citizens are encouraged to communicate their concerns and issues in regard to specific areas along the waterfront through “Report a Concern” which is accessible on the municipal web site at www.saugeenshores.ca or alternatively by contacting the municipal office at 519-832-2008. Requests will be reviewed annually to determine where trends appear to be forming and will be a basis for future operating procedures.

Effective waterfront stewardship is a function of balancing environmental, social, and economic interests. Often in the past, the environment was left out of the equation. In order to sustain our natural waterfront, we need to act now for the future.

Waterfront Ecology

Citizens hold nostalgic views of wide sandy beaches without vegetation. Water levels are the most significant factor that change the waterfront experience. Figure 1 shows how the Lake Huron water level has change over the last 100 years. During the 1960s, levels were the lowest on record, but only for a short duration. At that time, there were wide beaches, but the vegetation had not had a chance to appear before high water returned. High levels ensued for the next three decades peaking in 1986, so wave impacts kept the vegetation at bay. From the mid 1990's onward to 2013, below average lake levels have resulted in wide beaches providing the opportunity for coastal vegetation to expand. The concern for many users of the waterfront is that the vegetation will grow to the water's edge eliminating the beach entirely. After 2013 and into 2019 water levels began to rise rapidly reducing beach width and disturbing shoreline vegetation resulting in significant change once again on the beach. The wave action will always maintain a beach of varying width depending on how much ice and storm activity have occurred during the off season. In order to accommodate all users of the waterfront, the Municipality will have to play a role to ensure that beach space is optimized.

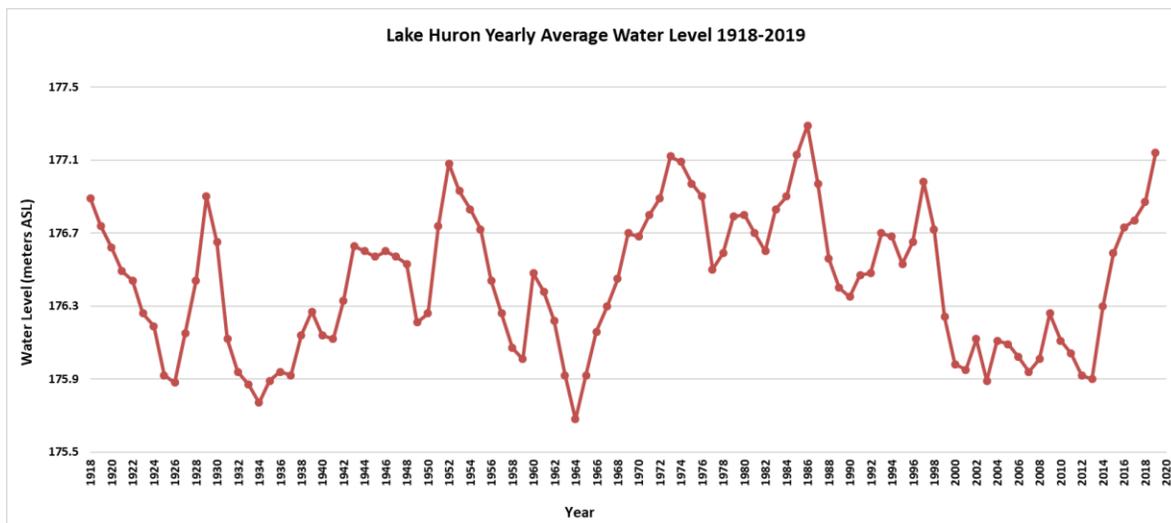


Figure 1: Hydrograph showing historical water levels on Lake Huron 1918-2019.

The following two sections have been taken from publications of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation.

Beach Processes

Sand is continually being eroded and deposited on the shore by waves. Storm waves will erode the beach, taking the sand offshore, and forming a sand bar. The sand bar acts as a temporary protective berm, absorbing wave energy that would otherwise reach the shore causing even more erosion. Once the storm subsides, gentle waves will gradually bring the sand from the sand bar back to the shore and re-deposit it on the beach. Once onshore, the sand is then prone to movement by wind.

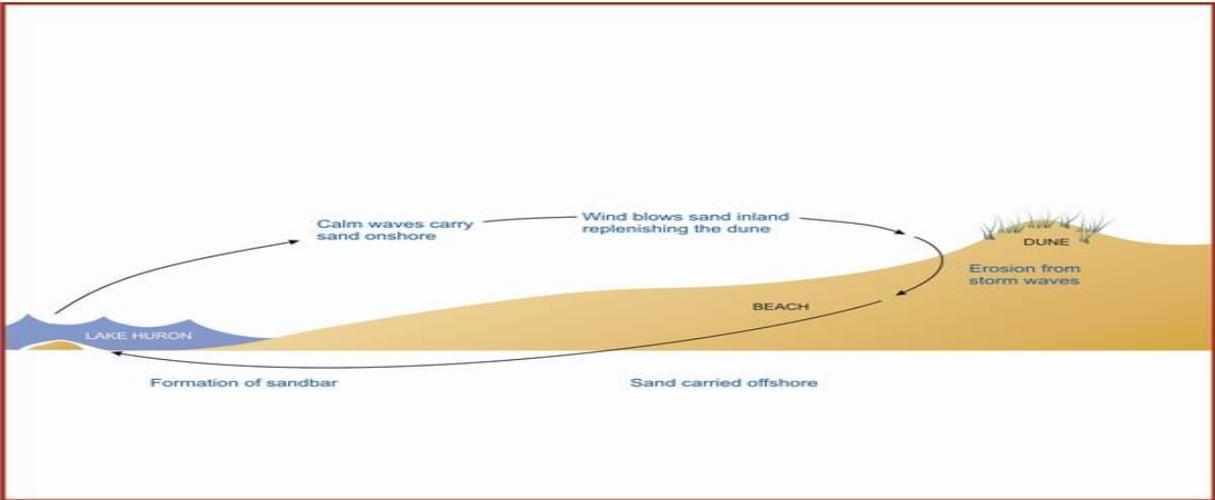


Figure 2 showing the “Sand Cycle”. Windblown sand collects forming a dune, waves (especially in storms and high water levels) will erode the dune carrying the sand lakeward to form sand bars which protects the beach. Gentle waves gradually move sand onshore to be carried by wind back to the dunes.

Dunes form when sand is carried by the wind from the beach towards the land. Sand particles begin to move when wind velocity reaches about 20 kph. The smallest particles (0.05-0.15 mms. in diameter) are so tiny that they float in the air: this is known as **suspension**. Slightly larger particles (0.15 -0.25 mms. In diameter) move in a hopping motion known as **saltation**. The energy of the falling grains may not be completely absorbed on impact and may therefore rebound. This may cause another particle to jump or may push a larger grain (0.25 -2 mms. in diameter) forward. These larger grains are continually bombarded by saltation and being pushed forward: this is known as **sand creep**. Although most sand particles are moved by saltation, surface creep may account for 20-25% of the moved sand (Bagnold, 1954). Most of the sand is carried within 0.15 m (6 inches) of the ground surface. The very fine sands light enough to be carried by suspension are usually carried well outside of the active dune system.

Onshore winds will dry the sand and selectively pick up the smaller grains of sand (0.08 - 0.5 mm) and move them towards the land. Sand grain sizes in dunes are typically finer than those on beaches. This is important because fine sand deposits have greater capacity to retain water than coarse sands and are therefore more suitable for vegetation growth. Moist sand is moved less easily by the wind than dry sand since moisture causes sand particles to stick together. The wind strength that is needed to initiate sand movement is higher for moist sand. While wind strength is important, the quantity of sand moved is also influenced by how long the wind is blowing from a particular direction. Wind duration is an important consideration, and knowing the prevailing wind directions at certain times of the year can help with determining management strategies for dune conservation and restoration efforts. Winds from the west and southwest are perhaps the most influential in the movement of sand along the shores within the Municipality of Kincardine.

As well as wind speeds and duration, water levels play a significant role in how much sand transportation will take place. During high water levels, more of the beach is submerged and the width of dry beach is less. As a result, less of the beach is exposed to wind erosion. Conversely, during lower water levels, more of the beach is exposed and greater wind erosion of the beach is possible. Therefore, periods of dune building tend to occur during lower water levels. Periods of natural dune erosion tend to occur during high lake levels when storm waves erode the base of the dune and carry that sand to offshore bars. What is fundamental to understand is that sand dunes and beaches must be managed as one system. Dunes depend on beach sand for their formation, particularly during low water level periods, and beaches need the sand reserve held in the dunes during high lake levels and storm events.

Beach Management – *the basics*

In recent years up until 2013 we have experienced a period of lower than average water levels on Lake Huron. This has resulted in much wider beaches. This period of low lake levels has given rise to the migration of dune vegetation (particularly Marram grass) toward the lake. This is a natural process which should not be disturbed. This plant migration allows the dune to develop outward and build up its sand reserve. When plants are removed or damaged, the dune tends to build upwards, often obstructing views of the lake.

The lakeward expansion of dune vegetation during low lake levels helps the beach to retain sand (reducing wind erosion), and slows the dune building process, effectively allowing certain rare dune species to establish populations. A return of higher lake levels will cause erosion of the dune and return sand to the beach and nearshore. Maintaining this sand cycle preserves high quality beaches.

Beach and dune systems are best managed by not interfering with the natural processes, but instead accepting that wave erosion will occur during periods of high lake levels, and wind erosion and sand deposition will be more prevalent during low lake levels. Working with natural lake processes, rather than at odds with them, provides a wide range of advantages, including ecological, economic and public health benefits. Beaches and dunes are dynamic environments and physical change occurs normally and with regularity. Mechanical beach grooming is a

practice that some municipalities undertake in order to achieve a certain aesthetic. One of the problems with beach raking is that it can interrupt natural processes such that the end result is a compression of the dune (the dune isn't allowed to expand in response to lower lake conditions) and the dune will grow vertically, rather than laterally. This will eventually lead to sightline obstructions, mobility issues for people travelling over the dune to the beach, and sand drifting issues. If raking is done at all, it should be confined to the lower beach area near the water and well away from the leading edge of the dunes.

Species at Risk

Endangered species, such as Piping Plover and its habitat are protected under the provincial *Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA)* and the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*. These statutes protect the areas Plovers require to carry out their life processes including breeding, nesting, feeding, foraging and areas required for rearing their young. The ESA protects habitat by prohibiting activities that would damage or destroy the features and functions present in that area. The most important protected habitat for Piping Plover is considered in the vicinity of nesting birds. In this area the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries (MNRF) regulates activities including beach raking or other activities that would damage the habitat. These activities take place prior to the birds' arrival and while breeding territories are defined, potential nests are established and the species has carried out its life processes on the site. Natural material such as sticks, driftwood and vegetation are important and necessary habitat components on which Plovers rely for their survival. Beach raking removes these features and can damage the habitat. However the removal of human garbage is required to be carried out on a regular basis. After the Plovers have left the breeding habitat for the season, certain levels of beach maintenance can be considered acceptable. The Municipality is obligated to consult with MNRF for advice on how to proceed to ensure no damage occurs to the features and functions of the protected Plover habitat.

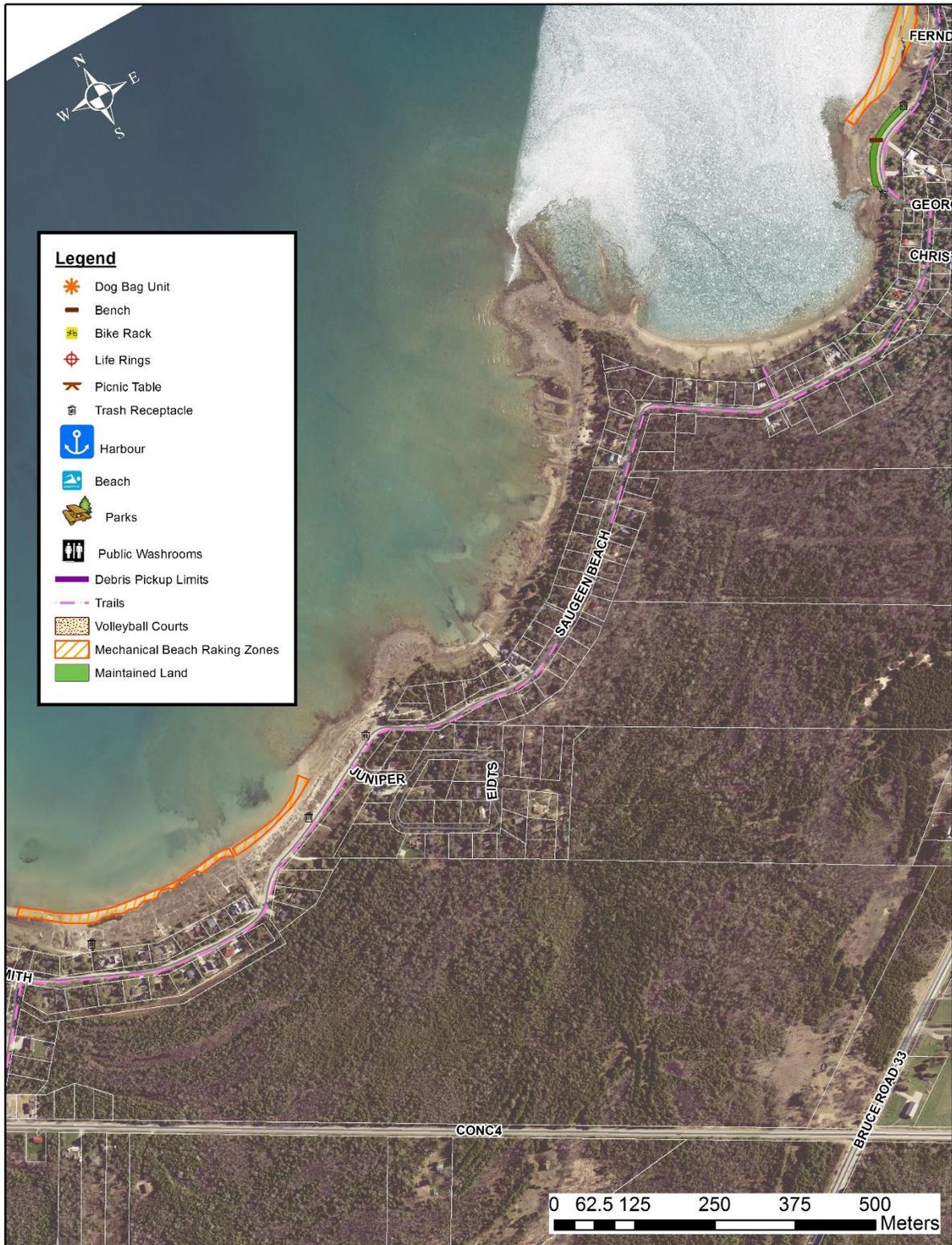
Activities Defined

This document will describe 19 activities that are conducted on the waterfront throughout the course of the year. Refer to the maps and tables for each maintenance zone. The following describes each of the activities.

1. **Garbage Collection** – the collection of garbage from municipal cans strategically placed along the waterfront. It is important to note that not all garbage receptacles are distributed at the same time. Receptacles are placed based on need, a few are year round, additional receptacles are added starting in early May, maximum compliment from late June to Labour Day. After Labour Day weekend, staff begin to remove garbage cans from low traffic areas.
2. **Litter collection** – hand collection of litter that has accumulated along the waterfront. Litter is defined as human litter.
3. **Beach Grooming** – A general term to describe a beach maintenance activity. Specific types of grooming are: grading, raking and tilling which are described below.
 - a) **Beach Grading** – large scale mechanical leveling of the beach surface using heavy equipment usually a road grader, dozer, loader and/or dragging with a heavy I beam. Usually done to address erosion caused by water drainage, holes created by beach visitors or undesirable beach topography such as uneven berms created by natural events (i.e. winter storms).
 - b) **Beach Raking** – includes mechanical beach rakes towed by a tractor (such as a Barber Surf Rake) or manual raking by hand to “clean” the beach by collecting small debris and materials of natural (e.g. sticks, vegetation) and human (e.g. litter) origin. The materials are then removed from the beach and deposited in the landfill.
 - c) **Beach Tilling** – using a roto-tiller or cultivator, the beach surface is broken up to soften hard packed sand and discourage vegetation growth.
4. **Debris Removal** – the removal of larger natural debris such as logs or large quantities of detritus (fine, black, organic material and “seaweed”) that collects on shoreline. It can include larger human debris as well (large litter). Debris pickup is normally completed by hand and/or using mechanical equipment (loader).
5. **Grass Cutting** –this is typically evident in areas along the roadway at designated beach access points.
6. **Parking Lot Maintenance** –parking lot grading frequency is determined in the subject destination.
7. **Washrooms** – strategically placed facilities along the waterfront with scheduled cleaning procedures.
8. **Water Quality Testing** – swimming beach water quality testing conducted in collaboration with the Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU) completed in the subject destination during the designated season. Results are posted on the Health Units website.
9. **Playground** – playground structures located along the waterfront for the enjoyment of users.

10. **Beach Access Points** – public access to the beaches that include municipally owned and maintained accesses as well as those future accesses that are not currently maintained.
11. **Rope and Post** – wood posts joined by rope to define a specific area which assists in pedestrian flow and protection of sand dunes.
12. **Boardwalks/sidewalks/trails/promenades** – harden surfaces which assist with pedestrian flow to a destination. This can include “roll-away” boardwalks which can be removed if required (i.e. high water).
13. **Snow fencing** – snow fences installed and in what configuration and location in the subject destination to reduce sand migration.
14. **Dunes** - a hill of sand built by either wind or water flow.
15. **Common Reed** (also known as Phragmites) – a tall grass (can be 2 meters plus in height) similar in appearance to cattails that is an aggressive invasive species that can colonize and choke out other species. It prefers wetlands and shoreline habitat. Herbicides are used to control this species at specific locations when not located in the water.
16. **Washouts and minor grading for holes** – washouts and or holes in the sand repaired in the subject destination. Degree of washout will determine the process for repair (see beach grading).
17. **Inspections** – A regular, focused and documented review of equipment and facilities by staff within the specified area of the waterfront.
18. **Stormwater/Creek Maintenance** – the storm water outlet crossing the beach from an inland source maintained and repaired in the subject destination.
19. **Lifesaving Stations** – located along the waterfront that includes ring buoy, reaching pole and educational signage.

Maintenance Zone 1 – Saugeen Beach



Maintenance Zone 1 begins at Smith Lane and follows the waterfront to George Street. This particular area is comprised of a number of different elements from rocky points to shallow sandy beaches. Grasses and wetlands jolt the landscape along beach entry points in the middle portions.

It is an attractive area that has had limited access points with well used beaches by the residents and cottagers within the area. Very little is done in the means of maintenance by the Municipality, unless otherwise requested.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Limited number of garbage cans is in this zone. Additional garbage cans can be provided if there is a special occasion that has been arranged with staff.
2. Litter Collection	✓	Bi-weekly litter sweeps will occurs in July and August
3. Beach Grooming	✓	Specific sections of the beach (see maps) will be groomed using mechanical beach raking and tilling 4 times per year (generally during the week preceding the long weekends from Victoria to Labour Day. Hand raking occurs as required.
4. Debris Removal	X	Very little debris comes ashore in this area. Major debris will be removed as required.
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Grass is cut in the area of George Street, which a number of citizens utilize as an area to launch vessels.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	X	A basic 6 car lot is available adjacent 35 Saugeen Beach Road. On-road parking is accommodated.
7. Washroom	X	No washroom or port-a-pottie is located in this destination.
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points	✓	12 Access points exist. In 2018, signs were improved and added.
11. Rope and Post	✓	Inspected pre-season and replaced as required. Weekly monitoring occurs in July and August.
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	Juniper Area has historically had board walks for patrons to get over the grasses. A boardwalk in

		maintained adjacent parking lot at 35 Saugeen Beach Rd.
13. Snow Fencing	X	
14. Dunes	✓	High quality but small dunes exist in this area. They will be protected from development and grooming damage.
15. Common Reed	✓	Some is present and will be controlled with herbicides where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	Limited washouts are controlled naturally.
17. Inspections	✓	
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	2 were placed 2019

Maintenance Zone 2 – Gobles Grove



Maintenance Zone 2 begins at George Street with a natural shallow water area with non-maintained access ramp and concludes at Bruce Road #25. Gobles Grove is a well-used beach by residents and cottagers within the area, and also as a major destination for day users.

The area is experiencing an increasing number of full time residents that are passionate about the sustainability of the waterfront. Continued partnerships with groups such as the Saugeen Beachers' Association continue to improve the aesthetics of the area.

High water has made this beach very narrow in recent years.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Pick up every day including twice a day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. A minimum of 6 cans in total at Gobles Grove and 2 cans south to George Street. Cans are distributed mid-May until October. Garbage collection is reduced during the off season to three to four times a week.
2. Litter Collection	✓	Picked up every day in July and August. Service not provided during the off season, however community groups will sometimes provide a beach clean-up day in partnership with the Municipality.
3. Beach Grooming	✓	Specific sections of the beach (see maps) will be groomed using mechanical beach raking and tilling 4 times per year (generally during the week preceding the long weekends from Victoria to Labour Day. Hand raking as required.
4. Debris washed up on shore	✓	Very little debris comes ashore in this area, it will be removed as required.
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Grass cut around post and ropes every second week and road side along the George Street area during July and August. It is completed weekly around the washroom facility. Grass is cut as required during the shoulder season due to reduction of seasonal staff and slower growth rate.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	One or two times per year as required.

		Parking area is well compacted and requires infrequent grading. New drainage improvements have been completed.
7. Washroom	✓	Gobles Grove washroom is opened beginning of May and closes the end of October (dependent on weather). It is cleaned multiple times a day during July and August. During the off season it is inspected regularly and cleaned as required.
8. Water Testing	✓	Monthly by the GB Health Unit
9. Playground	✓	One playground unit located at Gobles Grove Washrooms. Inspected once a month, 12 months of the year.
10. Beach Access Points	✓	The most populated access point remains the main beach at Gobles Grove within this destination.
11. Rope and Post	✓	Is inspected pre-season and replaced as required. Continued monitoring occurs throughout the season.
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	A minimum of one wooden boardwalk to get patrons to the waterfront. Smaller additional boardwalks to assist patrons traveling from their vehicle over wet areas on the beach. Inspected and maintained on a weekly basis. In 2019 high water has forced removal of most.
13. Snow Fencing	✓	One row from CR 25 to creek near washrooms.
14. Dunes	X	Limited dune growth due to wet sand conditions reducing sand migration. Consideration could be given to planting dune grass to assist in capturing what little sand does migrate and to begin to build up an acceptable sand base. Would include stand fencing to be established for two years, which may not be agreeable to residents within the vicinity.
15. Common Reed	✓	As required and permitted.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	✓	
17. Inspections	✓	

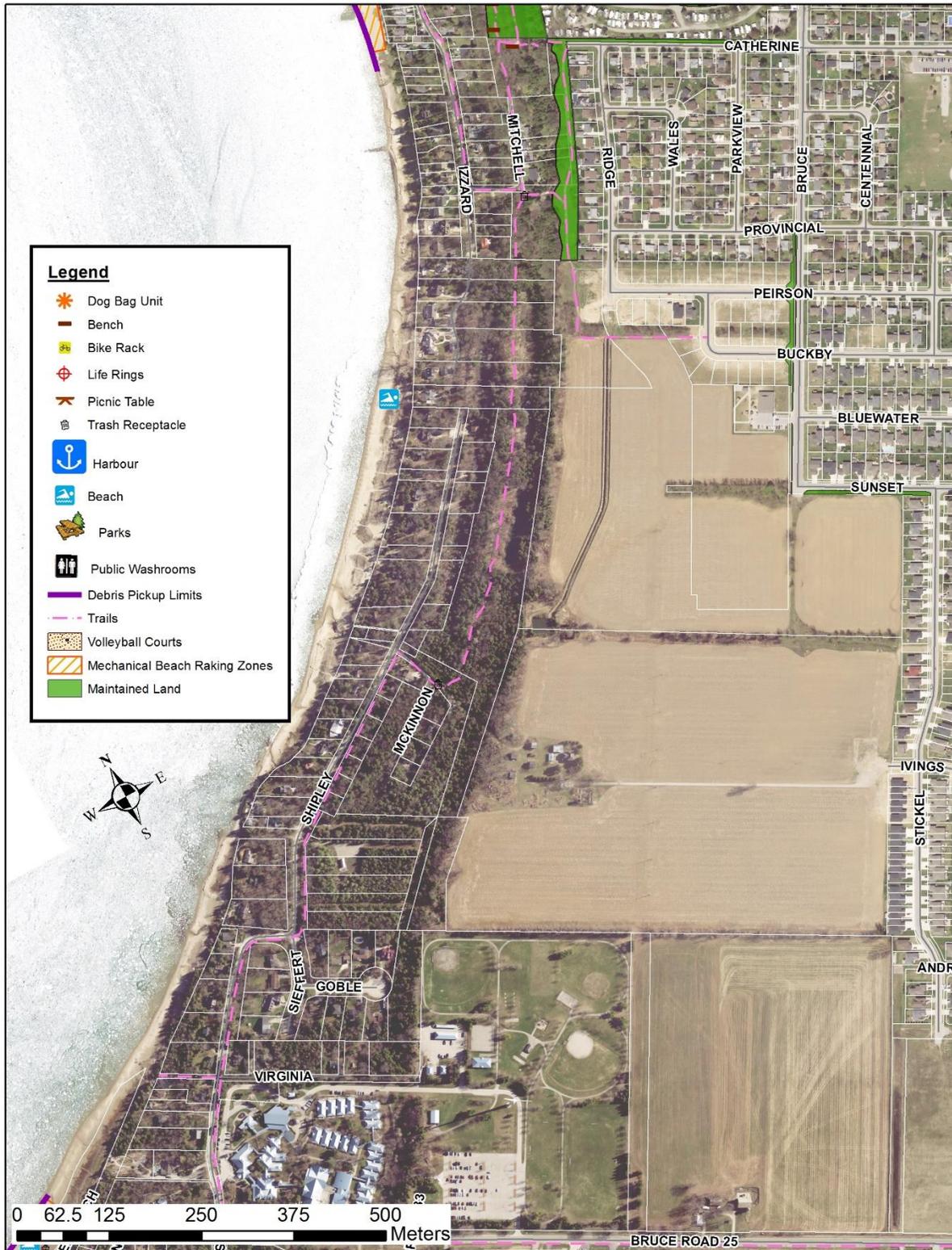
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required. Creek at washroom receives a higher level of service.
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	Lifesaving stations are present.

Additional Notes:

Concerns from some citizens regarding growth of vegetation and that it had been progressively growing Lakeward for several years. Under low Lake conditions, the natural response is for vegetation to grow into open sand areas where competition is low. The vegetation growth is all native species, predominately rushes and sedges. This type of vegetation is common on low gradient, naturally wet beaches, like Gobles Grove. Recent high water has removed most of this vegetation.

Stormwater outlet near CR 25 - After rainfall events, Town staff will visit the site to review the condition of the outlet. If significant amounts of sediment are collected in the plunge pool, or rip rap has been transported out of the plunge pool, equipment will be mobilized to repair. Semi-annual inspections will be carried out, in early spring and late fall. The spring inspection will review the condition of the outlet in preparation of the summer season and initiate any require maintenance. The fall inspection will ensure the outlet is secured for the winter and will recommend any repairs or protection for the season. Dune grass is recommended to be considered in this area, the installation of the outlet provides for the opportunity to install grasses and will be incorporated into the final detailed design. This dune grass will then be maintained per the Plan.

Maintenance Zone 3 – The Sands of Shipley



Maintenance Zone 3 historically had limited maintenance. Cottages abut to the high water level mark and some residents prefer the 'less is more' attitude along this piece of shoreline. Dunes have started to form during the low water duration and vegetation has started to grow closer to the water's edge.

Some citizens have conducted their own maintenance in front of their properties and incorporated into their own landscaping. Users of the beach within this vicinity get the sense that this is private beach and prefer to patronize the more populated beaches.

Amenities such as garbage, litter collection and washrooms are not available in this destination.

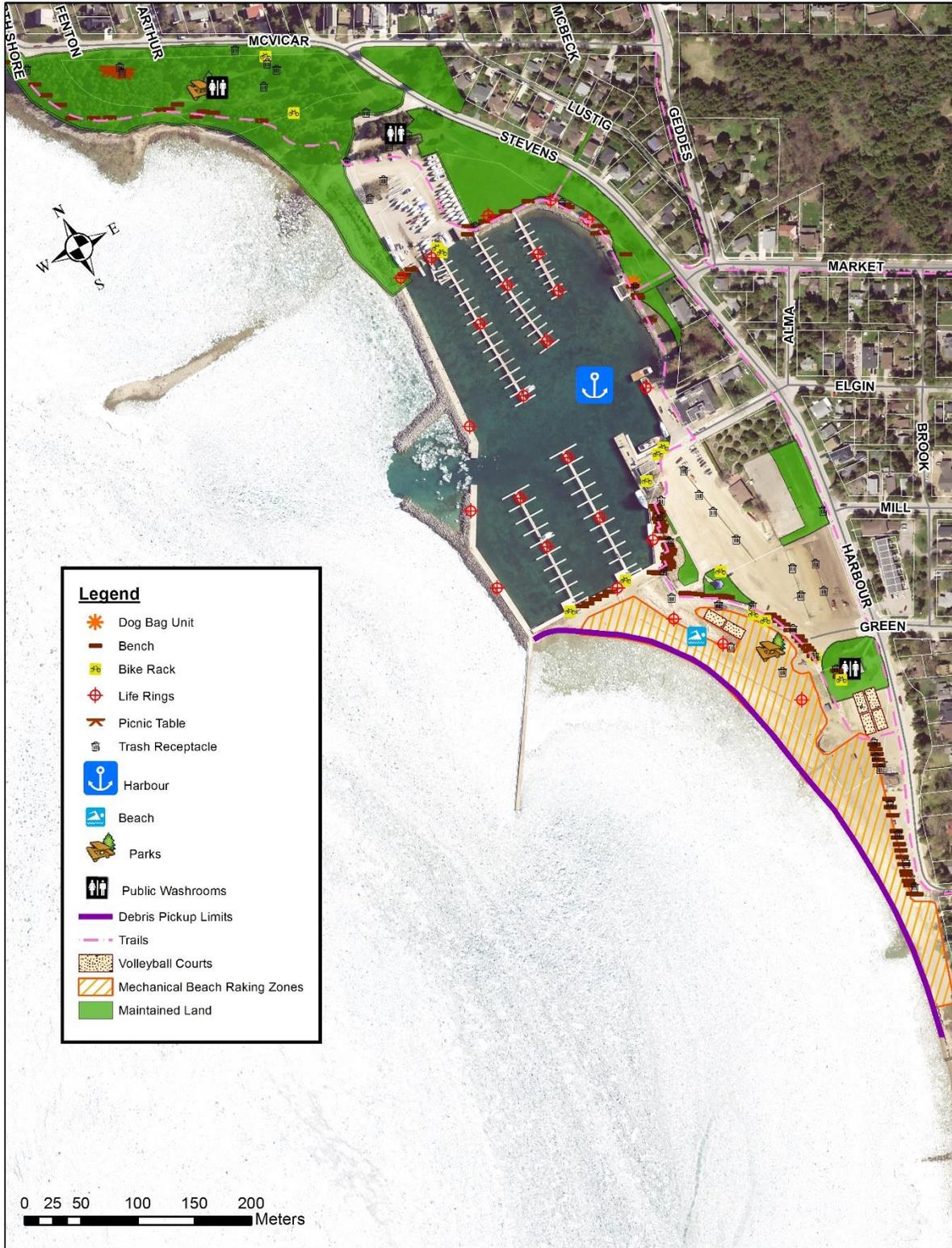
Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	X	
2. Litter Collection	X	
3. Beach Grooming	X	
4. Debris Removal	X	No debris clean up within this vicinity.
5. Grass Cutting	X	
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	X	No parking lots, with only limited parking at the beach access points.
7. Washroom	X	No washroom or port-a-pottie located in this destination.
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Some access points remain inaccessible, while others have signage and bollards to reduce motorized vehicles from accessing. New signs were added in 2018.
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	X	
13. Snow Fencing	X	
14. Dunes	✓	Have naturally started to form.
15. Common Reed	✓	Some is present and will be controlled with herbicides where possible.

16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	Limited washouts are controlled naturally.
17. Inspections	X	
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required. South end drain outlet receives higher level of service.
19. Lifesaving Stations	X	

Additional Notes:

Historically, the Municipality has had limited issues with this particular destination except in extreme cases when beach users have been told it is a private beach (it is all public).

Maintenance Zone 4 – Port Elgin Main Beach



Maintenance Zone 4 destination commences south of the Izzard Road lookout at 538 Izzard Road and encompasses the beach northward to and including the North Shore Park. Considered to be the busiest of all the beaches in Saugeen Shores, it is a major tourism attraction. The soft sands and shallow waters are appealing for families, and the restaurant amenities provide eating establishments.

This beach tends to be a very wet beach due to the low grade and the impact of historic and continued grading. Grading has been desired by citizens residing in the area for aesthetic purposes. The continued grading of the beach removes the upper layer of sand and contributes to the rising of the water table. Measures such as planting of beach grasses have had a positive impact to the north side of this beach, but this has also contributed to ongoing maintenance. The increase of sedges and rushes has caused some displeasure to some users of the beach.

Staff is experiencing an increase in the amount of debris being washed up along this portion of the beach, which has added obligations to the staff complement. This substance (which is a common form on Southampton beaches).

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Cans are distributed mid-May until October. In mid summer pick up every day (at least 2X) twice a day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (~ 20 cans) Garbage collection is reduced during the off season to three to four times a week.
2. Litter Collection	✓	Litter is picked up by the waterfront crew every morning. This service is only available during July and August. Pitch-in week, which is offered in April, promotes volunteers to assist with beach litter clean up and historically a group from Saugeen District Secondary Schools coordinates a beach cleanup in September.
3. Beach Grooming	✓	The beach is groomed daily as required. Mechanical raking will occur up to 4 x per season, hand raking occurs at other times. See maps.

4. Debris Removal	✓	Debris removed as required by hand or equipment. Checked daily in July/August.
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Grass is cut weekly during the summer months in front of the Beach House Washrooms (bottom of Green Street), around the harbour green and into North Shore Park. Grass cutting is less frequent in the fall months. See maps.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	Grasses in parking lot and around parking barriers cut as warranted. Edge promenade once a month. Grading is completed as required. Currently low level of service is offered. <i>*Increase in grading of the parking lot should occur to ensure an acceptable surface.</i>
7. Washroom	✓	Beach House washroom cleaned 5 to 6 times a day during the months of July and August. Fish Cleaning washroom cleaned twice a day. Harbour Washrooms cleaned twice a day, reduced during the shoulder season. Staff periodically inspects washrooms throughout the day and will clean accordingly.
8. Water Testing	✓	Monthly by the GB Health Unit
9. Playground	✓	Inspection of playground equipment on the Port Elgin Main beach occurs monthly year round.
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Beach access points are all maintained in this destination and are considered main entrances to the beach. Signs have been added and improved.
11. Rope and Post	✓	Rope and post depicts areas that are sensitive in nature and assist in flow of patrons to the waterfront. The rope and post is

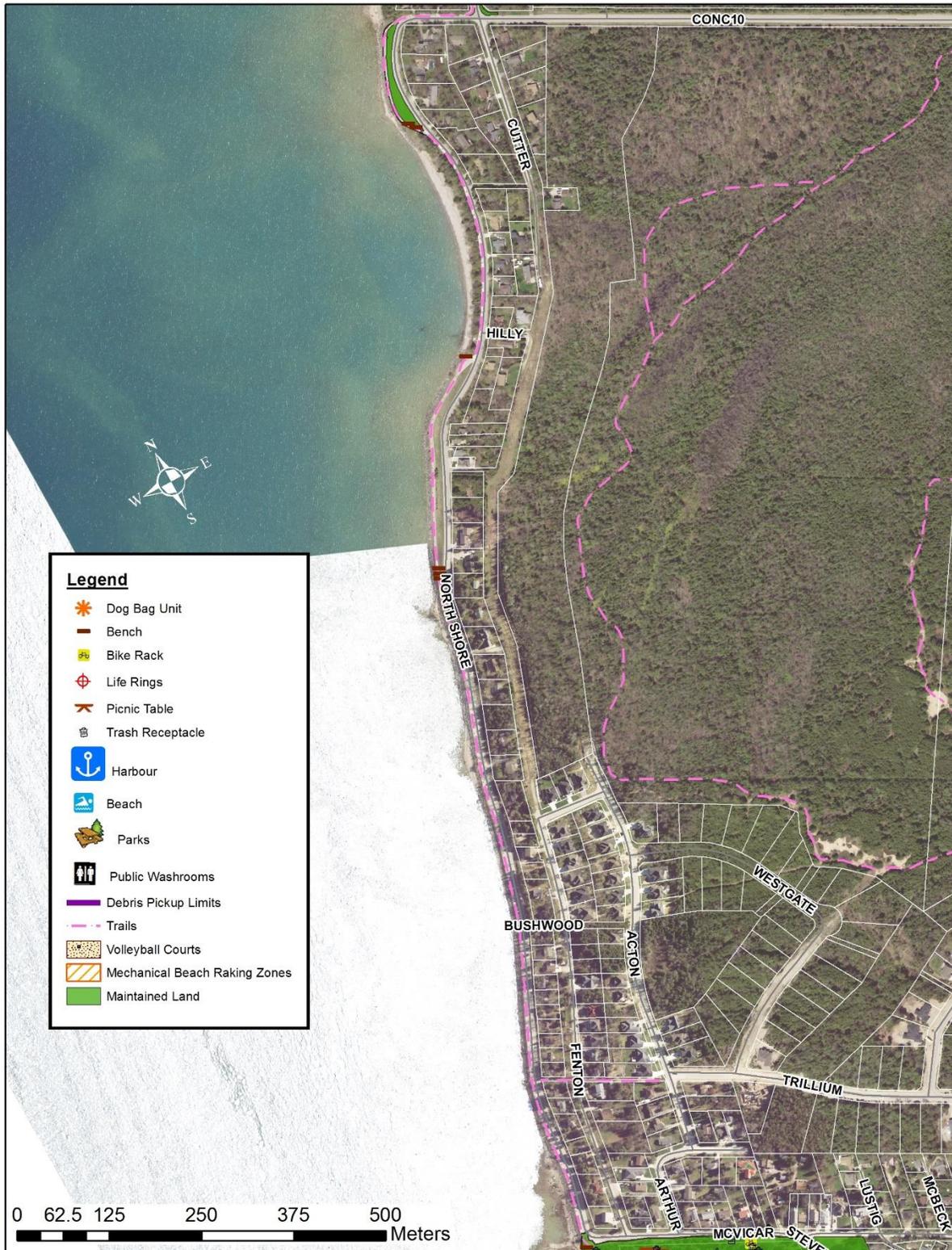
		inspected pre-season and during the summer season.
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	Boardwalks installed to assist with accessibility (some removed due to high water in 2019). The promenade is swept once a week as part of the North Shore Trail. New promenade and lookout completed in 2019.
13. Snow Fencing	✓	Two rows from harbour wall to Izzard Street. *Town has received inquiries for additional snow fencing. High water levels are making the task difficult in some areas of the main beach.
14. Dunes	✓	Staff will pull weeds forming in dunes on an as needed basis. Volunteers have assisted in pulling weeds, due to the large volume accumulated. This is a program that should be continued.
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled using herbicide where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	✓	During heavy downpours water directs itself from Green Street through the parking lot and across the promenade towards the beach at the emergency entrance area. This area typically needs to be back filled when this occurs. This is completed within the area of the beach volleyball courts twice a week and limited grading between monthly beach grading as required.
17. Inspections	✓	Staff is on the beach every day commencing at 7:30 AM.
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required. Creek at former water treatment plant location receives higher level of service.
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	Many station are present.

Additional Notes:

- The vicinity of the Flea Market is inspected pre-season with sand removal if required.

- The sands are generally fine textured and quite prone to wind erosion. During high Lake levels the beach is usually damp, and as a result, beach erosion decreases. During low Lake levels, the beach is not only more expansive, but the sand is drier and tends to become mobilized during windy periods.
- The Town has traditionally graded this beach mechanically for the purposes of aesthetics and to fill in holes left by children playing in the sand. The grading also had the effect of aerating and causing the sand to dry out more quickly, thereby contributing to the increased likelihood of sand erosion. Given the nature of destination 4, mechanized grading contributes to the beach erosion issue.
- Staff has become increasingly cautious about maintenance activities at the main beach. Often times residents and visitors video tape activities and do not approve of the operations. Some want additional maintenance and others less. This area has become a slightly hostile environment.
- Staff will continue to work towards a balance while keeping with provincial legislation and considering the ecological sustainability of the beach environment.

Maintenance Zone 5 – North Shore Trails



Maintenance Zone 5 starts at the north end of North Shore Park and continues to 10th Concession. Predominately shallow water, rocky points and outcrops. This portion of the waterfront is more enjoyed by those utilizing the North Shore Trail.

During low water levels, small sandy beaches formed and were utilized by patrons.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	X	
2. Litter Collection	X	
3. Beach Grooming	X	
4. Debris Removal	X	
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Along the road side only.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	X	
7. Washroom	X	
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Access points are on the east side of the road leading up to North Shore Road.
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	North Shore Trail sweep every Friday commencing when snow leaves until Thanksgiving weekend. <i>*higher level of service should be provided to respond to storm event and clear trail after.</i>
13. Snow Fencing	X	
14. Dunes	X	
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled using herbicide where possible.

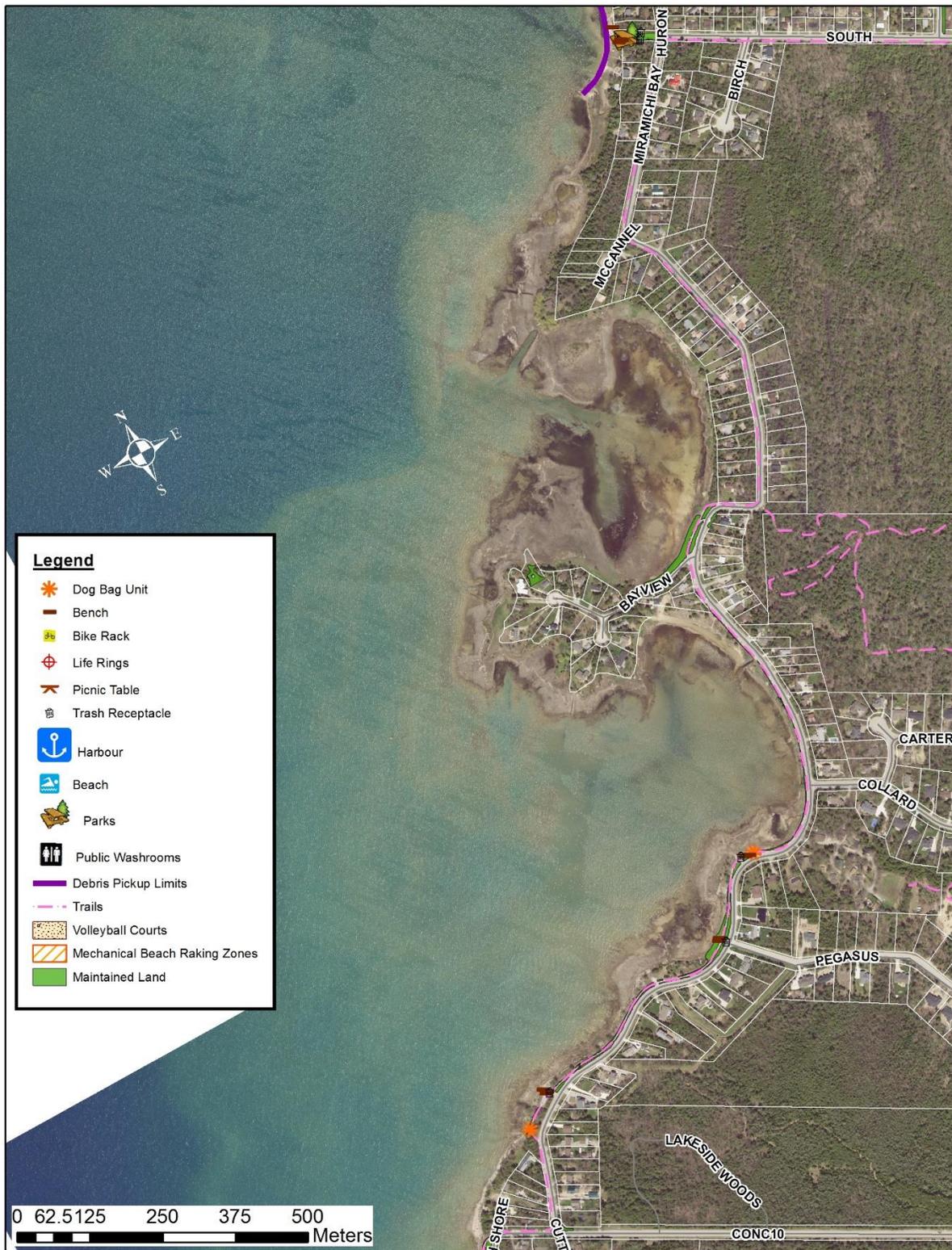
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	
17. Inspections	X	
18. Creek Maintenance	X	
19. Lifesaving Stations	X	

Additional Notes:

Thanks to the North Shore Trail, this portion of the waterfront is a mecca for active enthusiasts.

In 2020 high water caused significant damage to the asphalt path and some sections had to be closed. Repairs options are being considered and work is expected to require a major effort and cost.

Maintenance Zone 6 – The Bays of Horseshoe and Miramichi

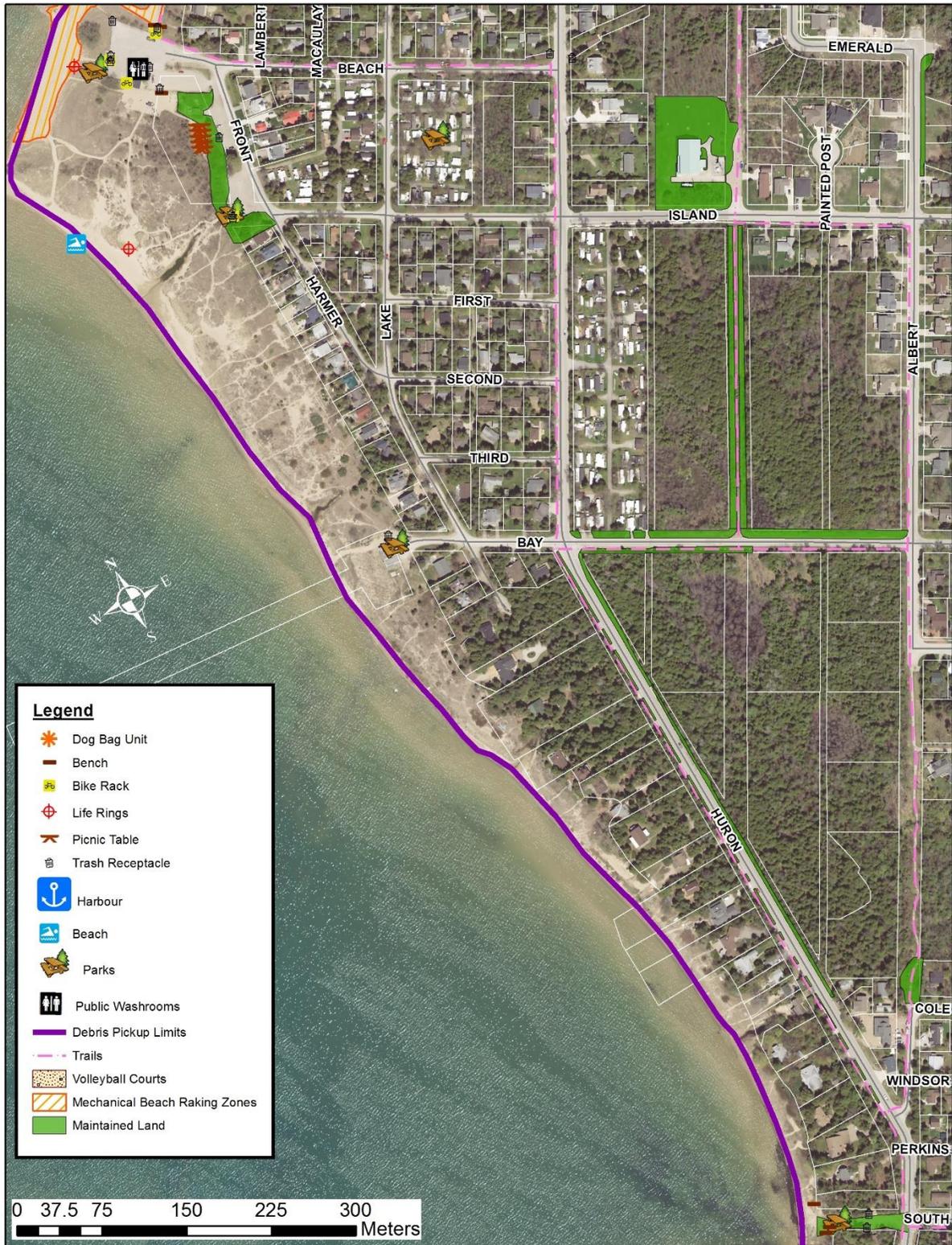


Maintenance Zone 6 is influenced by fluctuating water levels that greatly change the usage and dynamics of these two areas. Bird enthusiasts enjoy the wildlife that can easily be seen in the bays, and the lookout areas accommodate those individuals looking for a short retreat. The recent rise in the water levels has brought boating activity back into both Miramichi and Horseshoe Bay. This destination starts at the 10th Concession and concludes at South Street Beach.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Garbage can located north of 10th Concession and lookouts emptied daily during summer season.
2. Litter Collection	X	
3. Beach Grooming	✓	One per year on the east side of Miramichi Bay depending on water levels.
4. Debris Removal	✓	Minor cleaning for first three lots south of South Street (once per year maximum if required).
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Grass cutting is completed a minimum of every two weeks. Cut weekly at the McNabb Range Light.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	X	Parking tends to occur in the limited parking facilities adjacent to the lookout areas.
7. Washroom	✓	One port-a-pottie located at lookout south of Pegasus Trails from early May to mid-October.
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Limited maintenance at beach access points with the exception of grading at Miramichi access point.
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	North Shore Trail is swept weekly commencing once the snow has melted, up to the Thanksgiving Weekend.

13. Snow Fencing	X	
14. Dunes	X	
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled using herbicide where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	
17. Inspections	X	
18. Creek Maintenance	X	
19. Lifesaving Stations	X	

Maintenance Zone 7 – South Street to Beach Road



Maintenance Zone 7 starts at South Street and Beach northward to Beach Road adjacent Gerry's Fries, these beaches are small in comparison to other Southampton Beaches, however their soft sand and shallow waters are an attraction to many users.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Garbage cans located at entrances of South Street and Bay Street beaches. Collection occurs daily. Collected twice a day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during summer months. Cans remain until mid-October and emptied minimally once per week.
2. Litter Collection	✓	Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays
3. Beach Grooming	✓	The beach is groomed as required. Mechanical raking will occur up to 4 x per season near Gerry's Fries (see map), hand raking occurs at other times.
4. Debris Removal	✓	South St experiences very large amounts of fine black debris and is removed as required and depending on condition, can be removed daily. Goal is to have removed within 1 working day (possibly 2 if resources are required elsewhere). Debris washing up on shore at South Street is an ongoing issue and can accumulate within an hour depending on currents.
5. Grass Cutting	X	
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	As required
7. Washroom	✓	Port-a-pottie provided at South Street parking lot and one at Bay Street entrance. Maintained weekly by contractor from end of June until the second week of September.
8. Water Testing	X	

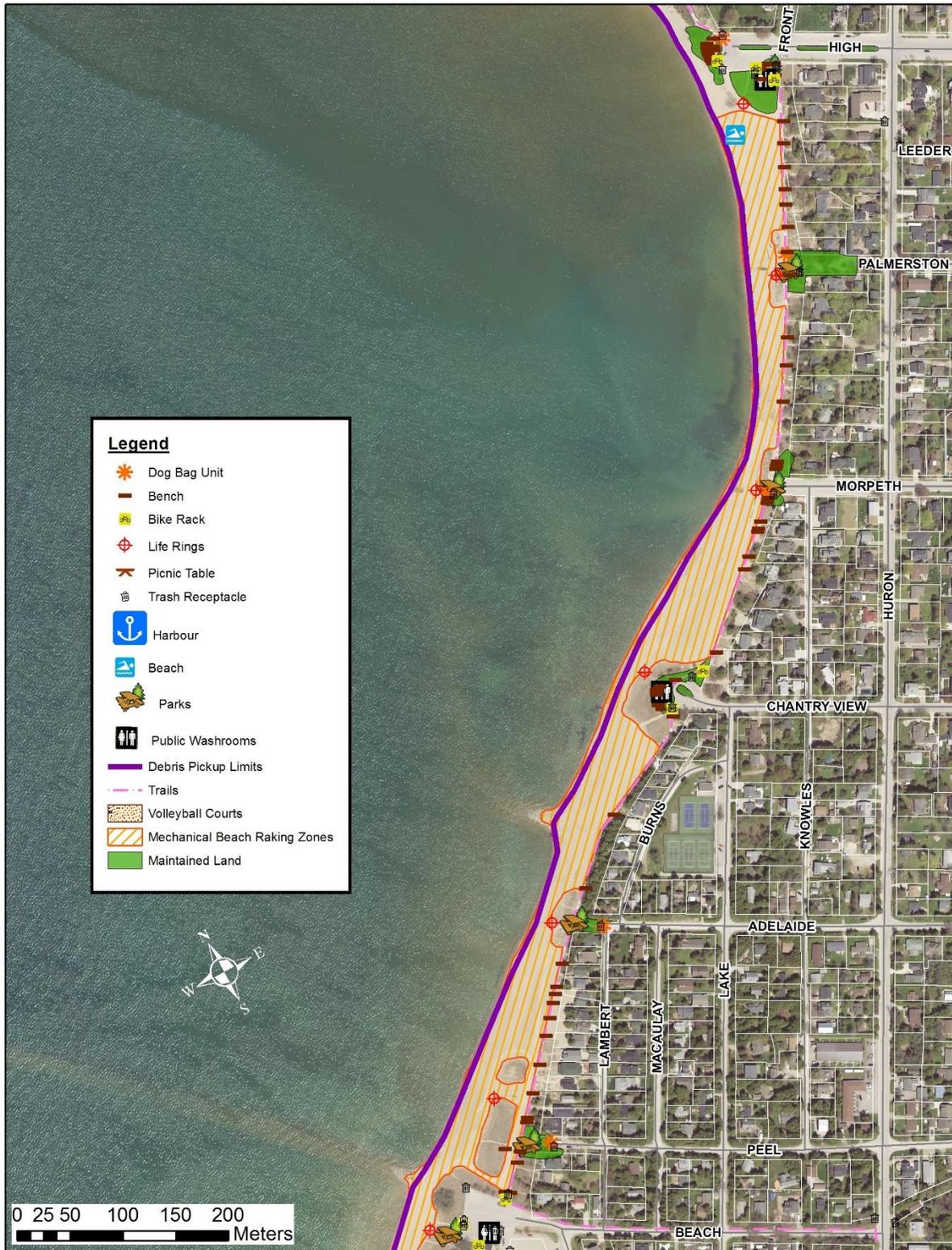
9. Playground	✓	One set of swings located at South Street which is inspected monthly from when the snow melts in the spring until removal of the swings in late fall.
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Signage indicated no dogs permitted on the beach and the amenities of what is on the beach
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	X	Remnants of an existing sidewalk from Island Street to Bay Street. This is not maintained by municipal staff.
13. Snow Fencing	✓	Plywood wall across beach entrance at South Street entrance.
14. Dunes	✓	Significant dunes within the Harmer Street area. Residents continue to cut out walkways to access the beach.
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled using herbicide where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	✓	Minor grading is completed when water levels are high
17. Inspections	✓	Daily inspections for debris during summer months from South Street to first creek northerly.
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required.
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	

Additional Notes:

Due to winds, currents, the situation of the Island and Saugeen River, this destination has the highest accumulation of debris deposited on the shoreline of all areas currently maintained which utilizes significant resources.

Changing water levels annually define grading activities. With higher water levels grading is reduced due to the area available. When water levels are high, more grooming occurs and is focused on the South Street beach area. With lower water levels grading can be accommodated and depending on the beach width can go from South Street to Island Street with on width of the drag.

Maintenance Zone 8 – Beach Road to High Street



Maintenance Zone 8 area of waterfront is a draw for many users in Southampton. Its close proximity to the downtown makes it a desirable destination. Its accessible beach access points are an attraction for those wishing to walk the sidewalk to watch the sunset or to sit on the many benches.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Garbage cans are distributed in May along all beach access points. During summer month's cans are emptied daily. During the shoulder season, cans are emptied a minimum of four times a week. Cans are also located along the sidewalk on the beach. Cans are removed late fall.
2. Litter Collection	✓	Staff inspect beach for litter three times a week. (Tuesday, Friday and Sunday)
3. Beach Grooming	✓	Large sand accumulations around snow fences and at sidewalk areas. Late May early June a dozer is used on beach to level off wind-blown sand and level out beach. Beach is mechanical raked up to four times per year. See maps.
4. Debris Removal	✓	Is extensive in spring. Completed as required and sometime takes until mid-June to complete
5. Grass Cutting	✓	Available at access points.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	Calcium sprayed in May on Island Street Parking lot. Depending on weather, second calcium treatment may be applied. Graded as required.
7. Washroom	✓	Washrooms are cleaned twice a day at Gerry's Fries, Chantry View and Millard Blvd, more during busy times.
8. Water Testing	✓	Monthly by the GB Health Unit

9. Playground	✓	Inspections conducted once a month. Playgrounds include Island Street, Long Dock, Palmerston, Adelaide, Morpeth and Peel.
10. Beach Access Points	✓	Signage for users to walk bikes as well as no dogs on the beach. Garbage cans are located at the beach access points. Sand that has accumulated is pulled back out of the Chantry Dune trails. This is completed every second year. Extensive sand accumulates within the Chantry Dunes pathways and viewing platform.
11. Rope and Post	✓	Situated around the existing dune grasses. Inspection of these areas occurs pre-summer annually.
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	Weekly sidewalk sweeping commences once the snow has been removed up to Thanksgiving Weekend. Boardwalks added in 2019
13. Snow Fencing	✓	A permanent sand fence has been installed at the platform at Chantry Dunes and at Morpeth Beach Access. 2 rows across the end of High Street (depending on water levels). 1 row from High Street to long dock. 2 rows at Chantry view drive – one on either side of washrooms. Plywood wall across the beach access point at Morpeth Street.
14. Dunes	✓	
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled by herbicide where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	
17. Inspections	✓	

18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required. Outlets at Morpeth and Palmerston receive a higher level of service.
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	Stations added in 2018

Additional Notes:

Individuals riding their bicycles along the sidewalk continues to be an issue within this destination. Decals and signs have been erected to assist in policing this area. Dogs are permitted to be walked on the sidewalk only. These sign changes are more in keeping with the existing by-law.

Maintenance Zone 9 – High Street to Saugeen River



Maintenance Zone 9 area comprises the area north of the flag in Southampton. The landscape changes considerably in this portion from a sand beach to a pebble beach with walking trails. This natural portion of the beach is enjoyed by many seeking a relaxing alternative to a sandy busy beach. A new pathway has assisted in opening up a portion of the waterfront to additional usage, and now boasts the first butterfly gardens within the area. In 2019 and 2020 high water radically changed this section and the gravel berm, pond area and the southern section of the Captain Spence Path has been completely consumed by Lake Huron raising water levels.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	Garbage cans located at the flag, entrance of the Captain Spence Path and at Pioneer Park. During summer months garbage is picked up daily. In the shoulder season this is reduced to a minimum of four times a week.
2. Litter Collection	X	
3. Beach Grooming	X	
4. Debris Removal	✓	Completed once per year in the spring for logs and other debris deposited during winter months.
5. Grass Cutting	✓	At Millard Blvd. washroom, as well as the entrance of Captain Spence Path and cutting back the weeds along the path. Pioneer Park area is cut by volunteers.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	Grading as required very infrequent
7. Washroom	✓	Cleaned twice a day at Tour Base Station.
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points	✓	
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	✓	Captain Spence Path starts at the Flag and ends at Pioneer Park. A natural setting through

		wet meadows and butterfly gardens. High water has damaged the Captain Spence Path, it cannot be repaired until the water recedes.
13. Snow Fencing	✓	One row in front of Pioneer Park.
14. Dunes	X	
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled by herbicide where possible.
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	
17. Inspections	X	
18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required.
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	At Southampton harbour

Additional Notes:

The Captain Spence Path is a well-used path in natural settings. Staff will need to be cognizant of the rising water levels and the impact it may have to the beach. This will be a particular concern over winter months.

Maintenance Zone 10 – Scubby’s Point and the Northern Sands



Maintenance Zone 10 includes the River mouth that is a popular destination for individuals who fish. It is an ideal location for watching the sunset on a warm summer's day. Further north, there is a mixture of rocky beach entrances as well as small patches of sand beaches.

Activity	What is Provided	Additional Notes
1. Garbage Collection	✓	At Scubby's Point and at the donut. During summer months garbage is picked up daily. In the shoulder season this is reduced to a minimum of four times a week.
2. Litter Collection	X	
3. Beach Grooming	X	
4. Debris Removal	✓	Only at access points
5. Grass Cutting	X	Weekly at Scubby's Point.
6. Parking Lot Maintenance	✓	Limited areas to park vehicles. Limited grading at Scubby's Point parking facility
7. Washroom	✓	Port- a- pottie available at the donut below Scubby's Point.
8. Water Testing	X	
9. Playground	X	
10. Beach Access Points		Beaches are primarily used by residents within the vicinity walking/biking to their destination. Signs added in 2018
11. Rope and Post	X	
12. Boardwalks/Sidewalks/Promenades	X	
13. Snow Fencing	X	
14. Dunes	X	
15. Common Reed	✓	Controlled by herbicide's where possible
16. Washouts & Minor Grading of Holes	X	
17. Inspections	X	

18. Creek Maintenance	✓	As required
19. Lifesaving Stations	✓	Lifesaving station at Scubby's Point

Additional Notes

The area residents frequent these beaches on a regular basis within the rocky shoreline. Areas of white soft sand can be found.

Appendix

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Nature's Place, Office
2284 Hurontario Road
Mississauga, ON L5L 1B0
Tel: 781-725-7633
Fax: 416-735-7589

**Ministère des Richesses naturelles
et des Forêts**

Bureau de district Nature
2284, rue Hurontario
Mississauga, ON L5L 1B0
Tél: 781-725-7533
Téléc: 705-725-7589



Town of Saugeen Shores
800 Tomlinson Drive
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

July 21, 2015

Dear Mayor Smith and Members of Council

RE: Piping Plover Habitat and the Endangered Species Act 2007

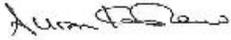
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) would like to thank the Town of Saugeen Shores for their continued support of the Piping Plover program. With the cooperation of the Town, the endangered Piping Plover successfully nested and fledged four chicks in Port Elgin during 2014. Port Elgin is one of only five nesting sites for Piping Plover in the Great Lakes in Ontario. The collaborative efforts to protect this species on local beaches contribute significantly to the greater international recovery effort.

As an endangered species, Piping Plover and its habitat are protected under the provincial *Endangered Species Act 2007* (ESA) and the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). These statutes protect the areas plovers require to carry out their life processes including breeding, nesting, feeding, foraging and areas required for rearing their young. The ESA protects habitat by prohibiting activities that would damage or destroy the features and functions present in that area. The protected habitat for Piping Plover is considered to be generally one kilometre centered around a nest. In this area MNRF provides that no beach raking or other activities that would damage the habitat take place prior to the birds' arrival and while breeding territories are defined, potential nests are established and the species has carried out its life processes on the site. Natural material such as sticks, driftwood and vegetation are important and necessary habitat components on which plovers rely for their survival. Beach raking removes these features and can damage the habitat. It is recognized that human garbage and some large debris may need to be removed as they could pose a risk to human health and safety. After the plovers have left the brooding habitat for the season, certain levels of beach maintenance may be acceptable. However, landowners should consult with MNRF for advice on how to proceed to ensure no damage occurs to the features and functions of plover habitat.

The protection of Piping Plover involves the cooperation of many parties. The Town of Saugeen Shores and the Port Elgin community should be commended for supporting activities that protect the species and its habitat and conserve sensitive beach ecosystems. MNRF looks forward to working in partnership with the Town towards improving ecosystem health in the future and is available to meet with staff as necessary to discuss the protection of this species and its habitat.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,



Allison Kershaw
Resource Management Supervisor (A)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Midhurst District

References

Beach & Dune Guidance Manual for Saugeen Shores
Prepared by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, 2003

Chantry Dune Study
Town of Saugeen Shores, February 2015

Gobles Grove Beach
Comments Regarding Beach Grooming
Geoff Peach Site Inspection Report, August 26, 2010

Position Paper on Mechanical Beach Grooming
Prepared by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, 2011

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Letter to Mayor Smith and Members of Council
Re: Piping Plover Habitat and the Endangered Species Act 2007
July 21, 2015