

POLICY - SUMMER VILLAGE OF GULL LAKE

Name:	Beach Maintenance	Department:	Public Works
No:	BM 01	Position Responsible:	Foreman
Passed:	March 13, 2009	Review Date:	March 10, 2009
Effective:	March 13, 2009	Report To:	CAO
		Review Date:	March 8, 2009

Purpose: To establish planning and decision making regarding beach maintenance, taking into account the needs of the residents, the unique qualities of the Gull Lake shoreline and lake stewardship.

Policy Statement and Guidelines: The Summer Village of Gull Lake (the "Village") wishes to ensure a quality shoreline suitable for recreation for its residents, consistent with environmentally responsible practices. It is recognized that the water level of Gull Lake varies considerably from time to time and this policy is intended to allow for practices that can accommodate the water level changes.

1. Community Beach Areas (1st Priority): The existing seven (7) community beach areas shall be maintained for the purpose of public recreation. The areas are to be 70 metres (230 ft.) wide beginning at the water's edge, on any given year, to a distance within 4.6 metres (15 ft.) of the berm path. The resulting strip of vegetation is intended to catch sand that blows off the community beaches and will be kept mowed.

Beach maintenance, as described below in paragraphs a, b, c in the community beach areas shall consist of ensuring the areas are devoid of all vegetation and are in a sandy state. Beach maintenance using motorized equipment will be conducted by Village personnel when conditions are dry enough to permit the work to be done without causing damage to the beach. Village personnel will conduct and document a daily assessment of the weather and condition of the beach and Friday outlook for weekend conditions to enable planning of maintenance activities.

Residents can assist with this beach maintenance, provided they comply with the terms of this Beach Maintenance Policy. The Village will allow residents to borrow Gull Lake's beach maintenance tools such as rakes, weed whackers and the aquatic vegetation harvester to assist with beach maintenance.

- a. Vegetation removal shall be conducted by rototilling and harrowing. No herbicides or other chemicals shall be used. The rototilling will be conducted in the spring and as required to remove patches of vegetation that appear in the community beach areas during the summer. The community beach areas will be harrowed as necessary to maintain a

vegetation free state and packed to minimize wind erosion from the second week in May until the second week in September.

- b. Vegetation accumulated through beach maintenance activities will be raked and deposited at one corner or in a windrow along the back of each community beach, allowed to dry and ideally removed within seven (7) days between May 20th and Sept 20th, each summer.
 - c. The community beach areas shall be hand raked along the water`s edge. The Village may remove aquatic vegetation in front of the community beach areas using an aquatic vegetation harvester to a distance where the water depth is 0.6 metres (2 ft.)
 - d. As regulations and funds permit, the Village will construct additional community beach areas.
2. Non-community Beach areas (2nd Priority): Root systems are necessary to prevent erosion and enable a healthy shoreline, however long grasses and weeds are not considered desirable to recreational users. The areas between community beach areas will be mowed to a length of 7.6 cm (3 inches), from a distance as close to the water`s edge as regulations allow and where mowing equipment is passable to the berm path. In addition, these areas will also be mowed as closely as possible to the water`s edge late in the fall, after the water has receded and the beach is drier.
- a. Exposed vegetation/organic debris will be raked away from as much of the shoreline as possible.
 - b. A 20.0 metre (65.6 ft.) wide strip currently used for Weiss Street drainage shall be left in its natural state.
3. Berm Path (3rd Priority): This area is used as a transportation route as well as a recreation location. The Village will maintain the berm path as a 4.3 metre (14 ft.) wide sand road along the complete length of the beach.
4. Public Beach Paths (4th Priority): The public beach paths should be dry and accessible. Fill and lake grass compost may be added to ensure adequate path levels, where necessary.
5. Private Beach Paths (5th Priority): The Village will mow individual property landowner`s beach paths provided the paths are accessible to equipment. The Village will respect a landowner`s request not to have their beach path mown. The Village will aid the property owner in attaining an adequate level of path by providing lake grass compost upon request, if available.
6. Portable Piers: Piers are an effective method of accessing the water while limiting disturbance of the shoreline. Seasonal piers for non-commercial

use, which allow the free flow of water under them and do not interfere with the general public's right of access along the shore of the lake will be encouraged.

7. Native Sand Donations: Where residents desire to donate sand for on-going beach maintenance or for future community beach area creation, the Village will investigate whether the sand is suitable for donation (based on such criteria as the amount of debris and ease of access to it for equipment).

Policy BM 01 – Beach Maintenance replaces all previous policies relating to beach maintenance within the Summer Village.