

# DRAFT PROPOSAL

DATE: February 16, 2011

The Slabtown Neighborhood Association formed a Beach Committee in June 2010 charged with investigating and making recommendations with regard to the west end of the shoreline of West Grand Traverse Bay that forms the north boundary of Traverse City's Slabtown neighborhood (the "Slabtown Shoreline"). After research, review and discussion, we request the City of Traverse City take action to restore a neighborhood beach area along the west end of West Grand Traverse Bay and take other action as detailed below.

## BACKGROUND

For many, many years the west end of West Grand Traverse Bay was maintained as a beach. Older Slabtown residents tell of spending happy hours playing and swimming along the Slabtown Shoreline. In recent years plants have overgrown the area. There are now areas of stagnant water that serve as a breeding ground for mosquitos. Slabs of concrete, with re-rod sticking out of them, lie along the beach protruding into the water. Trash has been found along the shoreline. An area once enjoyed by many now has become unappealing and unsafe. A community asset is gone.

## ACTIONS REQUESTED

1. Create a beach area (the "Slabtown Beach"). More specifically we request the following actions be taken:
  - A. Apply for an individual permit from MDEQ.
  - B. Mechanically remove vegetation along the shoreline from the high water mark to the waters edge for 150-200 feet to create a beach as marked on the attached map. The east end of the beach should coordinate with the City's waterfront plan to create a terminus for its Bayfront Trail and where a crossing is planned across Grandview Parkway to Elmwood Avenue. The east side of the protrusion in West Grand Traverse Bay is where most people prefer to swim and where the area of beach should be maximized. To put this request into perspective, the project area of 150 feet would be approximately one half of one percent of the length of the Slabtown shoreline.
  - C. Add upland plantings along the large chunks of rip rap that bound the south edge of the shoreline defined in this section to replace in whole or in part the vegetation that is mechanically removed.
  - D. Remove construction debris located within the area defined in B, above.

- E. Remove old pilings and construction debris located underwater, or partially underwater, from the waters edge into West Grand Traverse Bay along the waters bordering the area defined in B, above.
- 2. Support the City's plan to install a marked crossing from Elmwood Avenue across Grandview Parkway, add raised walkways or define pathways to allow access to the water at Spruce Street and other places as desirable, and remove obstructions so individuals may walk along the waters edge.
- 3. Provide safe access from Grandview Parkway down the bank to the shoreline.
- 4. Support the City's plan to treat and/or filter water exiting the storm water pipes along the shoreline to minimize damage to the quality of the water of West Grand Traverse Bay.
- 5. Preserve the balance of the shoreline as natural areas except for removing invasive species, planting and pruning to balance public safety, public access and a view of the bay. By this we mean keep shrubs and plant growth north of the Parkway low to ensure views of the Bay.

We want to keep our view of the Bay, enjoy swimming and walking along the shoreline, provide for the public safety, enhance connectivity in our community, ensure continued access to the Bay and protect the water quality of Grand Traverse Bay. We believe the above requests will accomplish that. We ask the City to assist us in achieving these goals.

Please let us know how we can assist you as you review and evaluate our requests. We look forward to working with you on this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need more information about what we have proposed.

ATTACHMENT: Drawing marking location of proposed Slabtown Beach.

# Slabtown Shoreline

