

Together, We Can Protect and Preserve the Wild Heart of Saugatuck

A Sand Dune Mine and Marina Would Forever Destroy Our Dunes, Wetlands, and Historic Sites At the Kalamazoo River Mouth

Here's How You Can Help

1. Write to your City/Township Leaders

- Complete, sign, and mail the letter on the following page (we have envelopes and stamps for your use) by Oct. 3. It is very important to add your own comments at the bottom of the letter.
 - Take a photo of your comments and email them to sdcoastalalliance@gmail.com or text them to: 248-302-0798. In doing this, you're giving us permission to attach your comments to the Coastal Alliance's letter to community leaders – this will be very helpful.
- OR: Use the letter on the following page as a guide to write and send your own letter. Email and mail addresses are on the reverse side of this page.
- Contact us if you have questions about how to articulate your concerns.
- You may download additional copies of the letter from our website.
- Also consider emailing all of your Council members/trustees to enlist their support (contact information is on the back of this page).

2. Watch for information on the EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) **Public Comment Period and Public Hearing**, expected this fall, so you can oppose the developer's state permit request.

- Details on how to get involved will be sent via our newsletter and posted on social media and our website.

3. Review our fact sheet, *Understanding What's at Stake with the Proposed Sand Dune Mining and Marina*, and use the information to encourage your family, friends, colleagues, and elected officials to join our efforts.

Thanks for all you do!

Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance
www.saugatuckdunescoastalalliance.com

How to Contact Your Local Officials

City of the Village of Douglas	City of Saugatuck	Saugatuck Township
Jerome Donovan, Mayor idonovan@douglasmi.gov	Garnet Lewis, Mayor glewis@saugatuckcity.com	Abby Bigford, Supervisor abigford@saugatucktownship.org
Cathy North, Mayor Pro Tem cnorth@douglasmi.gov	Scott Dean, Mayor Pro Tem sdean@saugatuckcity.com	Jon Helmrich jhelmrich@saugatucktownship.org
Aaron Miller amiller@douglasmi.gov	Mark Bekken mbekken@saugatuckcity.com	Stacey Aldrich saldrich@saugatucktownship.org
Robert Naumann rnaumann@douglasmi.gov	Holly Leo hleo@saugatuckcity.com	Brenda Marcy bmarcy@saugatucktownship.org
Neal Seabert nseabert@douglasmi.gov	Russ Gardner russ@saugatuckcity.com	Clerk: Rebecca Israels risraels@saugatucktownship.org
Phil Toepper ptoepper@douglasmi.gov	Lauren Stanton lstanton@saugatuckcity.com	Township Manager: Daniel DeFranco ddefranco@saugatucktownship.org
Mike Van Loon mvanloon@douglasmi.gov	Ken Trester ktrester@saugatuckcity.com	
City Manager: Rich LaBombard rlabombard@douglasmi.gov	City Manager: Ryan Heise Ryan@saugatuckcity.com	
City Clerk: Pamela Aalderink clerk@douglasmi.gov	City Clerk: Jamie Wolters jwolters@saugatuckcity.com	

October 2022

Mayor Jerome Donovan
and City Council Members
City of the Village of Douglas
PO Box 757
86 W. Center Street
Douglas, MI 49406

Mayor Garnet Lewis
and City Council Members
City of Saugatuck
City Hall
102 Butler St.
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Supervisor Abby Bigford
and Trustees
Saugatuck Township
Saugatuck Township Hall
PO Box 100
Saugatuck, MI 49453

I am writing to strongly urge you, as a fellow resident and as my elected official, to protect the Wild Heart of Saugatuck by passing a resolution stating the proposed excavation and removal of 250,000 tons of sand within Michigan's Critical Dune Boundary at the Kalamazoo River Mouth is Contrary to the Public Interest as detailed in the Tri-Community Master Plan.

The proposed excavation and removal of 250,000 tons of sand from Michigan's Critical Dune Boundary to add 3,200-feet of waterfrontage to develop a private marina would forever change the Essential Character of the Wild Heart of Saugatuck. It would set a dangerous precedent for other marina developments in the River Mouth Area, potentially including Pine Trail Camp, Ox-Bow School of Art, even Saugatuck's northeast parking lot at Oval Beach.

The proposed excavation is projected to:

- Erase 6.5 acres of rare Critical Dunes for commercial gain.
- Drain the surrounding groundwater that feeds the globally imperiled interdunal wetlands on the Patty Birkholz Natural Area.
- Damage the Potawatomi Traditional Cultural Property, risking lake sturgeon, burial sites, wild rice, and other Cultural Values.
- Destroy the archaeological and historic site of Singapore.

The proposed marina threatens our local economy and clearly violates local ordinances. It:

- Diminishes and devalues the Tri-Communities' \$20+-million investment in the adjacent Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, Tallmadge Woods, and the Patty Birkholz Natural Area by introducing inappropriate noise, vibration, fumes, and visual intrusions.
- Undermines the economic vision in our Tri-Community Master Plan – degrading our Parks, Natural Areas, Beaches, Waterways, Shorelines, Wetlands, and Dunes by changing the essential character of the Kalamazoo River Mouth.
- Adds significant boat traffic to the already-congested River Mouth area.
- Violates Saugatuck Township Code of Ordinances Section 40-910(h) and Section 40-337(c)3 prohibiting excavation to add 3200' of additional waterfrontage within Michigan's Critical Dune Boundary.

We need your voice – and your actions – to protect and preserve the Wild Heart of Saugatuck.

This fall EGLE will again notice the City of Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township to provide comment in the state permit review. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) noticed the City of Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township in 2017 and again in 2018.

PLEASE initiate and pass a resolution now stating: *The proposed excavation and removal of 250,000 tons of sand within Michigan's Critical Dune Boundary at the Kalamazoo River Mouth is Contrary to the Public Interest as detailed in the Tri-Community Master Plan.* Then, submit the approved resolution to EGLE and USACE in their permit reviews.

-see reverse side-

With best regards, your neighbor and constituent,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____