

SAVE OUR SHORELINE

Questions and Answers

Q Who is Save Our Shoreline?

A Formed in August 2001 in Bay City, Michigan, Save Our Shoreline is a nonprofit membership basis corporation of owners and residents of waterfront property, and those with similar interests, who are committed to preservation of our beaches and waterfront areas, and the right to maintain our beaches and waterfront.



Q What is the Purpose of the organization?

A According to our Articles of Incorporation adopted on July 31, 2001, our purpose is as follows:

To organize waterfront property owners and those with similar interests consistent with the goals of the organization; to preserve and maintain riparian rights, including the right to maintain safe recreational beaches and water-front areas, both public and private; and to preserve and maintain a proper balance for the coexistence of man and nature upon and near waterfront property.

Q Who is in charge?

A The organization is governed by a twelve person board of directors, three of whom are subject to election each year.

The members have the ultimate control of the association. Our initial membership drive targeted the beaches from Bay City north to AuGres; the second targeted the Caseville area; and the third targeted AuGres and areas north. We also expanded to the Traverse City area. We anticipate expanding our membership to as far around the Great Lakes as our mission and purpose may take us.

Q What will Membership in Save Our Shoreline do for me?

A If you are interested in preserving your right to maintain your beach or shoreline, this is the organization for you. Your support will provide the organization with necessary funds to advance its goals; it will allow us to keep you informed by newsletters and other means; and we will be able to speak with a common voice. Perhaps most important, however, is the strength we will acquire from having a large and active membership. By joining together, we believe we can successfully reassert the right to maintain our beaches.

Q What does it cost to join?

A The cost to join Save Our Shoreline is \$50.00, which represents an entrance fee of \$25.00 and annual dues of \$25.00. Make your check payable to "Save Our Shoreline" If you would like to mail your check, please mail it to:

Save Our Shoreline
P.O. Box 2307
Bay City, MI 48707-2307



Q Who can join?

A Anyone interested in the goals of the organization may join Save Our Shoreline.

Q What if I want more information, or I want to get involved?

A Contact any officer or director, call or write us at address on the cover, or visit our website at saveourshoreline.org.



Our Mission

“To organize waterfront property owners and those with similar interests consistent with the goals of the organization; to preserve and maintain riparian rights, including the right to maintain safe recreational beaches and waterfront areas, both public and private; and to preserve and maintain a proper balance for the coexistence of man and nature upon and near waterfront property.”



Save Our Shoreline
a Michigan non profit corporation
P.O. Box 2307
Bay City, Michigan 48707-2307
Phone: (989) 667-2910
Website: saveourshoreline.org

APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in joining Save Our Shoreline. Please complete the following information and send it to:

Save Our Shoreline
P.O. Box 2307
Bay City, Michigan 48707-2307
989-667-2910
www.saveourshoreline.org

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Name of your beach area _____
(i.e. Bay City, Caseville, Grand Traverse, Tawas/AuGres)

- I wish to join as a Voting Member.
- I have enclosed \$50.00 (\$25 application fee and \$25 annual fee). Please make your check payable to Save Our Shoreline
- Renewal \$25.00

Upon receipt of your application, you will receive one membership card. Please enter the name you would like to have on the membership card.

Please be very specific: Example: Bob Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones or Bob and Mary Jones.

This information will keep you informed of our progress, local meeting's dates, committee hearings, studies, surveys and etc. and will be distributed via our website, email and other forms of communications.

On behalf of Save Our Shoreline we thank you for your support in protecting your property rights.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOS ACCOMPLISHMENTS
(As of July 1, 2007)

- Obtained dismissal of a Corps of Engineers lawsuit against member beach groomers, and put a halt to other planned suits.
- Provided a Congressional Briefing in Washington, D.C. on beach grooming issues.
- Obtained Congressional Bill language providing direction to the Corps of Engineers to reevaluate their approach regarding beach grooming.
- Caused United States Supreme Court Justices to discuss and consider how their decision in a Clean Water Act case could affect beach grooming.
- Obtained passage of a state law authorizing beach grooming.
- Successfully defended the concept of Great Lakes riparian ownership in Michigan to the water's edge before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, and appealed the new imposition of a "public trust" right upon riparian beaches all the way to the US Supreme Court.
- Persuaded the Michigan Supreme Court to refute the MDEQ's claims that a state law grants the state ownership up to the "Ordinary High Water Mark" defined by that law (e.g. 580.5 feet above sea level for Lakes Huron and Michigan).
- Persuaded a federal district court to refute the Corps of Engineers claim that its jurisdiction extends to an administratively set "Ordinary High Water Mark" (e.g. 581.5 feet above sea level for Lakes Huron and Michigan).
- Scientifically refuted a lopsided MDEQ study aimed at defeating beach grooming rights, and presented scientists to testify before the Michigan legislature.
- Negotiated a new proposed general permit for beach grooming, mowing, and phragmites removal to replace the expiring beach grooming law.
- Monitored and responded to proposed bills in the Michigan legislature that would impact shoreline owners.
- Obtained amendment and passage of a bill making the propagation of phragmites illegal in Michigan.

"SOS is the best, most effective, and genuine citizen advocacy group we have seen in our political lifetimes."

--Dennis O. Cawthorne, former House GOP Leader and Patrick H. McCollough, former state Senator



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

