

Parks and Recreation Division Beach Access Restrictions Under Certain Conditions



LUOD No. 5 of 2021

Background

- Surrounded by Great Lakes, Michigan is host to many seeking to enjoy the water. However, the beauty of Michigan's Great Lakes can be deceiving and hazardous to swimmers and water users.
- The Department is responsible for the management and operation of facilities that provide water access and beach opportunities across the state and has safety measures in place for use of these water facilities.
- Even with those measures, injuries, accidents and drownings continue to occur each year.



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- Park and Recreation Officers' authority is land based, meaning enforcement is not possible once a person enters the water.
- This proposed land use order would prevent individuals from exiting a state managed beach area when entry is prohibited.



LUOD

- This prohibition would prevent individuals from entering the water, when access is prohibited by signage and/or communication, during:
 - times of dangerous water conditions
 - while a water rescue is occurring
 - when bacteria or contaminants are present
 - when other issues are identified that would impact safety, such as vessel wreckage washing ashore to the beach



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- Prohibiting access would not be predicated upon the flying of a red flag alone - but would be done after reviewing criteria to determine whether access should be restricted and the area of the access restriction.
- Any prohibition to access would only be in effect for the specific beach identified upon Parks and Recreation Division managed lands and would not extend to any other municipal beach or water access point or other Department managed lands.
- This LUOD would be a tool for staff to assist with the health, safety and welfare of visitors and guests.



Questions

Thank you!

