



Critical Dune Area Vegetation Assurance Checklist and Sample Vegetation Assurance

Use this checklist to ensure that your vegetation assurance contains all required information for submitting a permit application for a use in the Critical Dune Area under Part 353, Sand Dunes Protection and Management, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. A sample vegetation assurance is available on Page 3 for reference.

Project Site Description

- Include information such as the type of natural community found on-site, common or dominant plant species, and any invasive species.
- Find more information on Michigan's Natural Communities at the [Michigan Natural Features Inventory](#).

Proposed Development

- Describe how the proposed development will impact the existing vegetation.
- Include the amount of impact in square feet or acres.
- Include how many trees greater than 3-inch diameter at breast height will be removed.

Seasonal Issues

- Include any seasonal issues affecting vegetation.
- Example: Oaks are at risk of being infected by Oak Wilt if trimmed or cut between April 15 and July 15.

Special Considerations

- Include threatened and endangered species or rare natural communities found on-site and how they will be managed.
- Describe invasive Species on-site.
- Add any additional considerations unique to the property relating to vegetation.

Proposed Actions for Maintaining Site Stability

- Example: Leave stumps and roots of trees in place outside of the proposed structure footprint.
- Describe limits of disturbance. For example: no disturbance will occur outside a 10-foot buffer surrounding the walls of the house and a 5-foot buffer surrounding all other proposed uses.
- Describe how trees outside of the work area will be protected. For example, flagging trees to be avoided, installing fencing along the dripline.
- Describe how seasonal and special issues on the site will be managed. For example, a Threatened and Endangered Species Permit under Part 365, Endangered Species, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 1994, PA 451, as amended, will be obtained from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) if required. Find more information on Threatened and Endangered Species permits, including a species list, on the [DNR's Threatened and Endangered Species Webpage](#).

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Proposed Revegetation

- Describe all proposed plantings and revegetation, including species to be planted.
- Trees should be replaced with native tree species at a minimum ratio of one tree planted for every one tree removed. Replacement trees should be 4 feet in height and at least 2 inches in diameter.
- To enhance the diversity, quality, and functions of the critical dune area, revegetate with native dune vegetation.
- Monitoring the new vegetation. Include replacement of any plants that fail to become established within two growing seasons.

Invasive Species Management

- If necessary, describe actions that will be taken to manage invasive species found on the site and avoid the spread of additional invasive species.
- This may include writing or attaching the local [Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area \(CISMA\)](#) staff recommendations into the vegetation assurance.
- Invasive species management actions may include treatment methods, monitoring, and reporting on progress.

SAMPLE: Vegetation Assurance for 1234 View Drive, Duneland

March 2, 2026

DISCLAIMER: This is a sample vegetation assurance for reference only. The vegetation assurance must be written specifically for the proposed project. The existing conditions, including the natural communities, types of plants, special considerations, and management actions needed at a specific site will vary.

Project Site Description: The site is a forested dune with a mix of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and low growing plants typical of a mesic southern forest community. The invasive species, Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is found on the site.

Proposed Development: Impacts to the existing vegetation are proposed within the building footprint, driveway, and septic field. Trees of 3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and saplings will be impacted. The total number of trees removed for the project will be 8: 2 hemlock trees, 1 oak tree, 1 basswood tree, and 4 sugar maples. Low growing vegetation will be removed from the impact areas. Impacts will occur to 0.2 acres of forested dune. See the attached site plan.

Seasonal Issues: Oaks are at risk of being infected with oak wilt if oak trees are pruned or roots are disturbed between April 15 and July 15.

Special Considerations: The mature trees on-site outside of the proposed building footprint will be protected. A survey for threatened and endangered species was conducted and found the endangered Pitcher's Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*). The species is located on the foredune, lakeward of the crest and outside of the impact area. No impacts to the species or the open dune habitat are proposed. Japanese knotweed, an invasive species, is found on the project site. Control methods for the invasive species are detailed below in accordance with the local cooperative invasive species management area (CISMA) recommendations.

Proposed Actions for maintaining site stability during and after construction:

1. Stumps and roots of trees/shrubs cut down outside the building footprint, septic field, and driveway will be left in place.
2. No disturbance will occur outside a 10-foot buffer surrounding the walls of the house and a 5-foot buffer surrounding all other proposed uses.
3. All trees outside of this buffer will be marked/flagged and protected from construction activities with fencing installed at the drip line. Any damage to oaks will be painted with tree paint immediately to protect the trees from oak wilt.
4. To decrease the risk of oak wilt the oaks will not be pruned, or roots disturbed between April 15 and July 15. Any damage to branches will be painted immediately to prevent infection.
5. To prevent the introduction or spread of hemlock wooly adelgid, all hemlock branches and logs will remain onsite. No hemlock trees will be brought onto the site. If necessary, a compliance agreement with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be in place.
6. The property owner and their contractor(s) will take steps to minimize the risk of spreading invasive species into the construction site where feasible, including:
 - Visually inspecting and removing and properly disposing of any plants and mud from footwear (boots, hip-boots, and waders).
 - Visually inspecting and removing and properly disposing of any plants and mud from field equipment (nets, shovels, rakes, etc.) and vehicles.
 - Disinfecting vehicles and equipment between site (e.g. diluted bleach solution, heated pressure washer) when possible.
 - Using only native plants for restorations and best management practices for plantings and stabilization. Visually inspecting and removing and properly disposing of any plants and mud from footwear (boots, hip-boots, and waders).

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Proposed Revegetation of the Site:

1. Upon completion of construction activities all exposed soils will be re-vegetated with native species or covered with a weed-free biodegradable mulch blanket to stabilize soils and allow dead leaf material to accumulate. Where possible, existing herbaceous layers of soils and seedling plant materials will be recovered and moved for re-establishment in disturbed areas.
2. 12 trees greater than 4 feet in height or greater than 2-inch caliper will be planted on the site as replacement for trees removed. Trees will be a mix of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and American basswood (*Tilia americana*). Red oak (*Quercus rubra*) may be planted if there is no immediate threat of oak wilt. Trees will be replaced if mortality occurs within two growing seasons.
3. Shrub species, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerfolium*) will be used as understory plantings. Shrubs will be from 5-gallon pots or larger
4. Plugs of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), will be installed to stabilize the sand disposal area.
5. The property will be monitored for invasive species which will be removed in accordance with local cooperative invasive species management area recommendations.
6. To prevent introducing invasive species, the project will utilize certified weed free fill products such as mulch and gravel. If certified weed free fill products are unavailable, clean, washed or treated products will be used.

Proposed Invasive Species Control: After the invasive species, Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was identified on the site, the local cooperative invasive species management area (CISMA) staff were contacted for control recommendations, [attach any relevant correspondence to the end of your vegetation assurance]. Japanese Knotweed is a prohibited species in Michigan and known to aggressively outcompete native species. Its shallow root structure may lead to destabilization of the forested dune area. To control the species, the following actions are to be taken in accordance with CISMA recommendation:

1. Treatment of the affected areas (see attached site plan) with herbicide by a certified applicator will occur in the fall for a minimum of 3 growing seasons. Additional treatments will be conducted as necessary.
2. Monitoring of the affected areas will occur for a minimum of 3 growing seasons. Additionally, monitoring of the construction areas will be conducted to ensure no new infestations of Japanese Knotweed occur. Any new infestations will be treated in accordance with CISMA recommendations.
 - Monitoring reports will be sent to EGLE by October 31 of each year treatment takes place. Monitoring reports will include a brief description of the activities that have taken place and photos of the affected areas.

See sample vegetation assurance site plan on next page

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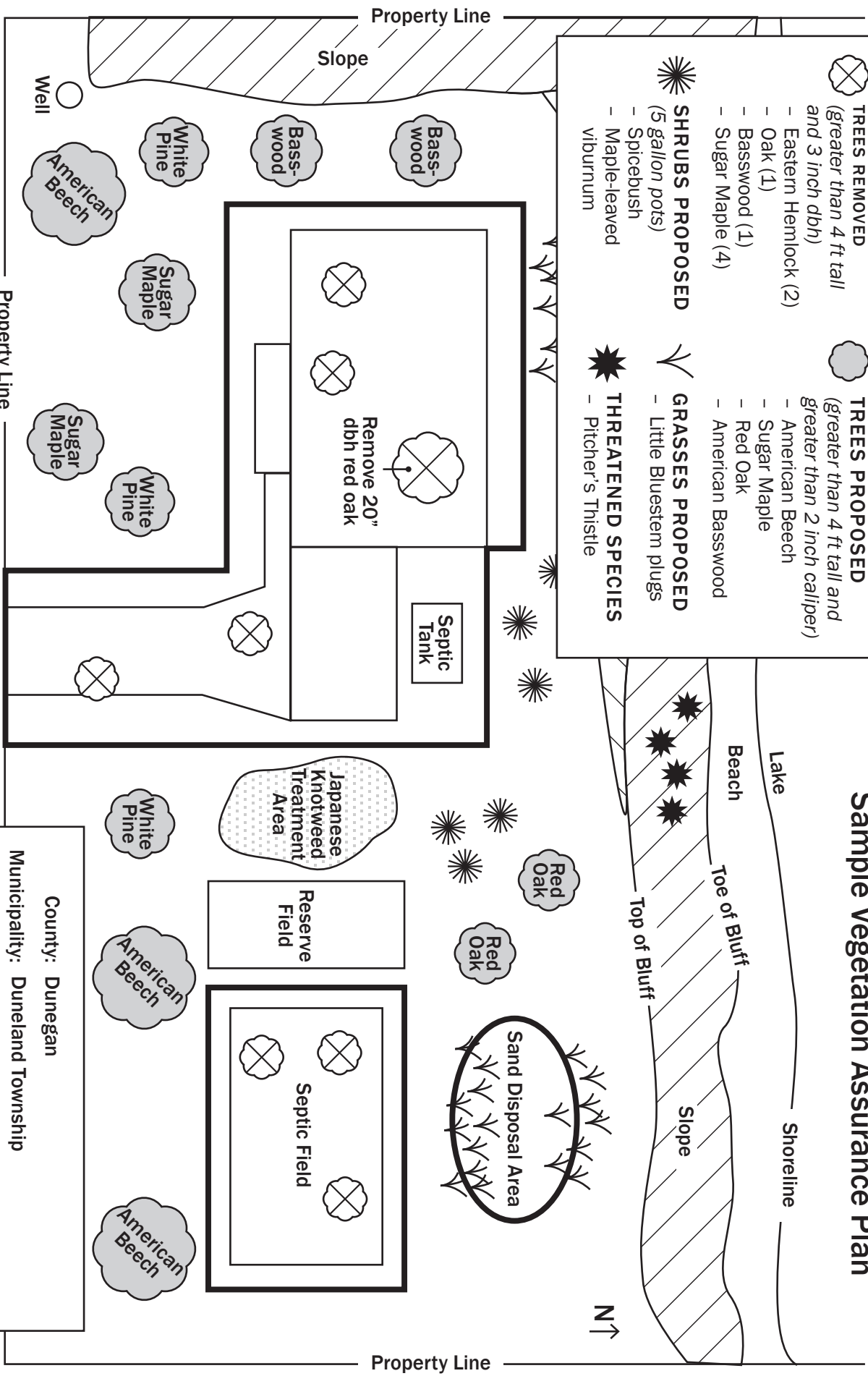
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Sample Vegetation Assurance Plan

<p>TREES REMOVED (greater than 4 ft tall and 3 inch dbh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eastern Hemlock (2) - Oak (1) - Basswood (1) - Sugar Maple (4) 	<p>TREES PROPOSED (greater than 4 ft tall and greater than 2 inch caliper)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American Beech - Sugar Maple - Red Oak - American Basswood
<p>SHRUBS PROPOSED (5 gallon pots)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spicebush - Maple-leaved viburnum 	<p>GRASSES PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Bluestem plugs
<p>THREATENED SPECIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pitcher's Thistle 	



SHOW LIMITS OF IMPACT, VEGETATION REMOVAL AND LANDSCAPING

— = Limits of impact



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