Frequently Asked Questions:
DUNE RESTORATION

Why must dunes be restored?

Dune habitats are part of a unique and fragile resource found on Michigan's Great Lake coastlines. In 1989 the Michigan legislature identified specific dune areas to have an increased level of protection, MCL 324.35303. Proposed uses or development in these protected dunes require a permit from the state. Proposed impacts to the dunes are reviewed using criteria required by law, MCL 324.35301, *et seq*. Protected dunes which have been degraded, modified, or are no longer providing the functions of a dune are ordered to be restored as a condition of a permit or the resolution of a violation.

What does dune restoration mean?

Successful restoration recreates the predisturbance contours and vegetation at the disturbed site. A restoration plan should include the same information as a vegetation assurance required for a permit application. Monitoring vegetation establishment is a key component for dune restoration and a monitoring plan should span several years to ensure the site becomes established with the expected vegetation. A monitoring plan should also require the removal of invasive plant species that will compromise the restoration. A list of frequently asked questions about a vegetation assurance, a sample assurance, and lists of native and invasive plants are available at Michigan.gov/CriticalDunes. A restored site is expected to have the same contours, plant diversity, and function of the dune before disturbance.

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How do I restore the dune next to the beach?

The installation of snow fence is an effective way to trap sand on the shoreline and rebuild the dune. Beach grass, also called marram grass, *Ammophila breviligulata*, is a dune-building plant common to our sandy Great Lake shorelines. Beach grass is an effective dune stabilizer along the shorelines. Review the Sand Dune Stabilization Best Management Practice available at Michigan.gov/CriticalDunes.

Who can help me restore my dune?

The Critical Dunes website, Michigan.gov/CriticalDunes, has information. Review the Sand Dune Stabilization Best Management Practice, the sample vegetation assurance, the list of common dune plant species, and the list of invasive plant species on the website. You may also contact your local conservation district to ask for assistance and additional resources in developing a restoration plan for your dune.

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