

# Oak Grove Beach Community Association

Niantic, CT

## Beach Cleaning Specifications

In consideration of the Oak Grove Beach Community Association By-Laws and State of Connecticut Regulations, these specifications are to be followed for cleaning the designated section of Oak Grove Beach. The following specifications take into consideration the need for a sanitary beach and a healthy beach ecosystem. For these specifications, included in the ecosystem are marine organisms, mole crabs, birds, vegetation, and natural organic components of the beach. It is especially important to consider the organic components of the beach since removing large size particles impact shoreline stability, resulting in increased erosion and reduced levels of storm damage protection. In addition, sediment compaction of the beach from mechanical cleaning needs to be considered as it will also negatively impact erosion and the beach ecosystem.

### Beach Cleaning

1. At the start of the season an initial beach cleaning to address winter storm damage will be agreed upon by the Beach Committee.
2. After the initial cleaning, the beach will be cleaned twice a week starting two weeks before Memorial Day and ending the weekend after Labor Day. If it is determined that additional cleanings may be needed because of storm damage, excessive debris, etc. the President of the association or Beach Committee may grant authorization.
3. Removal of wrack and marine debris is the target for the twice weekly cleanings. Wrack is the term for seaweed, driftwood, and other organic materials produced by coastal ecosystems that wash ashore on the beach. It is acceptable to have some wrack remain on the beach as part of the ecosystem. In addition, some wrack or specifically some seaweed may be placed on the Oak Grove Beach Association property located at 20 Shore Rd to help fertilization of the beach grass. All other wrack and marine debris will be properly disposed of.
4. The depth of mechanical raking or the depth of the tines should be set to the minimum that will allow for surficial pickup of targeted debris. The maximum depth for any regular cleaning should never exceed two inches. It is especially important to follow these guidelines to meet the State of Connecticut Regulations that protect spawning horseshoe crabs.
5. Beach raking waterward of the Mean Low Water mark is prohibited
6. All feasible efforts shall be made to preserve the natural organic components of the beach.
7. Cleaning or raking of a beach shall be accomplished without removal or destruction of vegetation or the impairment of the growth of such vegetation.