SUMMER VILLAGE OF WHITE SANDS

Prepared by:	Administration	**Number**:	P&R 4.3 (Formerly Policy XVI)
Adopted by:	White Sands Council	**Date**:	April 29, 2022 (22:04:088)
Amended:	April 9, 2025 October 19, 2026	**Resolution#:** **Resolution#:**	25:04:06 26:10:07

Title: Public Swimming Access Areas

1. PURPOSE: To identify public swimming access areas within the Summer Village of White Sands and provide shallow shoreline areas intended for public swimming and recreation, particularly for children and families.

The policy also identifies these areas to help maintain them for public swimming and minimize conflicts with private docks, boat lifts, piers and mooring structures, subject to the municipality's Recreation Lease and applicable provincial requirements.

2. DESIGNATED PUBLIC SWIMMING ACCESS AREAS: The Summer Village of White Sands identifies the public beach access points shown by blue arrows on Schedule A – Public Beach Access Map as locations intended for public swimming and shoreline recreation.

These areas provide access to Buffalo Lake for residents and visitors, including children and families.

The designated swimming accesses are identified on shore and are not physically marked or enclosed within Buffalo Lake. No fixed swimming boundaries, distances or water depths are established by this policy.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF SWIMMING ACCESS AREAS The public swimming access areas are identified on the municipal map attached as Schedule A.

The municipal council may also identify these locations through existing shoreline markers or signage, as resources permit.

The identification of these accesses does not establish a boating restriction or guarantee specific swimming conditions.

4. DOCKS, BOAT LIFTS AND MOORING STRUCTURES Public swimming access areas are intended to provide shoreline access for public recreation while minimizing conflicts with private docks, boat lifts, piers and mooring structures.

The placement and regulation of these structures remain subject to applicable provincial legislation and requirements, including any responsibilities or conditions associated with the municipality's

provincial Recreation Lease or other authorization.
This policy does not replace provincial approvals or establish additional authority over the bed and shore of Buffalo Lake.

5. MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

The designation of public swimming access areas does not establish a motorized-watercraft exclusion zone, speed limit or other enforceable boating restriction.

The operation of motorized watercraft is governed by applicable federal legislation, including the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and the *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations*.

Boat operators are encouraged to exercise caution, reduce their wake and remain aware of swimmers and other shoreline users.

6. MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE

The municipality may undertake reasonable maintenance of public swimming access locations as resources permit and in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements.

Maintenance activities may include vegetation management, removal of debris and upkeep of existing shoreline markers or signage.

This policy does not require the installation, placement or maintenance of swimming-area buoys or offshore “No Wake” buoys.

7. NATURAL CONDITIONS AND PUBLIC USE

Buffalo Lake is a natural waterbody subject to changing water levels, weather conditions, aquatic vegetation and lakebed conditions.

The designation of public swimming access locations does not guarantee water depth, water quality or swimming conditions.

Users are responsible for exercising appropriate care, and parents or guardians are responsible for supervising children.

8. SCHEDULE A – PUBLIC SWIMMING ACCESS MAP

The Summer Village of White Sands Visitor Map is attached as Schedule A and forms part of this policy.

All eight (8) beach access points identified by blue arrows on the map are designated public swimming access locations.

The map identifies shoreline access locations only and does not establish swimming boundaries within Buffalo Lake.

Schedule A

P&R 4.3 Designated Public Swimming Areas
(Formerly Policy XVI: Designated Public Swimming Areas)