

Beach Nourishment Report

Park Point Beach Tour

Nov. 19, 2020; 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Conditions: Calm wind, waves calm, T - mid 40's

Report written by Paul Treuer

Attendees:

Park Point Erosion and High Water Committee: Hamilton Smith (chair), Gary Glass, Gale Kerns, Gordon Kerns, Paul Treuer

Park Point concerned citizen (11th st): Jan Karon

US Army Corps of Engineers: Corey Weston

Tour: The group met at the S-curve parking lot (13th st.) at 2:30 PM to begin the tour fanned out across the beach from the water's edge to the beginning of the dunes. Paul Treuer joined the group at 2:30 PM after walking along the beach from 27th street to the parking lot.



27th st. - 15th st.: Paul Treuer walked this stretch. He found no unusual debris along the lakeshore until reaching approximately 17th st. Between 17th and 15th streets he found around five small pieces of crumpled aluminum (approximately .5" - 1" pieces) at the water's edge. He found no aluminum in the beach away from the water. The debris appeared to have washed up recently. There was no noticeable turbidity, smell, clay, or oil.

15th st. - 13th st.: The group walked this stretch and found some pieces of crushed aluminum, not enough to fill a 1 qt. plastic bag. Other types of debris, like plastic food container items, were found as well. The aluminum pieces were found at the waterline. They ranged in size from tiny (approx. .25" - 2 "). There was no noticeable turbidity, smell, clay, or oil.

Jan Karon noted she has found aluminum pieces previously along this stretch as far as 19th st.

13th - 11th st.: The group walked this stretch and fanned out across the beach. Considerably more crushed aluminum pieces were found along the water's edge in this area. Most often it was found in a mixture of small pieces of wood and other debris. The group collected enough pieces of aluminum ranging in size from tiny (.25") to large (half of an aluminum can) to fill approximately half of a gallon plastic bag. The group did not detect odors, nor did they observe oil in the sand or water. Water was calm and clear of turbidity. Some clumps of sand were found that looked like clay, but they could be easily broken up with fingers.



Jan Karon noted she has been collecting debris daily the last 2-3 weeks. She noted the amount of debris varies considerably from day to

day. She showed us a 5 gallon bag that she filled over this time period. A neighbor, Jan said, has collected 4 large bags of debris. Jan has observed some pieces of shredded aluminum embedded in the sand near the water's edge.

11th St. - 7th St. The group walked this stretch that consists of mostly new sand. There was some debris, mostly along the water's edge, but noticeably less than between 13th and 11th. The area away from the lake appeared to be free of noticeable pieces of aluminum. Less than a .5 gallon bag of debris was found along this stretch. There was no evidence of odors in the air, oil in the sand, or turbidity in the water. Some darker sand was found at the water's edge that appeared clay-like, but could easily be broken apart with light touch.



One resident of that area who was part of the group, Gale Kerns, said he lives there and has had no qualms about grandkids playing in the beach. We encountered two people from the hillside who were picking up trash on the beach. They said that two weeks ago it seemed like a lot of debris, including aluminum pieces, washed up on the beach all the way down to the old firehall. Today, they said, they were finding considerably less debris.

Summary: A group of seven people examined the beach Nov. 19th from the site of beach nourishment (7th. St. - 11 th. st.) to areas that have not yet been replenished with dredged sand (11th - 15th). The group found varying amounts of shredded aluminum pieces. Most, but not all of this debris, appears to have washed up from the lake. Most, but not all, was found between 11th and 13th. There was some evidence of clumped sand that appears to be held together loosely by small amounts of clay. This was found in 2-3 places and was not extensive in those areas. There was no evidence of foul odors from the sand, nor was there evidence of oil in the sand. Turbidity in the water was not observed.

Corey Weston noted that a member of the USACE team was doing a tour of the Interstate Island site of beach nourishment at the same time. She was asked to look for debris there. She found none even though the sources of sand were taken from adjacent areas.

Conclusion: The tour provided direct evidence there is a localized problem on Park Point with shredded aluminum can bits and pieces washing up on the shore of Lake Superior at, and adjacent to, the site of beach nourishment that was done in August and September 2020. There was no evidence of foul smell from the area of beach nourishment, nor was there evidence of oil or clay deposits or turbidity in the water. We speculated on the source of the shredded aluminum cans but were unable to make a definitive determination based on our observations.