

# Long term plan for partner agencies of Coast Care Bay of Plenty



*Baywave Kids Holiday Programme participants learning about Coast Care*

**Accepted for implementation: 17 June 2009**

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## **What is Coast Care BOP?**

Coast Care is a partnership between communities and local government to protect, enhance and restore the natural coastal environment with a focus on dune systems.

In practice this has meant planting native dune species, managing dune access, controlling weeds and animals, raising awareness and education. Since 1994 about 43% of the 156km of sandy coastline has been worked on by Coast Care staff and volunteers with considerable success. The programme is funded by the following six agencies: The Department of Conservation, Opotiki, Whakatane and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils, Tauranga City Council and Environment Bay of Plenty.

## **Why does Coast Care exist?**

Coast Care Bay of Plenty was formally created in 1994 in response to continuing degradation of natural dune systems. Dune degradation reduces their ecological value, which is significant because natural dune vegetation and animal communities are nationally threatened. Dune degradation also increases the risk to property and infrastructure from coastal processes and hazards. Finally, dune degradation can reduce the amenity value of beaches.

The programme is community led and joint agency funded to reflect the numerous interests in the coastal environment, and the value placed on beaches by the Bay of Plenty (BOP) community. In 2009 there are 29 Coast Care groups with varying levels of activity, and about 900 associated Coast Care members registered with the programme.

## **Background to this document**

An independent review of the Coast Care programme in 2008 identified that long term goals and objectives had not been formally adopted by partner agencies. The Coast Care Strategic Planning Group comprising representatives from all funding agencies agreed on a Terms of Reference in October 2008, including the development and adoption of a long term plan.

## **What are the goals of Coast Care BOP?**

1. To educate those who manage, benefit from or use BOP beaches about natural dune ecosystems
2. To increase community involvement in the management of BOP beaches
3. To protect and enhance the natural character and biodiversity of BOP beaches
4. To improve the capacity of dune systems to withstand coastal hazards and relevant climate change effects.

Objectives to achieve goal 1: <b>Educate those who manage, benefit from or use BOP beaches about natural dune ecosystems</b>		<b>Accountable</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.1	Determine by independent survey how much the BOP beach user community currently knows about the form and function of natural dunes, the threats to natural dunes, and the Coast Care programme as a means of protecting dunes. The 2009 survey shall be a baseline data set.	Coordinator	31/12/2009 31/12/2011 31/12/2013 31/12/2016
1.2	From the surveys above, agree on target levels of awareness for key segments of the target audience within the term of this plan and develop specific objectives to reach them	Strategic Planning Group	28/2/2010 28/2/2012 28/2/2014 28/2/2017
1.3	Review and update the Education Resource Kit "Life's a Beach", last reviewed 2007/08. An interim review shall be undertaken by 30/6/2010 to produce modified versions of the presentations suitable for a primary school audience.	EBOP Education Team	30/6/2013
1.4	Offer and promote training in the use of "Life's a Beach" to teachers at all schools in the Bay of Plenty	EBOP Education Team	30/6 each year
1.5	Provide hands-on Coast Care learning opportunities to at least 20% of all schools within 20km of the BOP's sandy coastline in each financial year, targeting students aged eight and above, but open to involvement from younger pupils in some cases. This may be delivered in association with other council/DOC education initiatives, and will contribute to goals 2, 3 and 4 as well.	Coordinator	30/6 each year
1.6	Provide educational talks to relevant organisations requesting them within the four funding districts, or with a particular interest in the coastal environment (also contributes to recruitment of new volunteers – goal 2). Coordinator to develop protocol to determine 'relevance'.	Coordinator	30/6 each year
1.7	In conjunction with partner agencies, identify and maintain a calendar of key events where Coast Care messages can be promoted to achieve objective 1.2.	Coordinator	30/6 each year
1.8	Work with and sponsor surf-casting competitions and other events on BOP beaches to raise awareness and reduce dune impacts, particularly vehicle usage. Develop and maintain relationships with surf clubs, both to minimise event impacts and to foster a Coast Care ethic.	Coordinator	30/6 each year
1.9	Maintain a high media profile by releasing regular stories with photos featuring Coast Care work and highlighting dune issues, particularly in free local coastal newspapers	Coordinator	30/6 each year
1.10	Supply, install and maintain a series of appropriate signs at Coast Care sites. These shall include detailed educational messages at very high use beaches.	Coordinator	30/6 each year

Objectives to achieve goal 2: <b>Increase community involvement in the management of BOP beaches</b>		<b>Accountable</b>	<b>Date</b>
2.1	Coordinate at least one publicly advertised event per Coast Care group per financial year with a minimum of 40 public events per year throughout the region	Coordinator	30/6 each year
2.2	Advertise public Coast Care events in "What's On" columns, in local fish and chip shops/dairies, on local event websites, through local service clubs and organisations, on community radio stations, and by distributing flyers to Coast Care members, tangata whenua, community boards and for some events all local residents	Coordinator	30/6 each year
2.3	In conjunction with partner agencies, identify and approach groups and businesses likely to volunteer at sites where Coast Care work is considered a high priority for biodiversity protection, but where the local population is too small or not able to provide the capacity required	Coordinator	30/6 each year
2.4	Review use of Coast Care section of EBOP website, and recommend changes required (contributes to goal 1 as well).	Coordinator with EBOP Comms staff	30/6 each year
2.5	Identify and approach all iwi and hapu whose area includes a BOP beach to inform and invite further participation in Coast Care. Send invites to all events.	Coordinator	31/12/2009
2.6	Create and distribute a region-wide Coast Care newsletter to all registered volunteers to maintain interest, inform and share ideas	Coordinator	15/4 + 15/11 each year
2.7	Create local Coast Care newsletters specific to each beach or district, and distribute to all registered local volunteers, residents and other stakeholders to promote Coast Care, recruit members highlight issues or seek feedback	Coordinator	30/6 each year
2.8	Explore the possibility of a 'beach advocates' sub-group at each site to help educate, recruit, gather and share information and report on local developments (eg Pukehina)	Coordinator and partners	30/6/2010
2.9	Increase volunteer involvement in non-planting parts of Coast Care: rabbit baiting, weed control, fence, sand ladder and sign maintenance, education and recruitment, subject to capacity and the ability of volunteers to get involved	Coordinator	30/6/2009
2.10	Survey registered Coast Care volunteers regarding the programme and ask for feedback on what changes they would like to see. Review suggestions and implement where appropriate.	Strategic Planning Group	15/11/2009 15/11/2011 15/11/2013 15/11/2015 15/11/2017

Objectives to achieve goals 3 and 4: <b>3. Protect and enhance the natural character and biodiversity of BOP beaches</b> <b>4. Improve the capacity of dune systems to withstand coastal hazards and relevant climate change effects</b>		<b>Accountable</b>	<b>Date</b>
3.1	Write and implement annual site management plans for each sandy beach taking into account the objectives and information sources above and identifying key threats and opportunities to prioritise Coast Care actions at each site and across the BOP region (see note 1 below).	Coordinator and CCSPG	30/4 each year
3.2	Increase the length of sandy coast (excluding any seawall or hard structure areas) under “advanced” (see note 2) or “active” (see note 3) Coast Care management from 43% to at least 53% as specified in the draft Environment Bay of Plenty 10 year plan	Coordinator and CCSPG	30/6/2019
3.3	Increase the length of sandy coast where Spinifex is established from 64% to 74%	Coordinator and CCSPG	30/6/2019
3.4	Increase the distribution and abundance of threatened dune plant species, and back dune plant communities, by including these in site plans where appropriate	Coordinator and CCSPG	30/4 each year
3.5	Carry out “Rapid Coastal Inventory” to assess dune condition region-wide and report findings. Parameters assessed may vary but shall include at least: length of sandy coast under management (see 3.1), length of sandy coast with native sand binding plants established, height and slope of foredune, length of sandy coast suitable for planting, threats to the dunes (including rabbits, weeds, vehicles, foot traffic, drainage issues) and threatened plants present.	Coordinator with operational staff from partners	31/12/2010 31/12/2012 31/12/2014 31/12/2016 31/12/2018
3.6	Continue to monitor NERMN beach profiles (Natural Environment Regional Monitoring Network, established 1977). These 54 transects are perpendicular to the seashore recording height above mean sea level, and thus the volume and rate of sand accretion or erosion over time.	EBOP Environ Data Services	Quarterly <sup>4</sup>
3.7	Add 13 further beach profiles to NERMN to ensure that each coast care group’s work area contains at least one transect	EBOP Environ Data Services	30/6/2010
3.8	Report on NERMN beach profile results	EBOP Coastal Scientist	31/12/2010, 2013 & 2016

3.9	Ensure that partner agency plans, strategies, bylaws and consents are consistent with the goals and objectives of Coast Care BOP	CCSPG members	Ongoing
3.10	To support research into dune restoration so as to improve achievement of Coast Care BOP goals and objectives	Coordinator	30/6 each year

Note 1: Coast Care site plans shall take into account the following factors, in order of priority, when deciding how much to resource each site:

- a) Feasibility of achieving a successful outcome, including consideration of cost/benefit ratio
- b) Absence of indigenous foredune vegetation
- c) Level of community interest in protecting the dunes
- d) Ecological significance of the site (for example, Significant Natural Area or 'corridor')
- e) Risk to any infrastructure or community assets from coastal hazards

Note 2: **Advanced management** by Coast Care is defined as areas where: a) planting native foredune species was completed at least three years prior to date of assessment, and b) growth rates are sufficiently rapid to ensure the plants are naturally colonising any bare sand, and c) where established plants have restored an incipient foredune, and d) the dune is now more resilient to wave attack, and e) the dune is now sufficiently wide to self-repair following normal erosion episodes, and f) back dune planting has often commenced.

Note 3: **Active Management** by Coast Care is defined as areas where: a) foredune planting has commenced but not yet been completed, and b) criteria b), c), d) e) and f) in Note 1 are yet to be achieved. All areas not covered by Note 1 or Note 2 are considered to have **Nil management**.

Note 4: Some profiles are monitored less frequently depending on site stability. Minimum frequency is annually.

## Administrative considerations

Environment Bay of Plenty will maintain accurate records of the following:

- Contact details of registered Coast Care volunteers
- Coast Care events and volunteer participation
- Areas worked on by Coast Care by activity (weeding, fencing, beach access management, signage, rabbit control, planting, fertilising, drainage management, trials, sand works)
- Monitoring records
- Plants, fertiliser and equipment requested and supplied to Coast Care volunteers
- Correspondence
- Financial records

The Coast Care Coordinator and any contractors working on the programme will work hard to maintain close working relationships with Coast Care Groups and unaffiliated volunteers. They will also work closely with partner agency staff, particularly at the operational level.

Environment Bay of Plenty's Land Resources Manager (Western) and the Coast Care Coordinator will work collaboratively with partner agency staff, particularly at the funding and strategic level. It is critical that high-level support from all partners is retained to ensure that this successful joint venture programme continues.

## Current funding levels (2008-09 year)

Agency	Contribution to salaries	Contribution to operations and materials
Department of Conservation	Nil	\$1,000
Opotiki District Council	\$6,000	\$6,000
Whakatane District Council	\$5,000	\$10,000
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	\$15,000	\$15,000
Tauranga City Council	\$45,000	\$25,000
Environment Bay of Plenty		\$302,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,000.00</b>	<b>\$359,000.00</b>

## When will this plan be reviewed?

This plan will be reviewed by the Coast Care Strategic Planning Group, made up of representatives from each partner agency, at least every three years. The first review is due by 30 June 2012.



