

**Status Report  
(Re-Arbor Glen Arbor Community Task Force)**

1. Mission defined: Help coordinate the storm cleanup and renew the natural environment of our community through a unique collaboration of public and private resources.
2. Immediate relief was visible due to the initial cleanup of state and county roadways. This return to safe function received strong support from various government and volunteer resources.
3. The task force built an integrated plan of public and private actions with the counsel of arborist, forestry and landscaping expertise as well as M-DOT, the Leelanau County Road Commission, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SBDNL) and members of the community.

- a. The task force identified separate uses for public and private funding resources. Public funds cannot be allocated to private property; private funds, however, are not restricted in their use. Various funds are allocated with the support of 'Re-Arbor Glen Arbor.'

Example: Glen Arbor Township has received private donations (tax deductible) and expects to allocate public funds. This financial support with public funds is limited to public spaces. The Cherry Republic has solicited tax deductible donations to the Utopia Foundation that are available for both private and public spaces.

- b. A framework was identified that defines action steps for both short-term clean up (Phase 1) and longer term renewal of the natural environment (Phase 2). It is important that we use the tragedy of inflicted damage to make Glen Arbor an even better place for the future.

4. Short-term Plan (Phase 1)

- a. A working group of the task force, including landscape architect and forester expertise, assessed short-term opportunities to complete the cleanup and possibly implement priority landscape restoration this past autumn.

- b. The task force, while hopeful that restoration this fall would be possible because it would help the healing effect within the community, concluded that an integrated restoration plan of public and private actions, e.g., 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors,' with a broad, long-term perspective was the preferred route.

- c. The Township promoted the recycling of downed trees on the Township website as firewood.

## 5. Long-term Plan (Phase 2)

a. A preliminary planning framework was defined with the following components: 1) Cleanup, 2) Design, 3) Planting and 4) Maintenance.

b. Both public and private resources are being allocated for the renewal of the natural environment of our community.

c. Ideas for renewal will be gathered during the cold weather season and reviewed in April. The Glen Lake Garden Club will be participating in this process.

6. SBDNL management cooperated with specific new planting initiatives identified by the task force. Example: West side of M-22 north of Sunset Drive. Additionally, National Lakeshore staff identified key priorities within the park that can benefit from public support. Local residents are planning to meet with SBDNL staff to assess fire risk.

7. Progress To Date - Task Force has completed its primary mission. Additional community landscape renewal ideas will be reviewed in spring.

**Glen Arbor Township** - The Township has disbursed its private donations received: \$28,513. The Township bills for cleanup and replanting of trees are as follows:

Deering's Tree Service cleanup: \$20,000; Traverse Outdoor planting to date: \$11,030; Total: \$31,030.

The Township planted 21 trees before the frost, including 6 continental pear trees in the business district; 12 maple trees (mixed sugar and red) and 3 white pines have been planted north of Sunset on M-22 and other outlying areas.

Moving forward, funds necessary in excess of donations to date will be deducted from the General Fund.

The stumps in Township Park have been removed. LCRC and MDOT have removed stump hazards on M-22. The resulting corridor appearance is greatly improved.

With the help of Bob Ihme, the major pile of wire remaining on Northwood Drive was removed in late November.

Unknown at this point is the amount of additional cleanup that may be necessary due to the impact of winter storms. The possibility of adding additional plantings in the Spring also remains an open-ended opportunity.

The Township is pleased with the work accomplished to date and looks forward to seeing fresh greenery in the Spring.

**Cherry Republic/Utopia Foundation** - With the support of the Cherry Republic, the Utopia Foundation has raised \$48,000 of tax deductible donations and disbursed \$20,000 with other commitments under review as follows:

\$10,000 in support of Neighbors Helping Neighbors assisting private property owners. Neighbors Helping Neighbors has completed helping 30 properties (\$8,500 spent from funds supplied by Utopia Foundation/Cherry Republic; 506 volunteer hours to date. Tree cleanup is concluded for the winter.

\$10,000 in support of The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes. The Friends have worked with the NPS to clean up Forest Haven Rd. from M-22 to the Alligator Hill Trail Head as well as cleared portions of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. Plans are underway to help plant trees in the DH Day Campground.

Current balance available is \$28,000.

Utopia Foundation sponsorship of October 25th "Storm Struck" book sale fundraiser was completed.

Additionally, David Watt and members of the Northwest Michigan Woodturners Club are turning bowls from downed trees. They are contributing their services and requesting donations to Re-Arbor Glen Arbor from the recipients.

Additional funds are being held in reserve for renewal, cleanup and planting efforts during the winter and spring.