



# SHARING THE VISION SANDY ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK



## EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO DUNE AND WETLAND SYSTEM

Sandy Island Beach State Park is part of an exceptional 16-mile natural area – the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetland System. Conservation of the system is essential for the economy, quality of life and environmental health of this region. The park provides opportunities for public use and enjoyment of Lake Ontario and North Pond while protecting the natural resources that make these opportunities possible.

## DEGRADED BEACH (BEFORE)

Extremely popular in the 1950s, this beach was abused and abandoned in the early 1980s and again in the 1990s. Sand dunes were bulldozed and excavated, and broken glass and debris covered the property.



## DUNE BLOW-OUT



Driving over, excavating and even walking on sand dunes disturbs their stabilizing vegetation. Erosion is then rapidly accelerated by the wind and a "blow-out" may occur, as happened here in the past.

## DUNE RESTORATION




After sand was returned to the foredune, volunteers installed snow fences and planted beach grass. The fences catch wind-blown sand, and beach grass roots spread out to stabilize the dunes.

## BEACH ACCESS (AFTER)



After a marvelous transformation into a state park, Sandy Island Beach shows how goals for both recreational use of the shore and conservation of the natural environment can be achieved together.



**ANTHONY W. KOTZ**  
(1938-2009)

Tony's dedication, energy and guidance helped preserve and enhance this once-neglected place for everyone to enjoy. He designed this park and many others, but none were as close to his heart as Sandy Island Beach. Landscape architect, founding member and chairman of TODC and nearby property owner, Tony was a true steward of the dune and wetland system. He believed in his responsibility to care for the ecosystem, so its unique natural values and recreational opportunities may be sustained for future generations.



## PARTNERSHIPS



Many agencies, organizations and individuals worked as "stewardship partners" to create this park, pursuing a common vision to balance recreational use with protection and restoration of beach and sand dune resources.

## THE ONTARIO DUNE COALITION (TODC)

Unique in all of the Great Lakes states, TODC is a voluntary alliance of agencies, nonprofits and private landowners. Its mission is to foster conservation and beneficial use of the dune and wetland system. TODC helped guide the collaboration needed to restore Sandy Island Beach.



*Enjoying the Coast*

*Sandy Island Beach State Park is a shining example of the positive changes that can be achieved with inter-governmental coordination, public-private partnerships and a common vision.*



The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation appreciates the contributions of Tony Kotz and The Ontario Dune Coalition.