

City of Bayfield  
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

## RESOLUTION 475

Adopting the City of Bayfield  
Outdoor Recreation Plan

WHEREAS: the City of Bayfield wishes to provide quality park facilities and a variety of recreational opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of the community's residents and increasing tourist population.

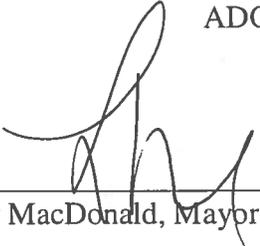
WHEREAS: the City of Bayfield has developed this Outdoor Recreation Plan in order to be eligible for Wisconsin DNR and other funding during a five year period between 2015-2019.

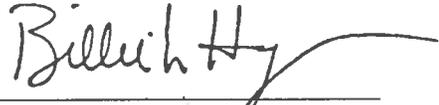
WHEREAS: the City of Bayfield Parks and Recreation Committee meets with Bayfield School representatives to consolidate a cooperative plan that reflects the district's needs for outdoor recreation and environmental development on an ongoing basis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreational Committee is hereby adopting the proposed objectives for our city's parks and recreational areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution adopting the Outdoor Recreational Plan for the City of Bayfield is recognized and approved by the City Council on the motion of Tom McMullin seconded by Sharon Johnson.

ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry MacDonal, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Billie Hoopman, City Clerk

City of Bayfield  
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

# Outdoor Recreation Plan

Approved by the City of Bayfield Parks & Recreation Committee - 2015

P.O. Box 1170

Bayfield, WI 54814

715-779-5712

[www.cityofbayfield.com](http://www.cityofbayfield.com)

### **MEMORIAL PARK ANNEX**

(.02 acres)

This small park is a "scenic overlook" within the city. Adjacent to Memorial Park, which is owned by the Bayfield Civic League, this area is used by thousands of residents and tourists during the summer months. It is located along the pathway that follows the lakefront from the Bayfield Pavilion to the East Dock Park and from its benches there are wonderful views of Madeline Island, the Bayfield marina and harbor. The trees, plantings, park benches and old street lights make this park unique.

Improvements are planned in 2015 that include: new benches; plantings such as trees and shrubs; improved lighting; a watering system. Future plans include rehabilitating the city owned paved walking path to make it more level.

### **JAKE'S ISLAND VIEW PARK**

(.05 acres)

This is a small triangle park located on the extreme east end of Manypenny Avenue. It overlooks Lake Superior and the Bayfield Marina, and is visible from both the Lake and the downtown district. The small park contains a bike rack, bench, and a variety of plants and shrubs. The pathway that goes through the park connects with the lakefront path along the harbor and also serves as part of the snowmobile trail during the winter months.

Improvements to the park would include: more plantings (e.g. trees, shrubs and flowers); a drinking fountain; attractive trash/recycling receptacles; directional signs; and improve lighting.

### **EAST DOCK PARK**

(.03 acres)

This park is located at the corner of First Street and Wilson Avenue near the Coast Guard station. It is on the shore of Lake Superior and offers a picnic area with a covered shelter, a number of tables and park benches. It has a lot of open space, with a volleyball court, a large playground area and a bike rack. Many special events are held here, and it is used by residents and tourists alike. There is always a slight breeze coming off the Lake which makes this park a popular place during the hot summer months.

In 2003, community volunteers, under the supervision and direction of Learning Structures renovated this playground into a one-of-a-kind park. The park provides play zones for different ages and host historic structures like the "Ferry" and "Sea Monster". Maintenance of these new structures and continually providing the proper absorption material beneath are priorities.

Future improvements to the park would include: more benches and picnic tables, some with overhead shelter; more grills; additional electrical outlets and lights; planting of trees and shrubs, especially shade trees near the playground area; attractive trash/recycling receptacles; a watering system; windbreaks near the existing picnic shelter; and a safer pedestrian route to the adjacent restrooms.

## **FISHING PIER**

In 1998 a public fishing pier was built adjacent to the East Dock Park. It provides handicap access from designated parking sites nearby. The fishing pier consists of a wood deck over rock filled wood cribs. Along the shoreline side of the pier is ample seating, on the lake side there is space for at least 20 anglers along the railing, with openings for disabled anglers. The pier, its walkway and the parking area are lit for security and safety by a period lamppost.

Improvements to the fishing pier would include the installation of a safety gate to keep toddlers from straying onto the lakefront (because of its proximity to the playground in East Dock Park). Annual inspection to the pier is needed to check for warped or loose planks.

## **HISTORIC HALVOR REITEN PARK (BROAD STREET BEACH, DOCK L)**

(1 acres)

This park is located at the south end of Broad Street. It consists of an open grassy area, a small structure (which serves as a storage area for lifeguard safety and rescue equipment in the summer) and a swimming beach area with a lifeguard tower, several benches and a bike rack.

The beach is located in an old boat-building and lumber-milling area of the shoreline. On-going efforts are needed clear debris and old dock cribbing from the water and beach area. In 2014 a new stormwater retention system was installed including a large rain garden and beach nourishment, grading and shaping of additional parking to the beach.

In 2006, the City of Bayfield obtained ownership of the property commonly known as "Dock L". The property was cleared of the hazardous debris that was left there, the dock was rebuilt, benches were installed and a walkway through the park was installed.

Improvements to this park would include the following: floating, high-visibility boundaries for the swimming area, signs designating the area for swimming only and dock safety signs, floats prohibiting motorized watercraft from the area and a covered picnic area with picnic tables. If any adjacent shoreline property became available the City should consider obtaining in an effort to increase the beach and provide more public access to Lake Superior.

## **RESTROOMS -- FRONT STREET AND HARBOR**

(.15 acres)

The City of Bayfield has two public restrooms downtown. One is located at Front Street and Washington Avenue near the ferry dock, and the other is at First Street and Wilson Avenue near the harbor (known as the high-rise). Both facilities are heavily used because Bayfield is a tourist community. They have been upgraded recently, and are ADA compliant, with larger stalls at Front Street, low-flow toilets in most stalls, and a new urinal in the harbor restrooms.

Improvements to the restrooms would include: increasing the number of stalls and urinals; replacement of old fixtures; improve outside lighting and aesthetic appearance; planting trees and shrubs. Continually efforts should be made to incorporate "green"

standards to both facilities (water conservation, reduce electrical needs, reduce paper usage, etc.).

### **KORSEBERG PARK**

(.01 acres)

This is a very small but prominent area on the north side of Highway 13 (at the sharp bend in the road) as you enter the city from the south. It overlooks Lake Superior, with spectacular views of Madeline Island and Long Island. The park is owned by Bayfield County, but maintained by the City of Bayfield. Improvements to the park would include: additional benches; minor planting of shrubs; improved lighting; attractive trash receptacles and a sign. The City will continue to try and formally acquire this land from Bayfield County.

### **COOPER HILL PARK**

(.01 acres)

This is a small neighborhood park located at the corner of South Seventh Street and Manypenny Avenue. In 2008 the park was re-built, once again following the design and oversight of Learning Structures. It incorporates unique designs which portray the City's Train History. It provides a playground area for tots and for older children, and also a small stage for neighborhood plays, it also contains a bike rack.

Improvements to the park would include: continually provide the proper amounts of absorbing material on the ground surface, periodically check and provide maintenance of fencing and playground equipment, add benches and maybe a picnic area, attractive trash/recycling receptacles and plantings to improve the overall aesthetic appearance of the park.

### **THE GIL LARSEN NATURE TRAIL**

(.25 miles)

The community, tourists and the school all make good use of the large ravine that opens onto Washington Avenue at the upper end of Broad Street. Years ago this unique ecosystem was developed into a nature trail and outdoor laboratory for the school and its use continues to increase. The boardwalks, benches, scenic overlooks and rest areas were constructed in 1984 by the WCC. The entrance to the Nature Trail is open and accommodating to most but would be exclusive to the elderly and disabled. At present, the trail ends behind the school.

Improvements to the trail would include: Addition of way finding and informational signs, repair and maintenance of the existing amenities (walkways, benches, overlooks), and extending the trail as far as possible up the ravine. This way both residents and visitors can enjoy the biological diversity that our City offers in this unique location.

### **BIG RAVINE PARK**

(120 acres)

In 1942, a summer rainstorm caused two of Bayfield's larger ravines to flood the downtown area causing extensive property damage. The City of Bayfield subsequently purchased 120 acres which includes much of the Big Ravine in order to protect its watershed. The soils in this area are extremely fragile, and a 1997 report by the local USDA soil conservationist recommended that the land be utilized for recreation and forestry so that it can continue to provide flood control for the city below. (This report

also recommended that the city acquire the two 40-acre parcels north of the park to extend protection of the ravine from development upstream.)

This 120-acre area has been used for recreation purposes for many years, and the results of the Bayfield Community Survey conducted in 2001 indicate that people strongly support this continued use of the land. Along the West Edge of the ravine, a system of trails has been established for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and a soccer field (see below) was established in 1999. Along the East Edge of the ravine, there is a snowmobile trail which connects Bayfield with a larger county-wide trail system, and there are also areas for hiking in the upland woods. In the bottom of the Ravine, there is a footpath along the intermittent stream which can be reached from the Nature Trail that begins at Washington Avenue in Bayfield.

Improvements in this area include the following:

- Expansion of athletic facilities
- Trail development including railings along steep edges, steps where necessary to prevent erosion, benches at scenic overlooks, maps & signage
- Develop trails to link those on the East and West sides with the Nature Trail
- Extend the Nature Trail to the north along the stream as far as possible
- Parking area on Olson/Lampa Road
- Acquisition and/or protection of the two ravine sections to the north
- Outdoor classroom and environmental education facilities

## **SOCCER FIELD**

In 1999, a group of citizens organized to build a youth soccer field on top of the old landfill site in the northwest corner of the city. This area is located at the end of the Old Dump Road and is within the 120 acres of Big Ravine Park. Utilizing grants from Wisconsin DNR and a local bank, an area was leveled and planted in grass. The field has been utilized for soccer and other activities since the spring of 2000. Currently there is one large playing field and one small practice field.

Both fields need improvement including; adding more soil to complete construction of a full-sized level field, improve field conditions (level, grass, watering) a storage shed for equipment, a concession stand, and benches for spectators. A running track might also be built around the perimeter of the soccer field. Additional practice field could be added. A parking area could be designated for events on the athletic fields and also provide remote visitor parking for downtown events. Hilltop Road, the access road needs to be widened and the surface needs to be improved.

## **HILLSIDE PARK**

This park is located northwest of the Bayfield School and includes three separate areas: a ballpark, parking lot and community garden all at different levels on the hillside.

The ballpark occupies the top of the hill and is probably one of the most scenic in all of northern Wisconsin. While attending a game one can view Lake Superior, Madeline Island, Long Island, Chequamegon Bay and Bayfield itself. It is used by both the community and school. Facilities include bleachers and dug outs, steps to the parking area, and a handicap accessible walkway along the first base side. The entire field is surrounded by a four foot high chain link fence.

A restroom building is located down the hill from the bleachers. This facility was built by the school and is maintained by the school (except for turning the water service on in the spring and off in the fall, which is done by the City). This facility needs to be thoroughly evaluated, probably updated, and certainly better maintained.

Improvements to the ballpark and restrooms would include the following:

- Repairs to the infield
- Restroom upgrade and maintenance
- Scoreboard which can be stored between games
- Painting/decoration of dugouts
- Bull pen
- Lights

The parking lot is located just below the ballpark. This facility is used by both the community and the school. It is large enough to park about 25 cars, and has two basketball hoops, one at each end of the lot. In the future, the school will be making more use of the parking lot during the academic year.

East of the parking lot is an educational area which the school utilizes as a school community garden and recently installed a High Tunnel greenhouse.

### **SOUTH PLAYGROUND**

(.02 acres)

This playground is owned and maintained by the Bayfield School District and is located just below the Bayfield School. It provides several large pieces of play equipment and is utilized mostly by the elementary school children.

### **DALRYMPLE CAMPGROUND**

(14.54 acres)

The campground is located 1/4 mile north of the City of Bayfield. This campground is within a stone's throw of Lake Superior. It is a heavily wooded area, with very deep ravines, and a wonderful view of the Apostle Islands. The park has a rustic appearance and caters to tenting and small camper users, rather than to people using very large RVs. There are 30 campsites, with electricity to 70% of the sites. Because of the rough terrain of the area, improvements are progressing very slowly, and are often expensive.

In the spring of 2009, the both restroom (pit toilets) were replaced with new vault systems including new concrete structures which have stalls and are ADA compliant.

Improvements to the campground would include the following:

- Connection to city sewer system
- Restrooms with flush toilets, shower facilities, changing rooms, drinking fountains and a storage area for supplies
- Picnic shelter with windbreaks, more grills and tables
- Additional fire rings, benches and trash receptacles
- Improvement of existing sites (clear brush and dead trees, level ground)
- Addition of more sites
- Walking trail to Bayfield with bridges, lake access opportunities
- Fishing pier and/or small boat access

- Information signs and displays
- Improve lighting
- Additional plantings
- Improve existing roads and
- Add new roads as needed
- Shoreline stabilization

## **WALKING CORRIDOR**

Bayfield is a very interesting city. Although it is small, consisting of only one square mile, it has a quaint fishing village atmosphere with pleasant parks, pathways along Lake Superior, and many historical buildings. Its hillsides offer spectacular views of the Lake and the Apostle Islands.

In 2015 a waterfront walking corridor will be developed linking many special "points of interest" in our historic community, the corridor will start at the head of the Brownstone Trail at 3<sup>rd</sup> St and Wilson Ave heading east along the shore then north to Front St and Washington Ave. Along this corridor will be interpretive signage depicting the history of Bayfield.

Improvements to this walking corridor will be ongoing including:

- Additional rest/seating areas
- Improved walking surfaces and trail connectors
- Connecting to other trails
- Water fountain
- Replacing restrooms at East Dock Park
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street waterfront look-out area

## **SKATEBOARD PARK**

The Bayfield School District created a skateboard park next to the Bayfield Area Recreation Center at 136 South Broad Street. This area provides a safe area for skateboarding activities.

THE FOLLOWING PARK/PLAYGROUND AREAS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED:

## **BICYCLE TRAIL**

Having a trail where people can bicycle in and around the city with strategically placed bike racks.

## **SECOND DISTRICT PARK**

One of the goals of the Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department is to have a suitable park/playground in every city district. This proposed park/playground would be located north of Washington Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Street where the city expects more development in the coming years. This area consists of heavily wooded sites high-on-a-hillside (overlooking beautiful Lake Superior). There is, at present, no park or playground in this district.

Some development in this part of the city began in 1996. Several homes were built, 10th Street was extended north to Sweeny Avenue, and a sewer main installed. The city's Comprehensive Plan may designate the land north of the municipal wellhead as a conservancy area because it includes a steep ravine which was identified in the 1997 soil report as an area of fragile soils which should be kept in its natural state for reasons of flood control.

### **CATHOLIC HILL PARK**

There are no public parks or playgrounds located in this part of the city which is bounded by Broad Street and Wing Avenue (Highway 13) between Washington Avenue and North Limits Road. Some discussion about developing one has begun. The goal would be to provide a safe setting with combined park and playground, so that small children living here would not have to travel such long distances to reach other city facilities. Because of the lack of city-owned property here, the first step would be to locate and purchase a suitable area to develop. Such neighborhood parks (such as our Cooper Hill Park), need not be very large, but still are used often and enjoyed by people living near them.