



2006 - 2010

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
PARK AND RECREATION
PLAN**

TOWN OF LA POINTE

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- ◇ Letters of the alphabet preceding the descriptions of Recreation Inventory, Lake Access Points and Other Facilities correspond to locations on the Future Utilities and Facilities map.

INTRODUCTION:

This plan recognizes that the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities is a main attraction of Madeline Island to its year round and seasonal residents as well as the many visitors who come here. We need to preserve what we have and develop what we need to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors alike. The objective of any recreation plan should be to encourage development of the Island as a year round and seasonal residential area.

Because of the long winters and seasonal nature of employment on the Island, winter recreational facilities are especially important to the year round residents and children as an alternative to other activities. Cross country skiing, ice skating, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and indoor recreational activities should be further developed. This is also compatible with the community goal of supporting the year-round community.

This plan begins with an inventory of La Pointe's current park and recreational areas, a needs assessment, and recommendations for action for each recreational facility.

RECREATION INVENTORY

A. MEMORIAL PARK (JONI'S BEACH)

350 feet of beach and about 1.5 acres in the downtown area. Very popular beach and the primary park used by local families for swimming. Boat mooring area, playground, picnic shelter, bathrooms and well. Also used by Sea Scouts to keep their boats. Received a Coastal Management Grant for docks and a DNR grant for bathrooms.

Recommended Immediate Improvements:

1. Designate dock as "short term docking only" for pick-up or drop-off.
2. Designate a swimming area with ropes and buoys.
3. Make parking area more efficient by marking lines and designating handicapped spaces.
4. Signage (three signs total):
 - a. To include one sign containing the following items:
 1. Dock – "loading and unloading only".
 2. Pets – "Dogs must be on a leash".
 3. Swimming – "Swim at your own risk".
 - b. An additional sign stating that "Dogs must be on a leash" on the Dog Mitts sign for pet waste clean up.
 - c. A restroom sign above each door designating "men" and "women".
 - d. "Loading and unloading only" painted on sides of dock.
5. Develop a schedule for general maintenance and painting of the restrooms.
6. Plant fast-growing deciduous (i.e.: Poplar) shade trees to provide shade for the parking lot and the playground.

Long Term Improvements

- a. Plant deciduous (i.e.: Oak, Maple) shade trees to provide shade to the parking lot and playground.
- b. Install grade-level concrete pad or patio pavers under the picnic shelter.
- c. Require that any future memorial areas have a planting plan and the commitment to maintain it.
- d. Re-establish launch ramp by re-engineering dock.
- e. Survey the property line between Joni's Beach and St. John's Church for possible dock redesign.
- f. Improve existing concrete drainage.
- g. Add angle parking on the street, cutting into the park.
- h. Add outdoor showers.

¹ Letter of alphabet corresponds to site location on map

B. BIG BAY TOWN PARK AND CAMPGROUND

The park consists of 64 acres and 1000 feet of Beach in the center of the Island. Approximately 25 acres on the North side of Hwy H is undeveloped. Approximately 25 acres on the South side of Hwy H has been developed into a picnic area and a 40-site campground. The balance of the acreage is lagoon, beach and sand dune area. There are two sets of toilets and a well in the picnic/campground area. This popular beach is reached by a flight of steps and bridge that are not handicap accessible.

Recommendations:

1. Clear, mark, and maintain the trail on the beach connecting to the State Park Boardwalk. A boardwalk is not necessary.
2. Construct a shelter in the picnic area.
3. Pass ordinances to regulate use and storage of vessels, and the use of Big Bay Town Park by commercial enterprises. The proposed ordinance and improvements should be directed at solving the problems of vessel storage, protecting vegetation, and improving beach and trail access.
The ordinances may include the following:
 - a. Permit fee and registration for storing vessels at Big Bay Town Park lagoon area.
 - b. Use of storage racks.
 - c. Designating a launch area.
 - d. Regulating signage.
4. Construct additional storage racks for canoes.
5. Improve signage on the beach regarding litter, beach fires, fragile vegetation and leashed pets.
6. Parking lot recommendations:
 - a. Improved signage for one-way flow of traffic.
 - b. Redesign parking lot to maximize parking while ensuring each campsite has a designated space. Include designated bus parking.
 - c. Correct any existing motor home parking spaces to improve the flow of traffic.
 - d. Add additional parking by removing trees on entrance road and installing diagonal or designated parking.
7. Restrooms
 - a. Install a night-sky-friendly light in the campground loop restrooms. The light should not attract insects.
 - b. Install portable toilets in campground loop, especially during July and August when the campground is full.

- c. There is a problem with people not using the toilets because of the odors, as evidence suggests. Improve construction/mechanics and cleaning procedures to alleviate odors.
8. Maintain forestry in campground, walking trails and public spaces to reduce risk of liability. Institute Best Management Practices to maintain a healthy forest.
9. Over the next 5 years, all campsites should be upgraded to include:
 - a. Designated level site for tent.
 - b. Designated parking space.
 - c. Fire ring.
 - d. Grate/grill on fire ring.
 - e. Picnic table.
10. Improve road drainage and maintenance.
11. Maintain communication with the Madeline Island Ferry Line and Chamber of Commerce regarding campsite availability.
12. Raise rates to cover expenses of park maintenance and improvements.
13. Improve drainage of drinking fountain.

Long Term Improvements

1. Improve ratio of restrooms to campsites.
2. Add outdoor showers.

C. HARRY NELSON RECREATION CENTER.

A 7 acre parcel near downtown that includes a softball field, two tennis courts, ice rink, Rec building, large picnic shelter, playground area, and storage building.

Recommendations:

1. Finish ice rink, level, including sideboards and lighting.
2. Connect sidewalks from parking lot to County H (Middle Road) including a walkway adjacent to road, connecting downtown with ballpark area.
3. Construct a covered cooking area.
4. Renovate Rec Center building.
 - a. Correct moisture/mold problems in building.
 - b. Remodel bathrooms
5. Resurface tennis court.
6. Improve surface drainage around building.
7. Plant shade trees.

Long Term Recommendations

1. Expand playground.
2. Construct a new multipurpose Rec Center.
3. Acquire adjacent land to the east and/or across Hwy H to meet future needs such as soccer field, basketball courts, expanded playground areas, skateboard park, and expanded Rec Center/Community building.

D. NORTH SHORE PARK

This park consists of 17 undeveloped acres and 590 feet of lakeshore, ravine and small beach, plus 190 additional forested acres adjacent or near the lakeshore parcel. This park land should remain relatively wild and undeveloped.

Recommendations:

1. Survey to determine property lines.
2. Construct a primitive trail to the lake and small off-road parking area. Develop trails on the interior land.
3. Institute Best Management Practice to maintain a healthy forest.

E. FOREST PARK

A 28 acre park on the South side of Hwy H close to Town. The Capser Trail, which extends into Wilderness Preserve land, begins here.

F. SOUTH SHORE ROAD PARK

A 22 acre park of undeveloped forest land within 3 miles of Town.

G. OBJIWAY MEMORIAL PARK

This is 1.75 acres of land with pond surrounding the grave of Chief Great Buffalo's son. This area is within a State Archeological site and is near a cemetery.

H. BOG AND CREEK ADJACENT TO REC CENTER AND MARINA.

About 23 acres of marsh, bog and creek that enters Lake Superior at the Madeline Island Yacht Club. The only public access is from the Rec Center or unopened 11th Street. It should be preserved as a wild and natural area. The Town should consider acquiring the land at the corner of Mondamin and Main Street which would provide access to the creek. Investigate the desirability for a future boardwalk/nature trail in this area.

I. OTHER LAND.

This 40 acres of bog is surrounded by State Park and 4 acres of land next to State Park on Big Bay Road.

LAKE ACCESS POINTS

J. AMUNDSON LANE LAKE ACCESS:

Access is restricted by agreement.

K. SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD LAKE ACCESS:

23 feet. Town ownership recently confirmed by the courts.

L. GRANTS POINT/OLD FORT ROAD LAKE ACCESS:

50 ft road right of way that extends to the Lake. Used extensively by the public. Should be surveyed and marked. Town should consider acquiring more land here.

M. GRIGGS APPROACH:

Platted alley and easements used as a winter road onto the ice.

N. O'BRIEN APPROACH:

Platted 40 ft. road right of way. Serves as a winter road onto the ice.

Recommendations:

Survey to establish boundary and parking area.

Establish ordinance to regulate parking and access to the lake.

O. MAIN STREET/MIDDLE ROAD APPROACH [Block 28 (CS 374 Lot 2 and CS Lot 1)].

A 26 foot (13 foot alley plus 13 feet of deeded land) approach that serves as another access point to the ice.

P. PICKEREL STREET.

40 ft. platted but unopened street to the Lake. Put in a walking path. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

Q. ALLEY BETWEEN BLOCK 27 AND BLOCK 28 (CS 374 LOT 1).

13 ft platted but unopened alley. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

R. ALLEY BETWEEN BLOCKS 28 (Lot 2 of CS 231) AND BLOCK 29.

13 ft platted but unopened alley. Try to trade for land next to Main Street approach. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

S. CHIEF BUFFALO LANE.

60 ft platted street to the Marina entrance. Adjacent to historic cemetery. Put in a park bench. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

T. 16TH STREET BETWEEN BLOCK 46 AND LOT 31

Platted but unopened 40 ft street. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

OTHER FACILITIES

La Pointe School Playground and Gym.

Outdoor facilities include a basketball "court" and playground equipment.

Big Bay State Park.

Facilities include 60 campsites, trails, beach. Fee for motorized vehicles.

Wilderness Preserve Land.

2300 acres of inland land open to the public, including most of Capser Trail, Old Big Bay Road Trail, and Burroughs Trail.

Madeline Island Historical Museum

Green space fronted by Main Street used as commons area.

RECREATION INVENTORY

- ◊ A. MEMORIAL PARK (JONI'S BEACH)
- B. BIG BAY TOWN PARK AND CAMPGROUND
- C. HARRY NELSON RECREATION CENTER.
- D. NORTH SHORE PARK
- E. FOREST PARK
- F. SOUTH SHORE ROAD PARK
- G. OBJIWAY MEMORIAL PARK
- H. BOG AND CREEK ADJACENT TO REC CENTER AND MARINA.
- I. OTHER LAND.
- J. AMUNDSON LANE LAKE ACCESS:
- K. SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD LAKE ACCESS:
- L. GRANTS POINT/OLD FORT ROAD LAKE ACCESS:
- M. GRIGGS APPROACH:
- N. O'BRIEN APPROACH:
- O. MAIN STREET/MIDDLE ROAD APPROACH
[Block 28 (CS 374 Lot 2 and CS Lot 1)].
- P. PICKEREL STREET.
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(CS 374 LOT 1).
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- S. CHIEF BUFFALO LANE.
- T. 16TH STREET BETWEEN BLOCK 46 AND LOT 31

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Map 5-3

Future Utilities and Facilities:
2006 to 2025

Town of La Pointe
Comprehensive Plan

Legend

-  Airport
-  Public building
-  Public access to Lake Superior
-  Wastewater treatment facility
-  Town parks
-  State park
-  Existing sewer service area (2005)
-  Near term sewer service area (2005 - 2025)
-  Long term sewer service area (beyond 2026)



Base Map: Ashland County

Map Created: October, 2004
Map Edited: October 14, 2005



