

October 2020 Public Works Report

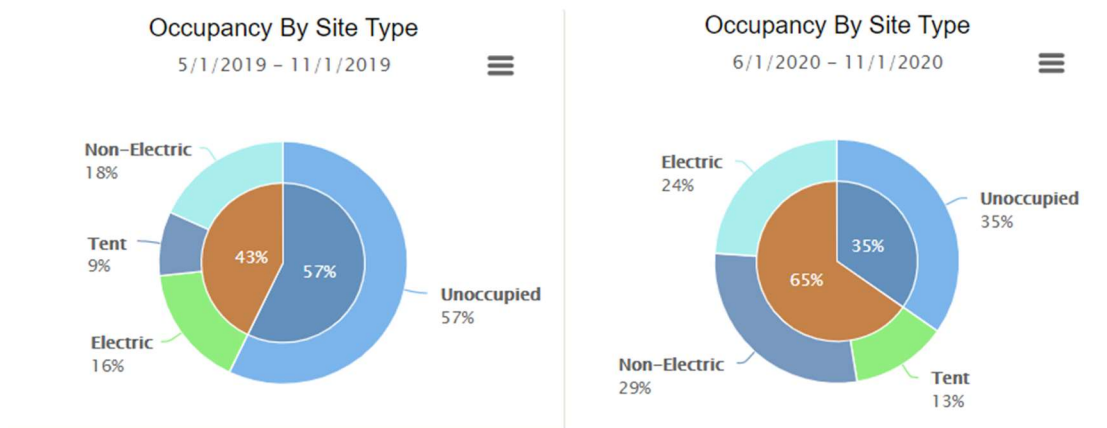
Roads/Dock

- The west side of the Griggs Approach ramp was becoming undermined and various sized boulders were added. The northeast area of O’Brien Court was also washing away and rip-rap was added to stabilize the area as soon as permits were granted.
- Two more failing culverts were replaced with plastic pipe – one on Schoolhouse Road just south of Kron-Dahlin and one on Northshore Road north of the 2800 area.
- The Ashland County crew was over to work on shoreline stabilization near Umbrage Road and was able to mill down all the heaving culvert bumps on H, which I’m sure is appreciated by all.
- Nelson Construction completed considerable excavation in the dock approach area and removed old cribbing and fill material before rebuilding the base. The original prepping and plan for paving this fall changed quickly and dramatically when two days of northwest winds resulted in waves crashing over the new dock lane and into the area to be paved. With that factor and the drop in temperature at the time, the Town crew cleaned up the mess and added 40 yds. of gravel. We will touch it up again before the final freeze, and the paving project is budgeted for early 2021. Lake Superior wins again.
- Pete will be out grading all gravel roads as needed as weather allows.
- The salt sand pile was touched up with 4 yds. of salt from the County shop to achieve our 5% salt mix per County policy. Plows were mounted on 220 (Westernstar) and 22 (Dodge 2-ton) and we were ready to go in case of snow that stuck to the paved roads.

Parks

- Big Bay Town Park and all downtown Parks were winterized, trash and recycling receptacles put away, and porta-potties closed for the season.
- Due to Covid-19, BBTP did not open until June 1st. Comparably to 2019, the Park was much busier during this pandemic season, even when opening later by nearly one month.

2019 – Open May 10th	2020 – Open June 1st
5,728 Registered Guests	7,571 Registered Guests
1,942 Camping Reservations	2,494 Camping Reservations



MRF

- The Northwest Regional Planning Commission and WRR Environmental Services teamed up with Marty, Joe, Evan Jr., and myself to spend a day properly packaging and loading a full semi-trailer of hazardous waste from MRF. This disposal of acids, stains, antifreeze, old fuel, batteries, pesticides, and the like was overdue. The MRF facility will continue to accept certain hazardous materials for now, but they will be handled once, packaged immediately and safely, and taken off the island in a timely manner. The new 2021 fee schedule for these types of items as well as everything accepted at the MRF will be available next month.
- The former waste oil shed covering the ArmorCast reservoir was demolished and the area is being repurposed. Waste oil collection will continue directly into 55 gal. drums.
- The newly cleared area west of the storage garage has been converted to a parking zone and storage point for roll-off boxes, which will become a one-stop drop-off site for appliances and similar items. Eventually these items can be deposited directly into a box, rather than down by the dem-con and scrap metal boxes. This reduces at least two different handlings of material by staff. The entire existing stockpile of crushed glass was repurposed as a base layer and gigantic french drain for this new area.
- Gravel was added to and compacted on the road looping through the facility.

Misc./Admin

- The ESB crew continues to do an incredible job. The weather held out and Northwoods Paving was able to get the first 2 inches of hot mix down, which will drastically reduce the muddy mess both this fall and next spring. Snow flurries were in the air as the paving crew left on the boat.
- Midland services delivered two additional 1,000-gallon LP tanks for the ESB and the Town crew assisted with prep work, drainage, and provided a pit run lift as the northern area of the site was 8" of mucky soup.
- Weather at the end of this month is looking good, even after the first snow, and we hope to accomplish more groundwork and haul material from the north end.
- I will be looking at different ways to make the various Public Works Department budgets as efficient and as practical as possible next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director