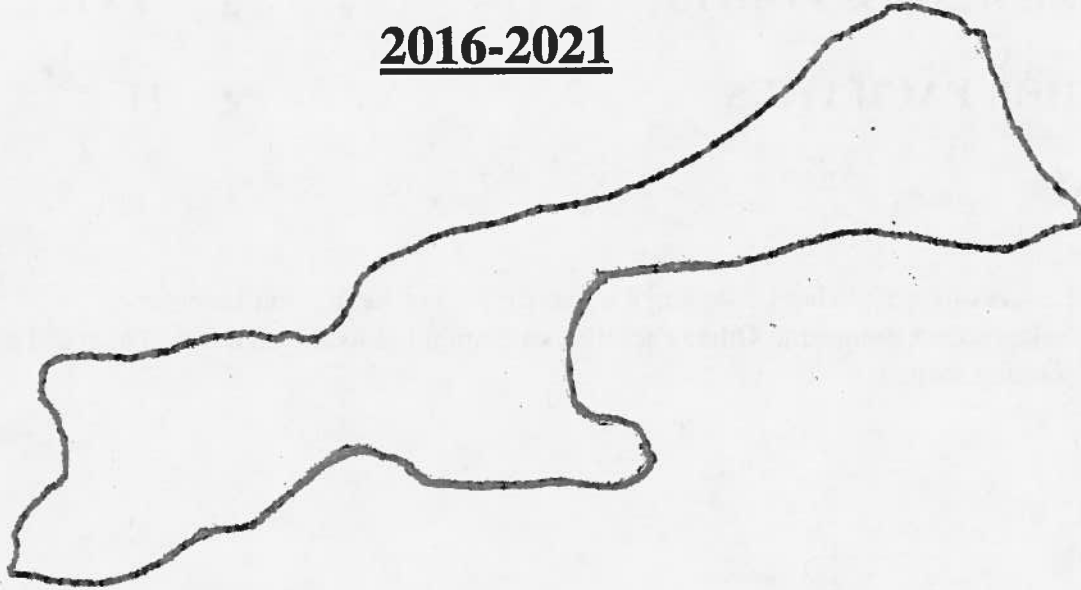


# **TOWN OF LA POINTE**

## **PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

**2016-2021**



Approved by the Town Board on December 8, 2015

Amended and approved by the Town Board

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Amended and approved by the Town Board

November 23, 2021

Amended and approved by the Town Board

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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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 Town of La Pointe Zoning 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 recreation plans should be to encourage development of the Island as a year-round and seasonal residential area, and to make short- and long-term recommendations for maintenance and capital improvements.

The Town of La Pointe has ordained the creation of a "Public Arts Committee". This committee will pursue the placement of art works, paintings, sculptures and other mediums in public areas including Public Parks. This Park and Recreation Plan supports the placement of art in and on Town owned property and the Town Plan Commission works directly with the "Public Arts Committee" for the display and creation of art works in Town Parks.

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. Develop a schedule for general maintenance and painting of the restrooms.
  - a. Post maintenance schedule in restrooms.
2. Enhance playground; include swings

### **Long Term Improvements**

1. Install grade-level concrete pad or patio pavers under the picnic shelter.
2. Require that any future memorial areas have a planting plan and the commitment to maintain it.
3. Re-establish launch ramp by re-engineering dock.
4. Repair Dock
5. Add outdoor showers.
6. Make dock and picnic shelter accessible by wheelchair.
7. Update picnic shelter and move closer to parking lot to make accessible by wheelchair.
8. Move playground to where the picnic shelter is, update, expand and make accessible.

## **B. BIG BAY TOWN PARK AND CAMPGROUND**

The Park consists of 64 acres and 1000 feet of Beach in the center of the Island. In 2013 the Town added a new entrance, an organized parking area, a new picnic shelter with fireplace for day trippers and campers alike, a woodshed, 900 ft of new beach boardwalk, a new comfort station with a park attendant office, pay showers and flush toilets and new flush toilet bathroom at the far end of the campground. All roads are now one way, including through the parking lot.

There is new reconfigured numbering for 61 campsites, including the 23 new sites, 22 with electric, in the campground addition across the road. Also available are six new remote, tent only campsites, along the Lagoon Ridge Trail. Reservations are available online with a credit card; few spaces are left unreserved each night for walk-ins. There is a picnic area, fishing, canoeing, swimming, and two miles of sand beach. The long staircase heads down to the beach, over a bridge spanning the outlet for the inland lagoon. This Park is owned and operated by the Town of LaPointe.

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements:**

1. Maintain forestry in campground, walking trails and public spaces to reduce risk of liability. Institute Best Management Practices to maintain and protect a healthy forest.
2. Improve drainage of drinking fountain.
3. Improve potable water system.
4. Replace/repair existing bridge and stairway.
5. \*Add basic play equipment such as swings and teeter totters.
6. \*Handicap accessible and canoe transport ramp to lagoon and bridge.
7. \*Make beaches handicapped accessible

*\*Indicates in process*

### **Long Term Improvements**

1. The Big Bay Town Park Master plan was approved by the Town Board on June 28, 2011 and is added as an addendum to the 2011-2016 Park and Recreation Plan.

1. Convert hand pump to new well water.

### **C. HARRY NELSON RECREATION CENTER.**

A 7-acre parcel near downtown that includes a softball field, two tennis courts, ice rink, Rec

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements:**

1. \*Renovate Center building.
  - a. Correct moisture/mold problems in building.
  - b. Remodel bathrooms
  - c. Improve surface drainage around building
  - d. Remodel inside (furniture, games, etc.
2. Maintain tennis court.

3. Develop handicap accessible path to shelter

*\*Indicates as in process*

### **Long Term Recommendations**

1. 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. Rieman park**

20-acre undeveloped parcel off Schoolhouse Road. Recommendations as per CAPP letter received by Town Board on April 11, 2013.

### **Short Term Recommendations**

1. Rename Park "Rieman Family North End Nature Trail"

### **Long Term Recommendations**

1. Construct primitive interpretative trail system
2. Informational signage
3. Construct off road parking area

### **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.

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Maintain clear vision throughout.

### **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 Oshoga, whose tombstone reads "*Chief Speaker of the Chippewas of Lake Superior*", as he accompanied Chief Buffalo to Washington to protest the United States from moving them to different land. Oshoga was the speaker to Millard Fillmore, as Chief Buffalo was old and tired. This area is within a State Archeological site and is near a cemetery.

### **Long Term Recommendations**

1. Add electrical service

### **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.

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. It should be preserved as a wild and natural area.

### **Long Term Recommendations**

1. Investigate the desirability for a future boardwalk/nature trail in this area.
2. The Town should consider acquiring the land at the corner of Mondamin and Main Street which would provide access to the creek.

### **I. OTHER LAND.**

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

### **J. MAINSTREET POCKET PARK**

Established primarily due to the increasing number of seasonal visitors (tourists). .248 acres of land on Main Street near the intersection with Middle Road is designed to be a comfort station to aid in the enjoyment of the downtown area. There are two portable toilets, picnic tables, and green space on the property.

### **Recommended immediate improvements:**

1. Plant low maintenance trees and plants; and,
2. Consider as a place for a memorial.

### **Long Term Improvements:**

1. Request variance from Ashland County to construct a public restroom building with two toilets each in the men's and women's washroom, and a water fountain with a mechanical room in the middle of the structure.

### **K. BUTTERFLY GARDEN – SOLAR PANELS**

.18 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED ON Colonel Woods Avenue at the rear of Town Parking Lot D near the library and school. Designed for solar energy and small plants that

Provide habitat for butterflies and other beneficial insects for educational opportunities. Solar Panels were installed in 2016 to supply power to the La Pointe Library and La Pointe Health Care buildings.

**Recommended Immediate Improvements:**

1. Plant Pollinator friendly plants.
2. Walking path through garden to library and school.
3. Informal markers identifying plants, insects, and a history of the solar panels; and,
4. The addition of more solar panels when needed.

**L. RUSSELL PARK**

A parcel of land bordered by Main Street to the west, Le Sueur Street to the north and Bell Street to the east a total .39 Acres.

**Recommendation Immediate Improvements:**

1. Install Public Art (Sculpture)
2. Maintain informational sign (Chamber)
3. Install 2 Memorial Benches
4. Maintain as a designated open green space.

**Long-term Improvements**

1. Restrooms



## LAKE ACCESS POINTS

### **M. AMUNDSON LANE LAKE ACCESS:**

Access is restricted by agreement.

### **N. SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD LAKE ACCESS:**

23 feet. Town ownership recently confirmed by the courts.

#### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Signs

### **O. GRANTS POINT/OLD FORT ROAD LAKE ACCESS:**

100 ft road right of way that extends to the Lake. Used extensively by the public.

#### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Should be surveyed and marked.

#### **Long Term Recommendations**

1. Town should consider acquiring more land here.

### **P. GRIGGS APPROACH:**

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

#### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Lights needed in the parking lot
2. Expand parking lot
3. Pave or gravel parking lot

### **Q. O'BRIEN APPROACH:**

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

#### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Survey to establish boundary and parking area.
2. Establish ordinance to regulate parking and access to the lake.

**R. 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.

**S. PICKEREL STREET.**

40 ft. platted but unopened street to the Lake.

**Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Put in a walking path.
2. Survey to establish boundary and mark with signage.

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

13 ft platted but unopened alley.

**Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Survey to establish boundary
2. Mark with signage.

**U. 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.

**Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Survey to establish boundary
2. Mark with signage.

**V. CHIEF BUFFALO LANE.**

60 ft platted street to the Marina entrance. Adjacent to historic cemetery.

**Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Put in a park bench
2. Survey to establish boundary
3. Mark with signage

## **W. 16TH STREET BETWEEN BLOCK 46 AND LOT 31**

Platted but unopened 40 ft street.

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Survey to establish boundary
2. Mark with signage

## **X. NORTH SHORE LAKE ACCESS**

This is a fully developed eight-foot-wide trail, consisting of over 300 feet of boardwalk, 700 feet of graveled and 600 feet of rough breaker rock to the lake on 17 acres and 590 feet of lakeshore, ravine, and small beach, plus 190 additional forested acres adjacent or near the lakeshore parcel. This land should remain relatively wild and undeveloped. Trail ends with a steep ramp into Lake Superior with adjacent dock for protection, with stairs, trail was developed primarily for winter lake access.

### **Recommended Immediate Improvements**

1. Install a two-sided sign closer to the road, (to afford from both directions) designating a walkway to the lake.

## **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.