

September 2022 Public Works Report

Roads

- With some nice stretches of cool, dry weather, road improvements on North Shore Road in the Steamboat Point area took place and included two culvert replacements and substantial ditching. Ditching will continue along Schoolhouse Road if the weather allows, and more culvert replacements are planned on Chippewa Trail, and further south on North Shore Road. The crew is very grateful to have Dave Cook assisting and/or driving dump trucks as the MRF season slows down and road work picks up.
- The Town did not receive BIL funding for repaving South Shore and Mondamin, but WAS awarded Hagen Road. I am bummed and at the same time very thankful, as 80/20 funding for any paving at all is a tremendous opportunity. We look forward to more information from the DOT regarding an actual timeline. I hope to use the engineering plans for the south end roads in the next LRIP funding cycle through the State.
- The Road crew assisted Ashland County Hwy. Dept. a few times this month, due to increased beaver activity causing culvert blockages towards the north end. We will continue to monitor, as ripping out their efforts has helped water flow, but the beavers will likely need to be relocated.

Parks

- Next month, Michael, Ray, and I will meet with Cooper Engineering at Big Bay Town Park to go over ideas regarding beach access and a wider bridge over the lagoon outlet. This is not the first time, but the increase in Park visitors in the past five years is going to make some degree of improved access inevitable.
- The projected date for shutting down BBTP is Monday, October 24th.
- Thankfully the Rec Center bathrooms are fully open, yet the building's systems are not yet fully operational. I am doing all that I can do with the General Contractor, who is frustrated as well.

Misc./Admin.

- Ray and Evans assembled the MI Library's outdoor classroom and did a fantastic job. It will be a great addition to the learning campus around the school/library area.
- The MRF received its brand-new recycling dedicated Kubota skidsteer!
- I have spent most of the end of September working on the various Public Works budgets. The entire crew has done a tremendous job completing multiple projects this year, and I am happy to announce NO capital improvement projects for 2023, as we will focus on taking care of what we have.

Happy Fall,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director