

Grand Marais Recreation Park Master Plan

Goals & Policies Adopted by Park Board March 12, 2009

Goals are desired outcomes.

Policies guide, and bring consistency to, various day-to-day actions, public and private, that collectively work towards achieving the goals.

The numbering system is for reference. No rank order is implied.

This project was funded in part under the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in cooperation with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.



Goal 1

The Master Plan for the Recreation Park should be consistent with, and help implement, the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Policies

- 1.1* Reserve land in harbor area for open space.
- 1.2* Enhance ability to walk from side to side along harbor including walkways and lighting.
- 1.3* Encourage development of entertainment and indoor activities for tourists and residents to make Grand Marais a four season tourist area.
- 1.4* Assess relocation of power plant, storage garages and electrical substation and replace with public park.

*(from Comprehensive Plan, policies which potentially apply to Park area specifically)

Goal 2

The Recreation Park should reflect positively on Grand Marais' identity and appeal as a special place for residents and visitors.

Policies

- 2.1 To encourage physical development and activity within the Park which is recognizable as "Grand Marais," avoiding duplication of generic places.
- 2.2 To view the Park as a hub of community activity for the entire county.
- 2.3 New or replacement public facilities will set a high standard for design, materials selection, sustainability and functionality.
- 2.4 All activity should contribute and not detract from the inherent beauty of these lands; viewed from on-site, other locations in the City and the water.
- 2.5 Service provided by staff and volunteers should reflect the highest levels of the hospitality and visitor industries.



Goal 3

As public lands, the Recreation Park should appeal to wide range of users; residents of the city, the county and visitors.

Policies

- 3.1 Proposed uses will be evaluated based on wide user benefit.
- 3.2 The Park will develop an identity that counters a common impression that it is principally for rental of camping and RV sites.
- 3.3 The expanded functions of the Park will be included in promotional activity by the City and County.
- 3.4 Improvement of the physical facility and hospitality aspects of the existing marina will continue.
- 3.5 The Park will provide affordable recreational and camping opportunity.

Goal 4

As public lands, the Recreation Park should optimize uses during all seasons.

Policies

- 4.1 Maintain or establish continuity of trail connections through property; hiking, snowmobile, ATV.
- 4.2 Outdoor winter uses such as a groomed ski trail loop, snowshoe trails, sliding hill and hiking trails bring activity to an in-town location.

Goal 5

As public lands, the Recreation Park should support a variety of activities.

Policies

- 5.1 Existing camping and site rental activity is continued, although re-organized to make room for other uses.
- 5.2 Scheduled events, indoors and out, summer and winter, become common and a source of community identity.
- 5.3 Recreation and fitness opportunities are encouraged.
- 5.4 Educational programs are encouraged on-site.
- 5.5 Provide opportunities for informal passive use of facilities, open space, beach and shore.



- 5.6 Municipal functions which do not require waterfront site, such as animal shelter, public works storage and garage, should be relocated.
- 5.7 Consistent with the language of the Conservation Easement, residential, commercial and industrial uses are not allowed. This does not exclude revenue generating activities that are related to the public and recreational nature of these lands, conducted either by the City or by a private entity under contract with the City.

Goal 6

The Recreation Park should generate revenue; direct to city and to a visitor-based local economy.

Policies

- 6.1 Charge market rates for camping and RV spaces, summer and winter.
- 6.2 Explore lottery or other means to rotate and charge premiums for highest value RV spaces.
- 6.3 Charge for programs, rent to organizations in possible community building and other user fees.
- 6.4 Develop flexible rate structures; annual passes, families, place of residence, etc.
- 6.5 Think of and program the Park as a destination to benefit visitor-based businesses in the City and County.
- 6.6 Aggressively market traditional and new uses in park, for direct revenue to City as well as community businesses.

Goal 7

Means to share expenses related to community and civic uses should be explored.

Policies

- 7.1 Each use requires an operating pro-forma stating use assumptions and revenue and expense projections, updated as experience allows.
- 7.2 Operating support for pool from County needs to be established as originally contemplated when project was created.
- 7.3 Dedicated tax programs need to include potential of the Park as a major recreational and cultural hub in the City and County.



Goal 8

The Master Plan should respect land-based natural and historic resources.

Policies

- 8.1 Wetland delineation will be required for elements of Plan implementation.
- 8.2 Historic resources will be identified and incorporated into Plan implementation as possible.

Goal 9

The Master Plan should specify near-shore land uses and mitigating design so as not to negatively impact the water quality of the harbor and Lake Superior.

Policies

- 9.1 Impervious surfaces will be minimized in near-shore areas.
- 9.2 Techniques such as pervious paving, stormwater collection and rain gardens are to be utilized to mitigate surface runoff.
- 9.3 The watercourse and its banks through the Park will be allowed to have sufficient native vegetation to provide a filter for stormwater and some degree of surge protection should the creek top its banks.

Goal 10

The Master Plan should anticipate future harbor development.

Policies

- 10.1 Space will be allocated for future land-side needs of the harbor and related boat facilities to reflect approved harbor design.
- 10.2 Infrastructure changes; roadways, utilities, access routes, etc. will anticipate expanded marina.

Goal 11

Respect terms of the conservation easement on these lands.

Policies



- 11.1 Minnesota Land Trust, holder of the conservation easement, will be consulted for their reactions for consistency as the Plan is developed.
- 11.2 Any public cultural or recreational uses proposed, that were not contemplated in easement language, but desired by community, will be negotiated.

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Goal 12

Prioritize water-dependent or water-enhanced uses.

Policies

- 12.1 Uses should be reviewed for both direct dependence on the water as well as aesthetic and functional benefit of a waterfront location.

