NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: September 17, 2019
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Washburn City Hall

Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approval of the August 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- Updates from Public Works Department
- Update of Dog Park Survey
- Discussion & Action Family Music Park along Lakeshore – Nate Swiston, Petitioner
- Discussion of Schedule & Frequency of Parks Committee Meetings
- Discussion & Recommendation on Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail Management Plan
- Site visit to Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail
- Future Topics
- Adjournment

It is possible that members of, and possibly a quorum of, members of other governmental bodies including the Common Council of the City of Washburn in attendance at the above meeting. No action will be taken by any governmental body other than the Parks Committee.
August 20, 2019

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Washburn City Hall

Present: Members: Jennifer Maziasz (council rep), Jamie Cook, Erika Lang, Wendy Reese, Kyleleen Bartnick

Municipal Personnel: City Administrator Scott Kluver, City Administrative Assistant Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Bob Anderson, Mayor Richard Avol

Excused Absence(s): None

Call to Order
Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Maziasz.

Approval of the July 16, 2019 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Motion made to approve minutes by Bartnick; second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

Update on West End Park Boat Ramp
An update was given on the repair work/reconstruction work that is scheduled to occur on the West End Park Boat Ramp. Several bids came into the City of Washburn but they were all over budget. Because of this, the City Council rejected all of the bids, and is going to go out to bid again soon to begin work hopefully late summer 2020. By soliciting bids over the winter, the City hopes more bids will come in next time, and from local contractors as well who may not have been able to bid the last time around as the request for proposals may have come out too late for them to coordinate their schedules.

Discussion and Recommendation on Walking Trail Maintenance Plan
Committee members reminded meeting participants that we have been discussing an update to the walking trail areas’ management for several months. This is necessary for several reasons - to produce a more user friendly document; to include components that are missing from current plans; to build on and complement the Expansion of Thompson’s West End Park Report and overall management direction; to reflect on current on-the-ground conditions; to evaluate what is working well and what isn’t; to adopt Best Management Practices and best science for natural resource management; to balance diversity of community values; and to facilitate the City’s planning and budgeting.

Lang and Bartnick have been working on preparing an updated draft management plan for the Parks Committee to review. A draft management plan was circulated in preparation for the meeting. This is the first step of gathering community input. Lang and Bartnick gave a brief presentation and made the following points:
- The plan is currently in draft form.
- The area considered is the section of the trail and habitat areas between Thompson’s West End Park and the Washburn Marina.
- While the plan is comprehensive in scope, the majority of it focuses on vegetation and habitat management.
- Input was sought from various natural resource professionals who live and work in the area.
- An evaluation of on-the-ground current conditions was completed and the following observations were made:
  - Some infrastructure, such as signage, benches, and bridges, is wearing and will need to be fixed or replaced.
  - Vegetation management has not been done according to existing plans. Mowing is being done down to the ground. On steep slopes, this is causing erosion which is costly to fix and damages water quality. There has also been very little action taken to remove/control invasive plants over the years.
  - In terms of view corridors, approximately 45% of the linear lakeshore is a view corridor from the walking trail.
- In terms of what will remain the same in the updated plan, this includes:
  - Actions will continue to support the direction of and complement existing plans related to vegetation management.
  - Existing view corridors from the trail will be maintained. Further, with the removal of invasives, some areas may be result in improved views.
  - Existing trail and infrastructure will be kept.
  - The updated management plan will balance multiple uses including recreation, wildlife, and lakeshore access.
- In terms of what has been adapted or clarified in the updated plan, this includes:
  - Use of native and culturally important plants.
  - Addition of edible plants if desired in appropriate locations.
  - Refined view corridor maintenance techniques.
  - Refined reasons for mowing.
  - Refined timing of mowing practices.
- In terms of what has been added to the updated plan, that includes:
  - Invasive plant removal and control actions.
  - Existing and future ideas for infrastructure.
  - Wetland protection and management actions.
  - Protection of lakeshore slopes as possible and following best management practices.
  - Climate resiliency management considerations.
  - Pathogen considerations.
  - Use of clean fill if possible.
  - Regular monitoring to inform decisions.
  - Technical and financial assistance opportunities (such as partners and grants).
  - Suggested priority activities and a timeline.
- Lang and Bartnick also pointed out that some questions remain including:
  - Who is responsible for carrying out various actions? It doesn't just have to be the public works department, as capacity is limited. The Parks Committee, volunteers, and interested organizations can help.
  - We may need to further identify our priorities and identify funding for actions.
  - Is anything missing from the plan?
What needs to change for this plan to be supported by the committee and then City Council?

Before opening the floor to the public, Committee members made the following points:

- It would be a good idea to eventually add the section of trail along Pumphouse Road to the management plan. It would be nice to make this section of the trail more utilized, as it is currently hard to find. It would be nice to connect the parks better, and to also make the trail’s path through the marina more defined.
- The map in the draft plan showing Area 6 needs to be edited so it doesn’t include the marina.
- The plan needs to allow for the mowing of the grass areas including those around the parking areas, exercise equipment, beginning of the trail, parking areas for Book Across the Bay, etc.
- For planting plans, it would be nice to come up with a couple of example plans to help guide the City.

The Committee then opened the floor to the public; motion made by Lang, second by Bartnick. Comments included the following:

- Thanking the committee for addressing the outdated plans.
- There are grants available, including from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the DNR trails aid program, to help do this work.
- Bayfield County will be updating its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and we should ensure that the City’s plans for its parks are included.
- Signage to direct people to the walking trail area would be helpful.
- The City may wish to add to the invasive plant species list as there are additional invasives in the walking trail area included a cranberry specie and a willow specie. The City needs to determine if they want to work to remove all or just certain invasive species.
- While viewing corridors are valued by some, the vegetation does help block the wind which is also helpful.
- Loss of wetlands and other vegetated areas results in more erosion and a loss of wildlife habitat, especially for birds.
- Keeping ravines vegetated will result in less erosion. Erosion compromises water quality as well as fishing opportunities.
- Existing bird inventories and vegetation surveys exist and could be incorporated as an attachment to the plan.
- Instead of lots of brush, it would be nice to establish more trees that is easier to manage around, still provides habitat, and also provides views. Some residents want to see more of the lake. However, it shouldn’t be overlooked that shrubs help provide habitat for wildlife such as birds.
- There has been confusion among residents about the recent actions of the city such as the heavy mowing of Area 2 and Area 4. People are confused and don’t understand why certain actions are being completed. Money is being spent and it is to do things that aren’t good for the lake. Clearing areas is also resulting in more invasives.
- Therefore, it is helpful to have a plan that sets goals and acts to guide the city. It isn’t about micromanaging but instead guiding.
- It is great to ask for input from citizens and the City Council.
- Linking City staff to local experts is helpful as there are things that we don’t know and they can help.
- Many citizens and other groups want to help and likely would be willing to volunteer, such as the Washburn Heritage Association and Chequamegon Audubon Society.
- The history of the area is important and it is important to share this history.

The Committee thanked the public for attending and providing input. A motion to close the floor at 6:45 pm was made by Bartnick; second by Cook.

The Committee identified next steps:
- City staff will provide edits to the draft plan to Lang and Bartnick or Janisch (who will forward to Lang and Bartnick) by September 10. Specific edits will be most helpful, rather than comments that relay actions will be too hard to implement or too expensive. Funding may exist from grants to do many of the actions.
- The draft plan will be further discussed at the September Parks Committee meeting to gather more public comment.
- If we are ready in September, the Parks Committee will recommend a version of the plan to City Council for consideration.
- Grant proposals to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program are due the November 1, 2019. Many activities in the draft plan would be a good fit for this funding program. Even if there isn’t time for City Council to review and adopt an updated management plan, perhaps the City Parks Committee can identify some actions that everyone will agree to take, and these can be written into the grant proposal so we can take advantage of this opportunity.

**Future Topics**
A couple of Parks Committee members pointed out that they will be unable to make the scheduled October meeting, so we may need to find an alternate date if we meet that month.

For the September meeting, the following topics were identified:
- Walking Trail Management Plan Update - continue discussion and move to decision if ready
- Discussion & Recommendation on Dog Park Location and Plan Details
- Updates from Public Works (this should become a standing agenda item)

**Adjournment**
Motion made by Lang to adjourn meeting at 6:57 pm, second by Bartnick. Motion approved unanimously.
To: Parks Committee Members

From: Bob Anderson, Public Works Director

Re: Family Music Park

Date: September 9, 2019

Nate Swiston approached the City with a wish to create a Family Music Park in either Area 2 or 4 along the lakeshore. This new facility would provide a location for a variety of events with a structure to allow for music and other activities.

Mr. Swiston has already provided some pre-planning and has found an electrician who has offered to provide their labor at no charge.

The Parks Committee is asked to consider this use and provide recommendations on its future development.
September 6, 2019
Washburn Family Music Park Concept
Submitted by Nate Swiston

1. Drawing is not to scale.
2. The basic concept is to slightly improve the existing property adjacent to W. Holman Lakeview Drive into a simple, usable park for the community and tourists.
3. No disruption to walking trail or tree-line buffer to the lake.
4. Add easy, off-street, angled parking.
5. Improve existing ground cover converting it to mow-able, park grass appropriate for lawn chairs, foot traffic and wheelchairs.

Additional Music Park Concept
6. Build a simple stage with permanent power for summer music offerings.
7. Offer a few picnic tables but encourage attendees to bring lawn chairs.
   a. Donated electrical labor has already been offered.
8. During the summers, offer an evening or Sunday afternoon music concert featuring local musicians and bands. 3-hour concerts? 4pm-7pm? Promoted as a relaxed, family outing as opposed to a drinking festival. These are currently happening in our surrounding communities; Bayfield, Corny, etc.
9. Bands to be paid by Chamber of Commerce and/or business donation sponsorships;
   a. Summer 2020 Ideas – offer 6 afternoons of music. $500 per band; $3000 total – Chamber to sponsor $1000? 10 businesses to donate $200 each?
10. Potential concession sales by local groups. (future)
11. Potential permanent gazebo for food/beverage sales. (future)

It seems our residents and summer tourists look for things to do in our growing community. We have many talented, local musicians and groups in the area. This would be a great use of existing space with a beautiful lake view – what Washburn is known for. No disruption to the lake shore and no additional lake access would be needed. In addition to the music concerts, this improved space would give our tourists a simple place to pull off the road and enjoy a lake view park with picnic tables and nice grass. This could also offer great additional exposure to our walking trail.
Background

Located on the Bayfield Peninsula in the Superior Coastal Plain Ecological Landscape of Wisconsin, the Washburn Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail is a unique, natural area within the City of Washburn and a place for education, quiet reflection, and exercise. The area comprises approximately 31 acres of public land and is located in northern Bayfield County, Wisconsin in Township 48N, Range 4W, Section 5 (Exhibit A). The land comprises approximately 4,000 linear feet of Lake Superior’s shoreline between Thompson’s West End Park and the Washburn Marina. An approximate one-mile non-motorized trail traverses the land. We recognize that the lakeshore and walking trail extends from the marina to Memorial Park; management actions for this area will be included at a later date.

History of the Washburn Walking Trail

The City of Washburn was platted and surveyed in 1882. Past residents believed that there was once a footpath connecting the town where many workers lived to their jobsites along the water’s edge. In 1976, a group of local residents worked together to create a natural pathway along the lakeshore, a simple, quiet retreat from the noise of humanity, where residents can enjoy nature. The City of Washburn owns the walking trail and has managed it since the 1980s. In 2001, two new bridges were built across ravines, and the trail was widened and resurfaced. Additionally, 350 native trees have been planted along the trail. The trail and its natural area continues to be maintained and improved by the City of Washburn with support from local residents, partners, and grant funding. It is an incredible resource for Washburn residents and visitors.

Management Plan Update

This updated management plan focuses on the section of the trail between Thompson’s West End Park and the Washburn Marina. It would replace the management plan and conservation plan appendix adopted by Washburn’s City Council in 2000; and the updated management plan/action plan in 2006. This updated management plan was written to improve clarity, be comprehensive in scope while also being user-friendly, and in consideration of best management practices/best science related to natural resources. It complements recommendations in the Expansion of West End Park Report written in 2015 and adopted by City Council. It builds on the direction of the past plans and on the West End Park Report.

Property Description & Current Conditions

The property includes ravines, low elevation uplands, and forested as well as shrub-scrub wetland areas. Several view corridors are located throughout the area. A diversity of forest species are found on the property, as well as diverse wildlife species including migratory birds and breeding birds (due to its close proximity to Lake Superior), turtles, deer, mink, beaver, fox, and otter as well as others.
Historically, this area was dominated by boreal forest and mixed coniferous-hardwood forest plant communities. Topographic variations prior to human settlement and wetland soil indicators in present day soils indicate that there were likely significant areas dominated by wetlands throughout the park area. Historic plant communities were black spruce swamps, boreal forests, mesic cedar forest, northern hardwood swamps, and northern forests ranging from wet to dry mesic throughout. The area also likely contained a variety of non-forested wetland communities including shore fen and emergent marsh on the coast, and emergent marsh, alder thicket, fens, northern sedge meadow and shrub carr slightly inland.

While much of the parkway is viewed as a natural area, the majority of the plant communities within the park have seen significant disturbance from past and current land use activities. Current conditions consist of (Exhibit A and Exhibit C):

- **Area 1 and Area 3** - wetland and low elevation upland areas inhabited by alder, red osier dogwood, willow, and sumac as well as a mix of native trees including tamarack, aspen, ash, and white pine, among others. Invasive plants include garden valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), non-native honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Bird’s-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), and crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), among others.

- **Ravine Area 1** - this area is inhabited by boxelder, red osier dogwood, alder, willow, and sumac, among others. Invasive plants include garden valerian, non-native honeysuckle, and common buckthorn.

- **Area 2** - previously an area dominated by red osier dogwood and alder, this area was mowed and cleared in 2018. Invasive plants are now becoming established including garden valerian and common tansy. Some native sedges still persist.

- **Ravine Area 2** - this area is inhabited by boxelder, dogwood, alder, willow, and ash, among others. Invasive plants include garden valerian, non-native honeysuckle, and common buckthorn.

- **Area 4** - previously an area dominated by red osier dogwood and alder, this area was mowed and cleared in 2018. Invasive plants are now becoming established including garden valerian and common tansy. Near the parking area, an invasive ornamental silvergrass (*Miscanthus spp.* ) is present. Some native sedges still persist. Near the lake, there are native plants including aspen, balsam fir, ash, and red osier dogwood, among others. Invasive plants include garden valerian, non-native honeysuckle, and common buckthorn.

- **Ravine Area 3** - this area is inhabited by boxelder, aspen, ash, alder, hawthorn, willow, red osier dogwood, serviceberry, and sumac, among others. Invasive plants include garden valerian, non-native honeysuckle, and common buckthorn.

- **Area 5 and Area 6** - these areas are dominated by mown turf grass on land owned by the City of Washburn and adjacent to private residences. Closer to Lake Superior and ravines, native shrubs and trees are present as well as some common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle. There is a small ravine in which vegetation is frequently removed. Near the marina, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is becoming established near the water’s edge.
Management Priorities & Activities

As the landowner, the City of Washburn (hereinafter “City”) will oversee all activities on the property. Management activities will be designed, coordinated and/or implemented to:
(a) Provide recreational and educational opportunities for the public, including citizens and visitors with physical limitations, while minimizing the impact of public use on natural resources and adjacent private properties;
(b) Preserve, restore, and enhance natural habitats for wildlife and nearby fisheries; and
(c) Maintain water quality of Lake Superior and its associated nearshore wetlands by choosing management actions that minimize erosion, runoff, and sedimentation.

Access

As resources allow, the Washburn Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail will be made accessible to citizens and visitors including those with physical limitations, such as the elderly and people with physical disabilities. If funding and resources allow, ADA accessibility may be explored for at least parts of the trail.
- Recreational Use: the property will be open to the public for non-motorized forms of recreation, including, but not limited to, walking, hiking, biking, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, swimming, picnicking, paddle sports, nature observation or study, fishing in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.
- Hours of Operation: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm
- Camping and Overnight Use: to Be Determined in the future.
- Property Boundaries: boundaries will be marked as needed, as determined by the City, through a licensed surveyor. If construction is planned near a known property boundary, surveying is advised.
- Emergency Property Closure: during times of high fire risk, severe flooding, or other events/issues where public safety is a concern, the property may be closed or admittance restricted, as determined by the City.
- Pets: pets are to be leashed at all times, except in designated areas, and the owners will be held responsible for their pet’s behavior.
- Commercial Use: no commercial advertising, distributions, solicitations or similar activities will be permitted. No commercial collection or harvesting of material or activity that results in for profit collection or harvesting of material is permitted.
- Other Restrictions: to be determined by the City.

Infrastructure

According to the Expansion of West End Park Report, infrastructure such as boardwalks, trails, and interpretive signage are excellent features to engage and educate the public on benefits of their local natural resources. Currently, several access points, infrastructure improvements, and interpretive signs exist (Exhibit C).
- Parking
  A small parking area is located at the east end of Thompson’s West End Park at the end of 6th Avenue West. An additional small parking area is located near the corner of 4th Avenue West and W. Holman Lakeview Drive.
- Trails
o Main Trail
➢ Width - as possible, the trail will be maintained at a maximum 8-foot width. Mowing to maintain this width is allowed on an annual basis. The City may consider widening the trail in the future to accommodate multiple uses.
➢ Surface type - trail is currently a packed limestone, pervious surface. The City recognizes that resurfacing may be needed in various areas in the future.
o Additional Trails - these may be designed and implemented throughout the parkway with an emphasis on long-term sustainability, minimizing the potential impacts to natural resources, and further enhancing the safe and enjoyable use by the public.

• Signage
In order to maintain the natural integrity of the area, signs along the trail will be limited to signs marking access points, historical signs, interpretive signs, and trail markers. Sign materials and colors will blend in with the natural environment.
➢ Main trailhead - signage, including a map(s), allowable/permitted uses, and other pertinent information, as determined by the City, will be posted at the main trailhead if funds are available. Signage at this location may also include information about the property’s natural resources, historical information, and partners.
➢ Interpretive signs - historical interpretive signs are posted along the trail’s length, emphasizing logging and shipping history. Additional signage, especially emphasizing natural resource information, may be placed elsewhere on the property as needed, approved by the City and if funds are available.

• Bridges
➢ Width - as possible, the bridges will be maintained at a maximum 6-foot width.
➢ Monitoring - bridges will be evaluated regularly by the City to determine the physical and functional condition of the bridge, and to identity changes in the bridge from the last time it was evaluated.

• Stairs
➢ Monitoring - stairs will be evaluated regularly by the City to determine the physical and functional condition of the stairs, and to identify changes in the stairs from the last time they were evaluated.

• Other Minor Structures
➢ Benches and picnic tables are present in several locations, and will be evaluated regularly by the City to determine their physical and functional condition.
➢ Exercise equipment - a set of exercise equipment is located at the entrance to the walking trail off of 6th Avenue West. This will be evaluated regularly by the City to determine the physical and functional condition of the equipment.
➢ Waste Containers - one trash can exists at the entrance to the walking trail off of 6th Avenue West. Additional trash cans as well as pet waste bag dispenser stations may be beneficial.

Natural Resources Management

According to the Expansion of West End Park Report, the existing habitat within the parkway represents a unique opportunity to restore habitat to the Lake Superior coastline through careful planning and implementation of restoration activities. Restoration efforts should concentrate on enhancing the existing native plant community by removing invasive species and plating native species that occur in similar communities throughout the area. The City will follow applicable
local, county, state, and federal laws as well as Best Management Practices recommended by the State of Wisconsin when conducting management activities. Work should be completed by experienced and skilled City staff and/or contractors. If volunteers are recruited, they should be given direction from skilled staff and/or contractors.

The following management activities will be implemented as funding and resources allow:

- Plantings
  Native trees, shrubs, and understory species will be planted throughout the area to create a diversity of forest types, shrub-scrub habitat areas, pollinator habitat areas. This will help protect, restore, and enhance native vegetation along Lake Superior, while providing diverse wildlife habitat as well as building climate resiliency along the lakeshore. Disturbed upland areas that will not be dedicated to other uses within the park should be planted with species representative of native plant communities most likely to successfully establish under current conditions.
  - Species selection - trees, shrubs, and other herbaceous plants native to this region of Wisconsin and of special cultural importance will be selected. A planting plan will be written by a qualified natural resource expert and reviewed by the City’s Parks Committee. Additionally, edible plants (such as raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, serviceberry, wild plum, highbush cranberry, elderberry, hazelnut, etc.) may also be a good choice for particular areas and would provide food for wildlife and visitors.
  - Timing - plants should be planted in the spring (May) ideally.
  - Tree protection - Deer protection in some form may be necessary to help some of the trees become established, especially white pine and cedar.
  - Maintenance - City staff, with the help of volunteers, will complete regular maintenance activities depending on available funding and capacity as well as need, to ensure the plantings are a success. This may include minor erosion fixes, watering the plants, reseeding bare areas, and mowing to control non-native species as well as other competitive species.
- Recommended Locations (Exhibit A)
  o Area 2 and Area 4 - in 2018, these areas were cleared of their native vegetation. Invasive plants are now becoming established, and will be removed and controlled at a minimum. If these areas will not be dedicated to other uses, they should be planted to restore them.
  o Area 5 and 6 - while view corridors are valued in these areas by owners and visitors, the lack of vegetation is causing erosion of steep and sensitive soils. Vegetation has also been removed on City property without the City’s permission. Vegetation has also been regularly removed in the small ravine, leading to increased sedimentation in Lake Superior. The City shall educate adjacent property owners about increased erosion risk due to removal of vegetation, especially in light of rising lake water levels, changing wave action, and more frequent and severe rain events. The City shall work with adjacent property owners and natural resource experts to find green infrastructure solutions that will help protect the drainages and lakeshore from increased erosion. Solutions may include permeable pavement, bioswales, rain gardens, infiltration trenches, plantings, and more effective stormwater management.
Other Areas - as identified and prioritized.

View Corridors

View Corridors - View corridors will be maintained in the existing multiple locations along the walking trail (Exhibit B and Exhibit C). At the time of the creation of this management plan, they constitute approximately 1,800 linear feet or 1/3 of the shoreline. If additional view corridors are desired, location and size will be carefully considered by the City’s Parks Committee and City Staff, in consultation with natural resource partners as needed, to evaluate erosion vulnerability and other natural resource impacts that may result due to clearing vegetation. Views of the lake are considered an integral part of the natural beauty and experience that visitors wish to enjoy when using the trails. Strategies for maintenance of the view corridors will be tailored toward minimizing the need for regular trimming or mowing in acknowledgement of the limited resources of City staff for these tasks. Mature trees will be selectively limbed to allow for viewsheds below the tree canopy level without removing valued mature hardwood and conifer trees. View corridors may be selectively planted (using appropriate species and spacing) to encourage plant species that contribute to slope stabilization while reaching a lower mature height. Cutting and trimming should be limited in scope so as to encourage low growth. If vegetation is cut, it is recommended that it will not be cut below 4-6” in height and no root disturbance will occur during viewshed maintenance activities.

Invasive Plant Removal/Control

Invasive plant species have multiple negative impacts. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, some industries affected negatively by invasive species include sport and commercial fishing, forestry, agriculture, and raw water users including power companies, industrial water users, and municipal water plants. The Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing industry, valued at almost $4.5 billion and supporting 81,000 jobs, is at risk due to the growing numbers of invasive species present in its waters. Invasive shrubs such as non-native buckthorns and honeysuckles prevent regeneration of young trees, causing a long term but very serious impact on forestry in Wisconsin; in Wisconsin alone, 2015 spending on invasive species totaled approximately $8.4 million. According to the US Forest Service, invasive species have contributed to the decline of 42% of endangered and threatened species in the U.S. Invasive plants compete directly with native species for moisture, sunlight, nutrients, and space and decrease plant diversity. Additionally, the establishment and spread of invasive species can degrade wildlife habitat and decrease recreation opportunities. By addressing the invasive plant species along the parkway, the City will help protect and enhance native plants and wildlife habitat as well as set an example for residents and other communities.

Inventory and Monitoring: The parkway area will be annually monitored for the presence and density of invasive plants, either by City staff or by volunteers familiar with invasive plant identification. By doing this, an inventory will be created and areas will be more easily prioritized for removal and control activities. As of 2018, the more prolific invasive species include common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), non-native honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), garden valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).
➢ Removal/Control: As funding and resources allow, invasive plants will be treated by following Best Management Practices for the State of Wisconsin. This includes addressing at minimum:
   o Garden valerian - this is a NR40 listed species that is rapidly spreading in the northern counties of Wisconsin. Garden valerian will be mowed each year before it goes to seed. If it is mowed after it has gone to seed, mowing equipment will be cleaned very well before being used in other areas.
   o Buckthorn and honeysuckle - if cutting of buckthorn or honeysuckle is done, it will be done in late fall and stumps treated following Best Management Practices for the State of Wisconsin. Trimming/mowing will not be done without proper stump treatment.
   o Silvergrass - as mentioned above, this is an ornamental grass that is growing near the parking area of Area 4. Silvergrass should be removed following Best Management Practices for the State of Wisconsin or at least mowed each year before it goes to seed. If it is mowed after it has gone to seed, mowing equipment will be cleaned very well before being used in other areas.

➢ Maintenance and Restoration: Following removal/control activities, the areas will be evaluated. New infestations will be monitored and treated, as needed and funding allows. Once removed and controlled, the areas will be planted with native plants to prevent reinvasion in the future (see Plantings section above).

• Mowing, Cutting, and Trimming
  ➢ Mowing will only be used to do the following:
    1. Maintain the walking trail width at no more than eight feet in width on either side which will help facilitate multiple recreational uses and improve safety. As mentioned above, the City may consider widening the trail in the future to accommodate multiple uses.
    2. Maintain existing lawn areas such as those located around the exercise equipment, infrastructure such as picnic tables/benches/signage, and parking areas.
    3. Control invasive species.
    4. Restore the natural successional components of a forest;
    5. Create or promote suitable habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species; and/or
    6. Maintain or promote ecologically important or valuable habitat components that will/would otherwise succumb to natural succession/conversion.

If invasive species are present, mowing will be timed in accordance to the phenology of invasive plants (i.e. completed before plants produce seeds). If mowing occurs after invasive plants have seeded, equipment will be cleaned. If invasive plants are mixed in with native plants, City staff or volunteers will strive to adjust their mowing heights to leave as much vegetative growth on native species as possible (i.e. they will not be mowed down to the ground), and to minimize impacts to wildlife species using these areas.
If invasive species are not present in an area to be mowed, mowing activities will be timed to avoid disturbing the nesting season for birds. This means no mowing will be done between May 1 - August 1. For mowing related to restoration, creation/promotion of suitable habitat, and/or to maintain or promote habitat components, an action plan will be written by a qualified natural resource expert and reviewed by the City’s Parks Committee before implementing mowing activities related to these activities.

Further, there will be no mowing in the ravines, or along the lakeshore banks or slopes in an effort to prevent erosion and promote bank stabilization, and to protect water quality and nearshore habitats of Lake Superior. The only exception is where there is an overlook bench or picnic area at the top of a slope in a view corridor (Exhibit C).

➢ Cutting/Trimming will only be used to:
  
  o Maintain view corridors along the pathway and near overlook benches. Maintaining these areas will allow for community enjoyment of Lake Superior as an integral part of the natural beauty of the walking trail. Currently, there is approximately 1,800 linear feet of view corridors throughout the trail area (approximately 1/3 of the shoreline of the parkway) (Exhibit B). To minimize erosion, trees and shrubs will be selectively limbed as needed and understory vegetation left in place to hold the soil.
  o If additional view corridors are desired, location and size will be carefully considered by the City’s Parks Committee and City Staff, in consultation with natural resource partners as needed, to evaluate erosion vulnerability and other natural resource impacts.
  o Maintain lake views in front of the condo/business area (Area 5 and 6) while protecting the shoreline and slopes. To accomplish this, trees and shrubs on banks and slopes may be selectively limbed as needed but vegetation left in place to hold the soil.

• Wetland Protection and Management
  Wetland areas will be protected and managed appropriately in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, leaving native vegetation in place to slow-the-flow of water across the landscape, reduce erosion rates and protect the water quality of Lake Superior, and provide wildlife habitat. The City may also desire to work with a natural resource partner(s) to identify opportunities for restoration and enhancement. If view corridors are a concern, wetland vegetation will be thinned and/or limbed appropriately rather than mowing the entire area. By minimizing disturbance, the City will help prevent invasive plants from establishing in these areas and will continue to provide important wildlife habitat.

• Lakeshore & Slope Protection
  Several slopes within the parkway and adjacent to Lake Superior are steep in nature and contain sensitive soils. Even a stable looking slope is just marginally stable and any slight land or vegetation disturbance can swing the slope to being unstable. Once slope failure begins, it is very difficult and expensive to repair.

  The relative stability of a slope is related to many factors. One of the most important slope failure factors is the presence of water, both on top of the slope and within layers
which make up the slope (shallow groundwater and water bearing sediment layers). Other than expensive engineering methods to collect and/or redirect the water or best management practices to redirect the water away from the slope, vegetation is one of the best methods for slope water control. Vegetation helps strengthen the slope by binding soil particles within its roots, and by transpiring water from their leaves which also removes slope water. The best types of vegetation to use for slope stability are native grasses and shrubs. Because shrubs, such as willows, alders, and dogwoods, tolerate cutting and pruning, they can be a good choice in view corridors. Additionally, some species can be established through groups of cuttings or individual which are typically less expensive.

If more engineered solutions are needed along the shoreline, the City will continue to consult appropriate county, state, and federal agencies as shoreline restoration activities are planned and implemented, as it has done in the past.

- Other Management Considerations
  - Pathogens - Pathogens to be aware of include the Emerald ash borer, Oak wilt, and Hemlock woolly adelgid as well others.
  - Source of fill - If fill is needed for a project, the City will strive to source clean fill meaning that all materials in the fill dirt are natural and do not contain any additive or dangerous materials such as refuse, metal, glass, invasive plant fragments or seeds, etc. This is in line with best management practices.

**Monitoring**

Monitoring activities are a proven, reliable system for detecting any management and/or environmental issues that require attention and/or action. The management plan will be reviewed annually by the City’s Parks Committee. The property will be regularly monitored by the City’s Public Works Department or the City’s Parks Committee to evaluate, among other things, the following:

- Presence of trash or similar debris specifically along walking trail, parking areas, beaches, and ravines. Monitoring will occur on a regular basis, more frequently during periods of high use. Monitoring levels will be adjusted accordingly, based primarily on the season and level or intensity of public use.
- Condition of the trail and parking areas. Additional monitoring and/or maintenance may be required depending on observations. Repairs will be made as needed, as funding allows, as determined by the City.
- Condition of infrastructure, including interpretive signs, benches, and stairs, or other similar items. Damaged items/objects will be replaced as needed, as funding allows, as determined by the City.
- Hazard trees - the presence of hazard trees along and/or near any designated trail, trailhead, parking area or similar feature or in areas that receive regular public use, particularly those that pose an immediate or future safety concern. All identified hazard trees will be addressed based on the level of threat, as determined by City staff.
- Invasive plant species - presence and density
- Soil compaction and erosion - particularly off the designated trails, along the lakeshore and ravines, or within other sensitive areas. Additional mitigation efforts and/or signs
may need to be adopted if public use is causing, or has potential to cause, significant degradation to the landscape, as determined by the City.

- Progress and effectiveness of restoration efforts, as opportunities arise and actions are implemented.

**Implementing this Plan**

The City’s Parks Committee recognizes that the ability for the City to implement this plan is funding and resource dependent. Additionally, it recognizes that the size of City staff is small, and not all City staff may have the experience or expertise to implement each activity. To implement this plan, the City should draw on experience and expertise from local and area natural resource agencies, organizations, and individuals for technical assistance. These groups may also be able to recommend funding resources to the City. Many natural resource professionals live in and near the City, and they are passionate about Washburn’s Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail. The following agencies and organizations, among others, may be of assistance:

- USFS Washburn Ranger District - wildlife biologists, foresters, planners, etc.
- USFWS Ashland office - wildlife biologists, fish biologists, planners, etc.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - planning assistance
- Bayfield County - land and water conservation department, planning and zoning department, land records department, and forestry and parks department, as well as other
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - wildlife biologists, stormwater and water quality experts, and foresters, etc.
- University of Wisconsin Extension Service - planning assistance
- University of Wisconsin Sea Grant - coastal assessment and engineering assistance
- Northland College - professors and students in the natural resources department
- Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Chequamegon Audubon Society

Additionally, other municipalities in the Chequamegon Bay area may be able to offer experience and expertise, including the City of Ashland and the City of Bayfield.

**Review and Revision of Management Plan**

The City of Washburn’s Public Works Department, with the help of the City’s Parks Committee, will oversee the property and assess progress toward the management plan objectives. Any citizen or city employee may suggest a revision to the Washburn Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail Maintenance Plan, which the Parks Committee will review. If a proposed revision is recommended by the Committee, it will be brought before City Council. If approved, it will be incorporated into the plan, and the new Management Plan will be dated and noted as a revision.
## Proposed Timeline of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mow garden valerian and silvergrass to control spread</td>
<td>Each summer before it seeds (July)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory invasive species and develop a plan for control/removal and on-going maintenance</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create informational sign and kiosk to be placed at entrance along 6th Avenue West</td>
<td>2020-2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restore Area 2 and Area 4 with native plants</td>
<td>2020-2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control invasive species (buckthorn and honeysuckle)</td>
<td>Each fall (October-November is ideal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory condition of current infrastructure and develop a plan for improvements</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of infrastructure, trash/debris/hazard trees, and invasive species presence and density</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Maps and Data
- Exhibit A: Property Map
- Exhibit B: View Corridor Map
- Exhibit C: Photopoint Map of existing infrastructure and habitat conditions
- Exhibit D: Table of Photopoints
- Exhibit E: Photos of existing infrastructure and habitat conditions
Exhibit A
Property Map
Still need to adjust boundary to exclude marina
Exhibit B
View Corridor Map
Still need to adjust boundary to exclude marina
Exhibit C
Photopoint Map of existing infrastructure and habitat conditions
Still need to adjust boundary to exclude marina

Washburn Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail
City of Washburn, WI
Bayfield County
Location of Infrastructure and Current Conditions

August 2019
### Exhibit D
Table of Photopoint Locations

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<tr>
<th>Photo #</th>
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Exhibit E
Photos of existing infrastructure and habitat conditions