

**Village of Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County, Wisconsin
Amendment to the Municipal Code**

**Chapter 23 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Lake Nebagamon entitled
“Outdoor Recreational Plan” is hereby adopted to provide as follows:**

CHAPTER 23

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

(AMENDED 1988, 1996, 2014, 2020, 2026)

§23.01 RECREATION NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

§23.02 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

§23.03 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

§23.04 ADOPTION OF THE LAKE NEBAGAMON OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

§23.01 RECREATION NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The village has approximately 23 acres of park and recreation areas, not including the land on which the hiking trail is located, owned by Douglas County. This total is almost eight acres more than the Village had in 1988 and includes the more than seven acres added to Finell Park two years ago.

Using the standard discussed previously, 12 acres of developed parks and open space per 1,000 persons, the existing 23 acres should be sufficient for the needs of the residents of the Village. Any land added in future would be to enhance existing facilities or for specialized uses, such as the addition to Finell Park for another ball field and *nature area*.

The existing recreation land devoted to Community Parks is in excess of the ideal set earlier in this report. When the nature of the Village is considered, however, this is not extraordinary. A rural, lake oriented community has less need for neighborhood parks because of the recreational aspect of most residential sites located on or near the lake. There is a great need for community wide parks where activities are centered on larger groups of participants and spectators. It is also in the best interest of the community as a whole to have recreation areas which draw visitors and their money to the Village.

Existing Facilities and Recommendations –

A. Finell Park

This park is the largest in the Village and is the site of the Village’s two regulation sized ball fields, used by adult, youth and school leagues. It also has a playground and two tennis courts. It is the main site of the athletic events for the entire village and much of the region with a lighted pavilion, dugouts and bleachers. Repairs and improvements have been made to the structures and the parking lot. The remainder will be left as a wildlife – nature walk area. The bathroom facilities have been upgraded with newer toilets. The tennis court has dual use as it has been striped for pickle ball. **New signage installed in 2026, designating the courts to be both tennis and pickleball, keeping recognition of the**

Williamson Family's donation of the area creation. Playground equipment previously located at the Beach was moved to this location in 2024. A Gaga Ball Pit is anticipated in the summer of 2026 in partnership with the area Girl Scout Troop. New picnic tables were constructed in 2026 with donated materials.

B. Ravine Park (formerly Village Park)

The second largest village park is located off the corner of Ravine Park Drive and Camp Nebagamon Drive and is bisected by County Road B. The heavily wooded area on the south side of the highway is equipped with picnic tables and BBQ grills, and playground equipment has been added. The bathrooms have flush toilets and plumbed sinks. 6 electric sites were installed with the assistance of ARPA funds in 2023 while maintaining 4 non-electric sites.

The ice skating rink east of the campground has a small warming house. The rink is lighted for night use as well as daytime skating. The public works department filled the area mid-rink in 2025 that was previously causing issues. Dahlberg Light and Power installed a new light in 2025 to provide better night time skating lighting.

Basketball and a pavilion were added to the park area on the north side of the highway and are used heavily by older children.

Recommendations:

1. Signage is needed to direct visitors to the park and rink.
2. Arrange for more advertising on social media to draw in more visitors.

C. Jefferson Memorial Park (Auditorium, Public Beach & Boat Dock)

The auditorium is a unique log structure built in 1936 by Works Progress Administration Labor and is reminiscent of the Village's logging camp origin. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the only two remaining representatives of the Village's culture and history. It is the cornerstone of the Village's central business district and is also the site of the municipal and police offices, and most of the indoor social, recreational and entertainment programs. It includes a large auditorium/ballroom, a proscenium stage, storage rooms and a kitchen.

The swimming beach is used heavily during the summer by both residents and visitors. It includes a picnic area and pavilion, new playground equipment (2024), and a memorial flag and flower area. The park is named for Thomas Jefferson.

In 2012 a rain garden was developed. The Garden Club assisted with planting new plants to the East of the walking bridge. Air conditioning was installed into the auditorium in 2013.

Recommendations:

1. Handicap Accessible parking spots nearest the beach area need to be incorporated.
2. Railings or a ramp to allow for accessibility to the beach sand bar area.

D. Coolidge Memorial Park

The only amenity in this park presently is a sign displaying the Coolidge name.

Recommendations: none

E. Hwy B Mini Park

This attractive area was created by volunteers and is highlighted by an original mural created by renowned artist Tony Yaworski, a resident of the Village. It has a “welcome” sign and makes an excellent impression on visitors and motorists traveling on the main highway through the Village. A new welcome sign was constructed in 2021 by the Northwestern High School Tiger Manufacturing group, reflecting the raft/beach area and Honeymoon Point Lighthouse. The public works department constructed a frame and the garden club landscaped the base area.

Recommendations: None

F. Fitch Avenue Mini Park

This new park provides an excellent lake viewing area for residents of the nearby senior citizens’ apartments and is mowed regularly by the Public Works Department. Jim and Nancy Smith generously donated a viewing porch swing in 2021.

Recommendations:

- 1) Because the area is primarily for the use of the senior citizens, they should be encouraged to add some plots of flowers and maintain the area. This would not only provide some color to the area, but would also give the seniors some physical activity which would be therapeutic.

G. Boat Launch & Fishing Dock

The launch pad itself was recently improved and it is more accessible to a variety of watercraft. Parking is limited. The Boat Launch and Fishing Dock area were redone in 2024 with an extended solid concrete pad, replacing the previously placed planks that heaved in the midst of the winter season. A stormwater management project was concluded in 2025 which also incorporated a handicap parking space and cleaner designation of the porta potty placed in the summer. Additional parking for the those utilizing the boat ramp is available above Ravine Park Drive on Camp Nebagamon Drive.

H. Cleary Park

One acre space planned for a future walking trail.

Recommendations:

1. **The potential for a dog park in this area will be researched. (2026)**

§23.02 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a list of general recommendations which the Village of Lake Nebagamon may also wish to implement. Some have already been mentioned in this report, but are elaborated upon here. Additional recommendations not previously presented are also listed.

- 1) Tri-county Recreational Trail A decisive and aggressive plan should be made immediately for connecting the Village to the nearby Tri-county Recreational Trail, which runs from Superior to Ashland, and to the newly planned Wild Rivers Trail, which will run from Superior to Spooner along a former railroad right of way. This is in high demand, but strong leadership is needed to make these a reality. Any winter recreational use depends on these trails being connected to the Village.
- 2) Maintenance The Village must work out a regular schedule for maintenance, cleaning, and garbage pick-up.
- 3) Signage The Village should complete a Village-wide signage plan to make sure all areas are designated and have directional signs from the main highways.
- 4) Recreational Development Map Undeveloped areas of the Village should be examined by the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Planning & Zoning Commission and an area map should be created pinpointing areas which would make good locations for future parks and recreation. This would facilitate:
- 5) Park Dedication Residential sub-dividers should be asked to dedicate a portion of their land for permanent parks and/or open space. Neighborhood parks should be acquired in this manner in newly developed areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to the community for open space or recreational use.
- 6) Private Development Areas of the Village should be examined to determine sites which lend themselves to the development of privately owned recreation facilities, such as water parks and recreational vehicle campgrounds.
- 7) Service Group, Senior Citizen & Neighborhood Involvement Area service groups, senior citizens and neighbors should be encouraged to take a more active role in planning recreational activities and in park development and improvements. These should also include development of competitive sports activities and beautification projects. Continued activities of this type could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities and supplement limited municipal funding resources providing volunteer planners and laborers.
- 8) Aid Programs Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs which are designed to assist communities in meeting recreational needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs.
- 9) Community Beautification and Clean-Up All inhabitants and property owners in a community should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. A rewarding program includes: well-maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped areas, public open space and parks are principal contributors to community beautification.

- 10) Winter Activities Since the area enjoys a long and beautiful winter, more emphasis should be placed on developing free or low-cost winter recreational activities. The existing skating rink should be maintained with more care and prepared for more effective use. At present, maintenance is often slipshod and sporadic with little attention paid to use, which can be anticipated for weekends and the winter vacation times for school children.
- 11) Future Planning At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisals of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws and public programs.
- 12) Community officials should develop five year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subjected to annual review. In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.
- 13) Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into these category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross-country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, backpacking, and canoeing. Too often, community and school recreation facilities are oriented to games important only to the most athletically inclined rather than to recreational opportunities for less athletically inclined men and women. In designing recreation areas, recreational needs of all members of the community should be taken into account. Many schools have successfully instituted instructional programs aimed at teaching recreational activities people can participate in for a lifetime rather than just during their youth.
- 14) Historic Sites can be rewarding additions to any community recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for their study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for Local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the Douglas County Historical Society.
- 15) The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of previous recommendations. Although it is likely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

§23.03 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Recognizing that recreation is essential to the welfare and happiness of their citizens of a community, officials must be prepared to provide the leadership necessary to implement a decisive plan for that recreation which will benefit all facets of the community. It is not sufficient to simply adopt a plan without implementation. It is imperative that those in positions of leadership establish a priority plan of action and follow it.

Too often, recreation is considered less important than other community programs. In the case of

Lake Nebagamon, a bedroom community to the twin ports metropolitan area of Duluth and Superior, recreation is one of the prime reasons its citizens have chosen to live here. Almost all of the residential property is located within three to four blocks of the lake and much of the recreation, summer and winter, is related to the lake.

People desire and need recreational outlets, and it is the partial responsibility of community government to see that they are provided.

Lake Nebagamon has some excellent recreation facilities that would benefit greatly from implementation of some or all of the improvements recommended in this plan. Financing and priorities have also been discussed and facilitates that would be absolutely costless to the local taxpayer are probably going to be difficult to obtain. Adoption of this plan, however, will qualify the Village of Lake Nebagamon for a number of federal and state cost sharing programs available to communities.

By adopting the enclosed resolution, the Village Board is applying for certification of the plan by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Planning and Bureau of Aid Programs, and pledges to take whatever steps necessary to implement to plan and provide residents, property owners and visitors with the best possible parks and recreation program.

§23.04 ADOPTION OF THE LAKE NEBAGAMON OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake Nebagamon has developed a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, this plan outlines foreseeable outdoor recreation facility needs of Lake Nebagamon that can be adequately maintained; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Lake Nebagamon Board of Trustees hereby formally adopts the Lake Nebagamon Outdoor Recreation Plan as the official policy statement for the development of outdoor recreation programs and facilities in Lake Nebagamon.

Adopted this 28th day of May, 1996.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Lake Nebagamon Village Board of Trustees at a legal meeting held on the 28th day of May, 1996.

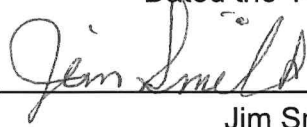
Authorized Signature Anthony R. Coletta
Title Village President

Revised July 2014
Revised May 2020
Revised April 2026

This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and publication:

Dated the 14th day of April, 2026

BY:



Jim Smith, Village President

ATTEST:



Daisha Nolan, Village Clerk/Administrator

Adopted:

4/14/2026

Notice Published:

4/15/2026

