**BLACK BEACH MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND**

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

**JUNE 1ST, 2020**

**200 WEST LAKEVIEW DRIVE, SILVER BAY, MN 55614**

[**WWW.BLACKBEACHCAMPGROUND.COM**](http://WWW.BLACKBEACHCAMPGROUND.COM)

**HISTORY:**

Since the mid 80’s, the desire for a campground in Silver Bay was discussed within the community. The ideal location was somewhere near Lake Superior. Unfortunately, Silver Bay did not have any legal access to the lake as the entire shoreline was owned by the mining company. Throughout the years, the City tried to obtain access, without prevail, and looked at other options for a location of a campground such as the rec field by the city tennis courts. In 2013, the mining company took steps to stop the illegal trespassing onto their property; however, it became apparent the importance of the black beach area to our citizens and tourists. The City met with the representatives from Northshore Mining and the State of MN-Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to see what it would take for the City to obtain legal access to the property for the purpose of a public beach. The mining company recognized the importance to the community and the potential it would bring for growth. They authorized moving forward with co-leasing the property to both the State of MN-DNR and the City of Silver Bay. After multiple meetings and many months of legal review, the City received the official signed document in October 2014 of a long-term lease allowing legal access for a public beach. The park opened Memorial Day weekend, May 2015. The value of the lease, per Lake County Auditor, was $982,000.

After the City obtained the lease, it changed its focus back to property they owned in the business park instead of the rec center site. The City worked with CR-BPS to create a conceptual plan in order to seek funding for the development. Funding from IRRRB helped the City put the conceptual plans together. By June 2016, the City was submitting application to the State for Bonding Dollars; however, the project was not funded and thus the City resubmitted application in 2018. The City continued to lobby at the Capital and made presentations on bonding tours to both the House and Senate Capital Investment Committee’s. In 2019, the city was awarded $1,765,000 from the State Legislature for the construction of the campground. This would not have happened without the support of our local Legislators, Senator Tom Bakk, and Representative Rob Ecklund, who authored the necessary bills and negotiated on our community’s behalf. We also thank other Senators and Representatives who signed on to the bills presented such as Senator David Tomassoni, Representative Bob Dettmer, and former Representatives Jason Metsa and Erin Murphy.

Once the City secured funding from the Legislature, the City sought additional funds for construction and were successful in obtaining $500,000 from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB). Furthermore, the Minnesota Power Foundation donated $20,000 for the playground, and the City committed the remaining expense of $350,000.

Once the funding was fully secured, the City began final engineering of the campground. Bolton & Menk was the hired City Engineering Firm and CR-BPS was the architectural firm. They took the lead to create the designs, bid the project, and work with the contractors to complete the project. In addition, the City created a Campground Committee to work with the engineers to create the needs of the campground. The majority of the committee members were avid campers and shared experience from other campgrounds.

The campground was built in two phases – 1. Site Development, and 2. Buildings. The project began in 2019 with the first phase awarded to TNT Constructors, after public bidding. The site development work included items such as excavation, installation of utilities, playground, planting of trees and shrubs, and the overall vegetation. Fourstar Construction was awarded the second phase which was constructing an energy efficient building that met B3 requirements. The City contracted separately the lavatory vaults, picnic tables, and fire rings.

Megan Timm and Jordyn Allen created the website, the campground logo, and identified the reservation software, Campspot. You can check out this site at [www.blackbeachcampground.com](http://www.blackbeachcampground.com).

Today, we have a 49-site municipal campground known as Black Beach Campground. All sites contain electricity; however, 34 sites have water, sewer, and the additional 50-amp electrical service. We have started taking reservations and have seen encouraging results with 100% occupancy the first weekend! We have a few things to finish up on the campground like getting the turf established and changing out a few trees, but hope everything is ready for the June 25th first night of reserved camping.

Our goal now is to make sure we operate the campground successfully so that those visiting the North Shore have an enjoyable experience here in Silver Bay.

**RECOGNITIONS**

This project would not be completed without the support of so many. The City received almost 90% in funding for this project. This list is long, and although we know there are many more people that had shown support for the project, the businesses and individuals listed below have had key impact on the completion of this project.

**NORTHSHORE MINING:** Former General Manager Ed LaTendresse, Sandy Karnowski, Beau Johnson, and Paul Carlson. – they provided the legal access to the lake for a public beach to benefit the citizens and tourists of the North Shore. It provided the attraction for our campground.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA:**  Senator Tom Bakk and Representative Rob Ecklund who authored the bills to bring forth the funding for this project. They have been champions of our community. We also recognize all other Senators and Representatives who supported these bills including, but not limited to Senator Dave Tomassoni, the late David Dill, Representative Bob Dettmer, former representatives, Jason Metsa and Erin Murphy. The Legislature awarded $1,765,000 in bonding grant dollars to cover the sitework and building of the project.

**IRRRB:** Senators and Representatives of the Board, Commissioner Mark Phillips, Assistant Commissioner and Former Representative, Jason Metsa, and staff member Chris Ismil. - $500,000 was received in grant dollars to cover the sitework and building of the project.

**MN POWER FOUNDATION:** Foundation Members, Aimee Curtis, and Alison Paulseth-Bautch - $20,000 was received in grant dollars to cover the expense of the Playground.

**MN-DNR:** Kathy Lewis and Peter Hark – who were instrumental in getting the co-lease completed for the black beach park land with the mining company.

**SILVER BAY CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Scott Johnson, Councilors Richard DeRosier, Shane Hoff, Dustin Goutermont, Former Mayor Joanne Johnson and Former Councilor Dave Gustafson. – those who provided support for the project from approving the co-leasing of the land, to those who lobbied for the funding, and approved the construction of the project. We also recognize Councilor Carlene Perfetto who sat through many meetings and attended capital lobbying efforts.

**SILVER BAY ATTORNEY:** Tim Costley and retired attorney, Gerald “Pete” Morris – who reviewed all of the legal documents for the city from co-leasing the land through construction.

**SILVER BAY STAFF:**  City Administrator Lana Fralich, Street Superintendent Swede Larson, retired Parks and Recreation Director Mike Guzzo, Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Carpenter, and Utilities Superintendent Mike Miller – key staff who did project coordination, grant writing, financial planning, operational planning, and day to day construction review.

**SILVER BAY CAMPGROUND COMMITTEE:** Shane Hoff, Dustin Goutermont, Lana Fralich, Swede Larson, Bryan Carpenter, Mike Guzzo, Mike Miller, Larry Carter, Donny Thompson, and Gary Thompson – team who helped create the layout, design review, bid reviews, and operations of the campground.

**SILVER BAY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION,** **AND BUSINESS PARK BOARD:** The members of these boards were part of the approval process and supporters of the project:

EDA Members: Wade LeBlanc, Richard DeRosier, Shane Hoff, Alis Stevens, Nelson French

Parks and Recreation Board: Steve VanHouse, Shane Hoff, Carol Youngberg, Nate Stadler, Traci Tiboni, and Jenny Goutermont

Planning and Zoning Board: Steve VanHouse, Mayor Scott Johnson, Richard DeRosier, Mike

Johnson, and Nelson French.

Gary Thompson – Zoning Administrator, Jim Rich – Building Official

Business Park Board: Mayor Scott Johnson, Dustin Goutermont, Seth Thun, Alis Stevens, Mike Johnson

**LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**  Rick Goutermont, Pete Walsh, and the rest of the Lake County Board – supported the project by lobbying at the Capitol and supporting the gravel expenses of the project.

**BOLTON & MENK ENGINEERING FIRM:** Mark Kasma, City Engineer Joe Rhein, Wayne Johnson, Eric Seaberg, and Joel Odens – the engineering firm who designed the site layout, infrastructure, bid documents, bidding, construction management, and closeout of the project.

**CR-BPS ARCHITECTURAL FIRM:** Nancy Schultz, Sean Meyers, and Jim Larson – the architectural firm who designed the office and shower building, prepared the bid documents, coordinated bidding, construction management, and closeout of the project.

**TNT CONSTRUCTION:** Shane Feltus, Dan Schmidt, and all the workers – who constructed the sitework of the project which included the campsite excavation, utilities, landscaping, trails, concrete, and asphalt work.

**FOURSTAR CONSTRUCTION:** Craig Johnson, Brad Tyman, Greg Pierce, and all the workers – who constructed phase 2 of the project which included the office & showers to meet energy efficiency requirements.

**HUFFCUT:** Constructed the vault toilets

**MIDWEST PLAYSCAPES:** Provided the picnic tables, fire rings, and trash receptacles.

**WEBSITE/LOGO/SOFTWARE:** Megan Timm and Jordyn Allen – created the website, designed the logo, and identified the reservation software, Campspot. Thanks to Lindsey Klemmer for her daily administration of the site and software.

**LOBBYISTS:** Mitch Bergren, from the Jacobson Law Group, and Gary Cerkvenik, RAMS Lobbyist – who were our eyes and ears through the entire legislative session.

Special thanks to the Northshore Adventure Park Owners, Phil Huston and Alice Tibbets, who spent time lobbying with the City during Capitol Days in support of this project.

**SILVER BAY COMMUNITY:** Last but not least, the entire Silver Bay community who participated in surveys, steering committee members, or those who simply voiced support – you provided the direction and guidance through the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The plan identified the development of a campground as an important project to our community. The Council listened to your request and made the decisions to help this project come to fruition. We thank you for your continued support.

**VISITORS:** We hope you all enjoy your stay here in Silver Bay. We welcome you. Thank you for your patience while we continue to grow Black Beach Park, Black Beach Campground, and the City of Silver Bay in an effort to make this area your future destination of choice.

**CONGRATULATIONS SILVER BAY!**