

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. A large, irregularly shaped area in the center-right is highlighted with a yellow semi-transparent overlay and a thick orange border. This highlighted area contains a grassy field, a paved path, and some structures. To the left of this area is a residential street with several houses and parked cars. To the right is a dark, possibly wooded or undeveloped area. The text 'Bayshore Park Renovations' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Bayshore Park Renovations

Burt Township - Public Hearing
February 10, 2023

The Gem of Grand Marais



View of Grand Marais Harbor from Bayshore Park beach, Fall 2022

Bayshore Park – existing site



View of Bayshore Park from Grand Marais Avenue, Fall 2021

Why are we doing this?

- **Maintenance improvements:**
 - **Public bath house**
 - **Hillside stairs**
 - **Parking lot**
- ADA accessibility problems
- Parking pressure on bay hill
- Views, dust, safety, congestion



Photo by Burt Township



Photo by Burt Township



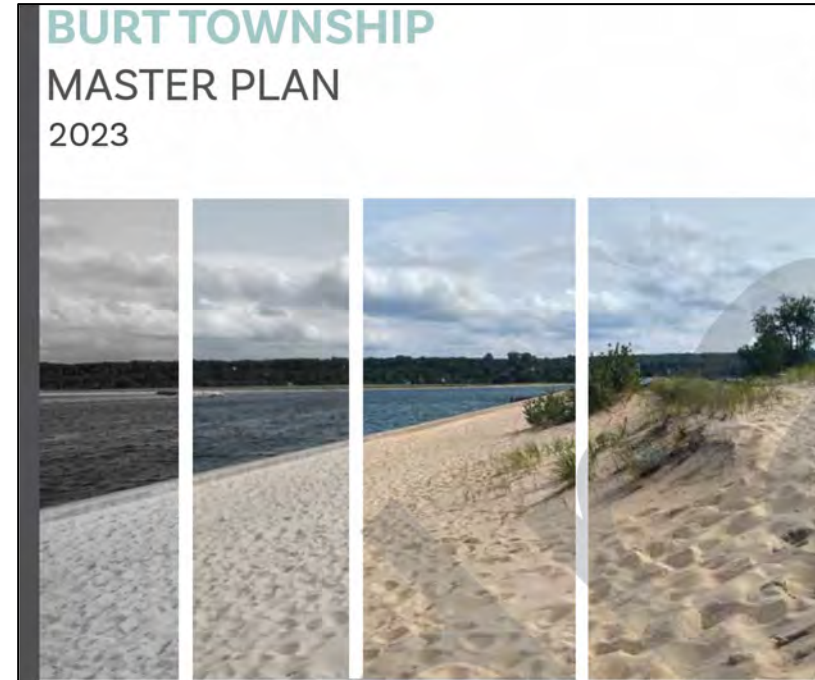
Photo by E. Cormier

Why are we doing this?



Public priority in the 2021-2025 Recreation Plan

- Planning Commission is tasked with implementing Bayshore Park updates as part of its 5-year project list



Public feedback in 2022-2023 Master Plan & Survey

- Preserve view of the Bay and access to the Bay



Public Priority – Recreation Plan

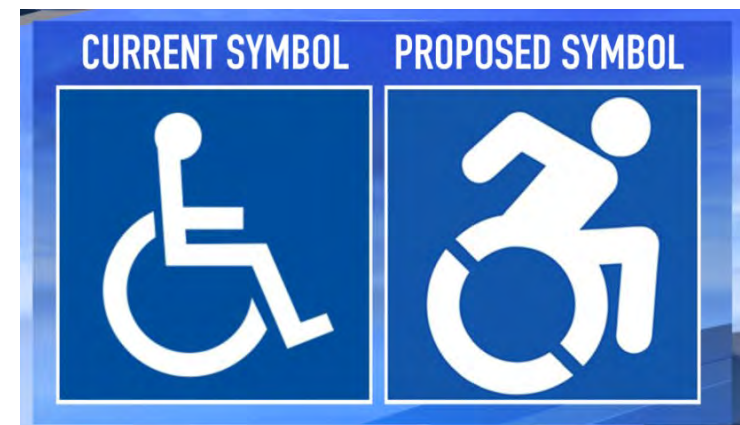
8.0 ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is an implementation schedule for the Planning Commission and the Township Board over the next five years. Projects included in the Action Plan were determined by the Burt Township recreation survey results, goals and objectives in chapter 6, and the Township's annual maintenance schedule. The projects are also identified as economic development advantages to the community, quality of life for the residents, and many projects fulfill both categories' intent.

The Burt Township Planning Commission is committed to the implementation of the recreation plan's goals, objectives, and action plan and will submit an annual report to the Burt Township Board at the end of each fiscal year. The annual report will detail actions the Planning Commission has taken that directly relate to specific projects in the plan and actions that are intended to further the goals and objectives of the plan.

Bayshore Park Overlook Platforms- Picnic Tables and benches

- Provide accessible parking, marked by the international symbol
- Provide accessible pathways to picnic tables and select picnic tables that are designed for accessibility





Public Priority – Recreation Plan

Bayshore Park - Accessibility Score of 4

Located in the town center of Grand Marais, this 5-acre park is the gem of the community with open access to a beautiful horseshoe swimming beach on Lake Superior where the water is calmed by the natural bay. Kayakers also appreciate the more protected waters in the bay. Bayshore Park is where Township residents and visitors gather all summer long and host celebrations for the 4th of July, Memorial Day, and other events throughout the year. The park also includes a playground, a volleyball court, restrooms, a bathhouse, and a pavilion/bandstand.

Bicycle Pathway and Walkway

This pathway begins on Lake Street and goes to Coast Guard Point.

Hiawatha Water Trail

This is a 120-mile kayaking pathway along Lake Superior from Grand Marais to Big Bay. Kayakers can enter the water from the Grand Marais Boat ramp.

North Country Trail

This multi-use, non-motorized trail extends over 4,600 miles from North Dakota to Vermont. In Alger County, the trail stretches from the Big Two-Hearted River's mouth to the Pictured Rocks National Shoreline.

Walkability in Grand Marais Town Center

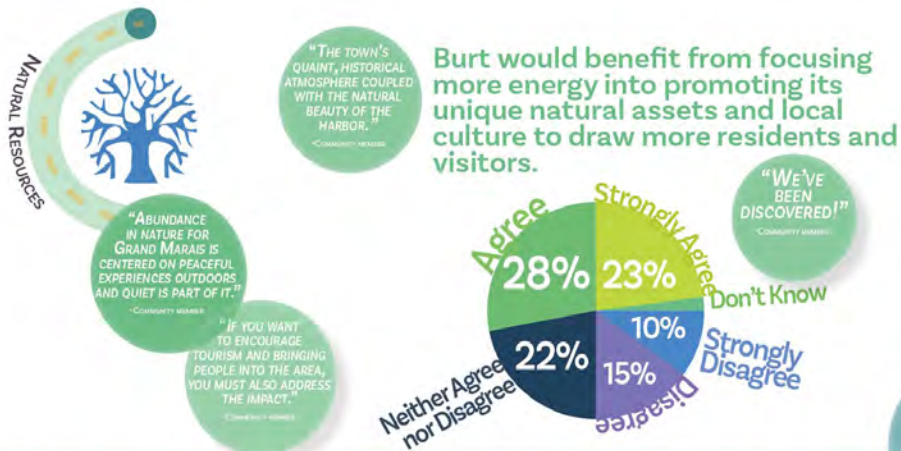
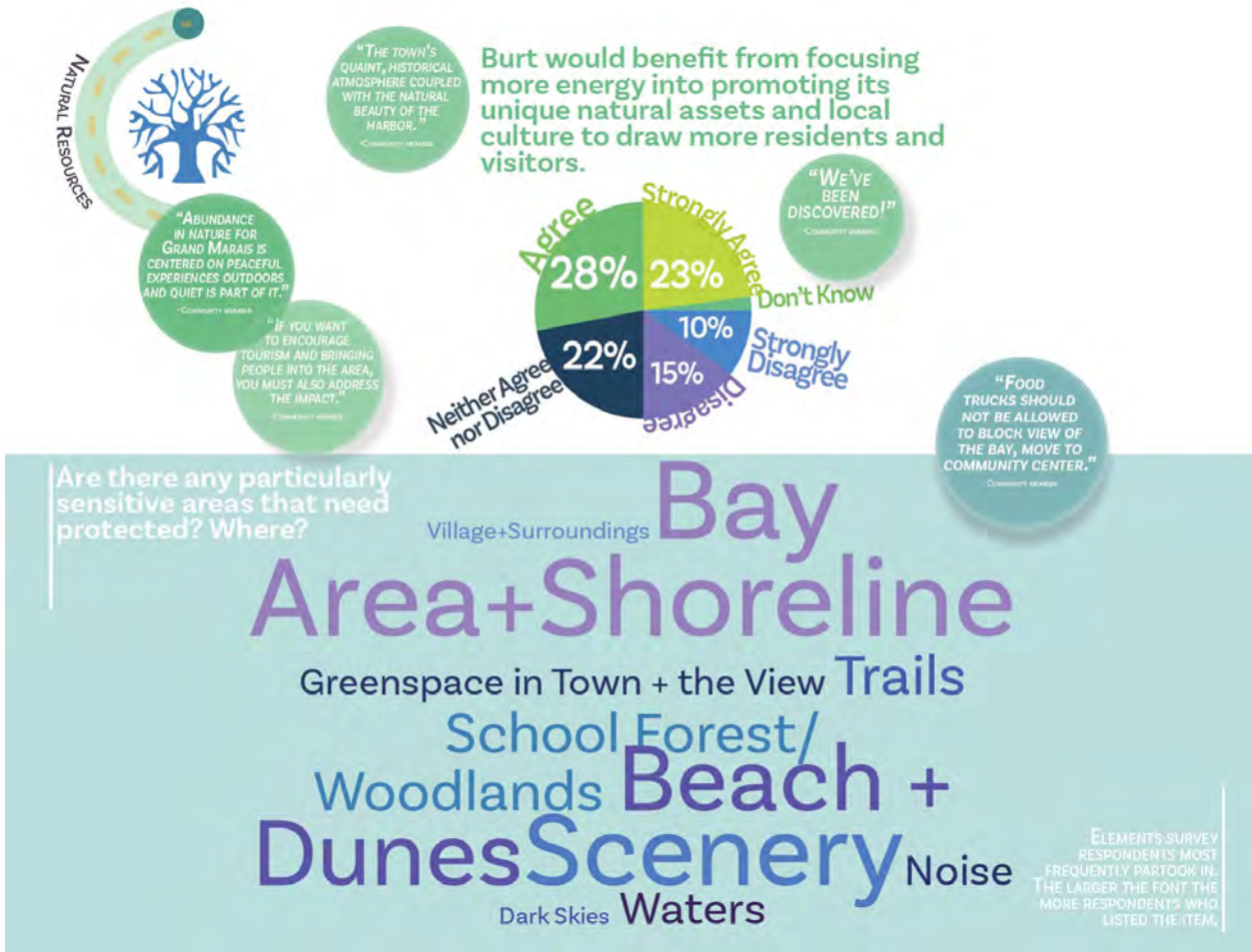
- Provide pathways through the town center that are limited to pedestrian use only
- Provide parking areas for snowmobiles and ORV outside of the town center
- Regulate where snowmobiles and ORVs are allowed to go through signage and potential ordinance.
- Expand bike path from Coast Guard Point to Agate Beach and up the hill down Brazel St. to the Frank Mead Community Center

H58 Bike Path and Cross Country Ski Trail

- Ellen Street to Cemetery
- Cemetery Road to School Forest
- School Forest to Luce County
- Within School Forest to Disc Golf Area
- Coordinate H58 bikepath with the Alger County Road Commission and the National Parks Service.



Public Input – Master Plan



Many noted in their survey responses that the community *"Has been discovered,"* and the quiet atmosphere they had grown to associate with their small community was starting to change.

Are there any particularly sensitive areas that need to be protected? Responses flooded in with the **BAY AREA**, **BEACHES** and **DUNES** topping the chart. Not far behind **LAKE SUPERIOR**, the **SCHOOL FOREST** and **WATERWAYS** followed.



Public Input – Master Plan

PRESERVE QUIANT CHARACTER

ANY MOVES TO INTEGRATE ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR DEVELOPMENT INTO THE COMMUNITY MUST EMBRACE THE CHARACTER OF THE REGION.

PROTECT NATURAL SPACES

PREVENT DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES CAUSED BY OVERUSE AND MISUSE.

ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY STREETScape PROMOTING ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND FRAMING VIEWS OF LAKE SUPERIOR AND THE BAY.

TAKE THE LONG VIEW: MONITOR AND PRESERVE WATER QUALITY AS WELL AS IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC LANDS, LAKESHORE + RIVER DISTRICT, AND RECREATION/FOREST AREAS WHILE PRESERVING VIEWS AND NATURAL BEAUTY WITHIN THE BAY DISTRICT.

People + Community Goals

THE TOWNSHIP SHOULD STRIVE TO REVERSE THE DECLINING POPULATION TREND.

PROMOTE REMOTE WORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS TO LIVE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.

PRESERVE THE VIEW OF THE BAY AS IT IS THE HEART OF GRAND MARAIS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY'S UNIQUE AND PICTURESQUE ATMOSPHERE.

PURSUE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO ATTRACT YOUNG FAMILIES IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.



Public Input – Master Plan



THE BAY

Arguably the most beautiful bay in the state, Grand Marais' bay is dotted with fishing shacks, a public marina, private rentals, residences, and a township park. The northwest corner of the bay is designated as a harbor of refuge and is dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Residents are concerned with the deposition of sand within the bay since the removal of the original breakwall. They would like to see water levels and quality monitored and necessary steps taken to preserve the centerpiece of their community.

- » Bayshore Park: Create a more unified park space on the bay for informal gatherings, picnicking, ADA access, community events (tree lighting, farmers market), views of the bay, swimming beach access, parking/traffic management, stormwater management, and facilities maintenance
- » Improve accessibility and infrastructure and streamline maintenance at:
 - Agate Beach/Front Porch
 - Bayshore Park
 - Community Greenspace
 - Grand Marais + Lake Avenues

- Maximize township owned property along the bay shore to increase public access
- Enliven bay front area with community events/gathering space
- Preserve views of the bay and Lake Superior.
- Complete ADA assessment of township properties and the Grand Marais Mainstreet; implement needed upgrades
- Promote low impact development strategies to preserve views of the bay, water quality, and natural resources
 - Monitor and preserve water quality and levels within the bay.
 - Embrace 'Complete Streets' methodology; promoting expansion of walking/biking trails, and stormwater infrastructure in conjunction with other street and sewer improvements.
- Develop bike and cross country ski trails along major roads

Public Meeting - Village Recreation Trail



Public Meeting - Village Recreation Trail



How are the renovations going to be better?

- Views of the bay
- Parking pressure
- Safety concerns
- ADA accessibility
- Public bathrooms
- Maintenance
- Better facilities for recreation and events



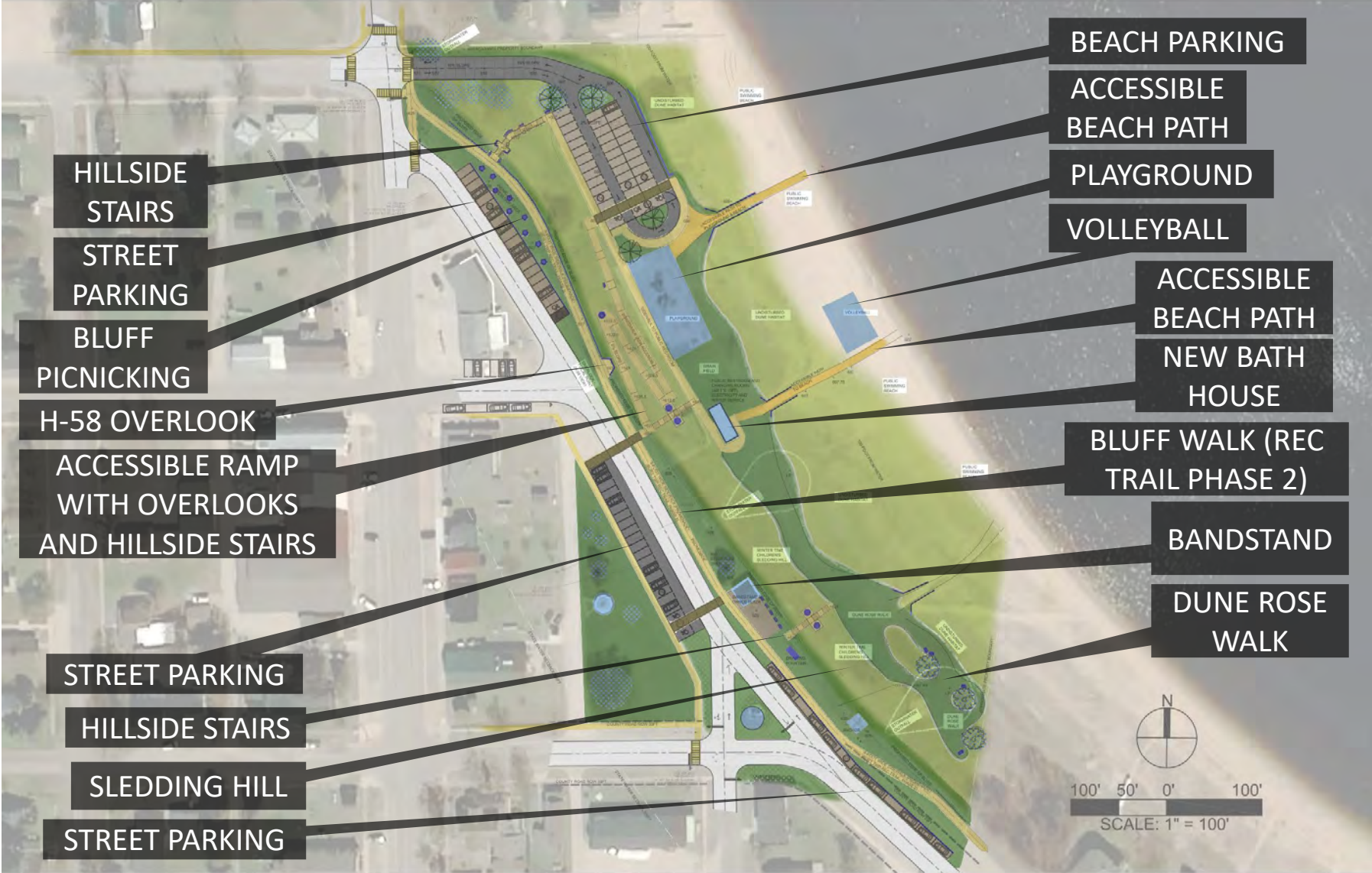
Informal Design Input

HOT OFF THE PRESS

- Today's presentation = public input on the **FIRST DESIGN DRAWING**
- Informal discussions with residents
- Public input – discussions during Board and Planning Commission public meetings
- Maintenance and design considerations with Department of Public Works (DPW)



Bayshore Park Renovation



- View of bay
- Buried power lines
- Beach parking
- Street parking
- New public restroom and bath house building
- Hillside stairs and accessible ramp
- Picnic tables and benches
- Bluff walk (promenade)
- Accessible beach path

Improved Parking, Protect the View

PARKING	Existing
Greenspace paved parking	19
Bay hill (Grand Marais Avenue, informal parking)	~80 (some on private property)
Bayshore Park parking lot	~9
TOTAL	~108 spaces (no ADA designated parking)



Improved Parking, Protect the View



PARKING	Existing	Proposed
Greenspace paved parking	19	19 +2 ADA Total 21
Bay hill (Grand Marais Avenue, informal parking)	~80 (some on private property)	19 +1 ADA 12 parallel Total 32
Bayshore Park parking lot	9	38 +3 ADA Total 41
TOTAL	~108 spaces (no ADA designated parking)	88 +6 ADA Total 94 spaces

Bayshore Park Renovation



Bayshore Park Renovation



CONCEPT SKETCH

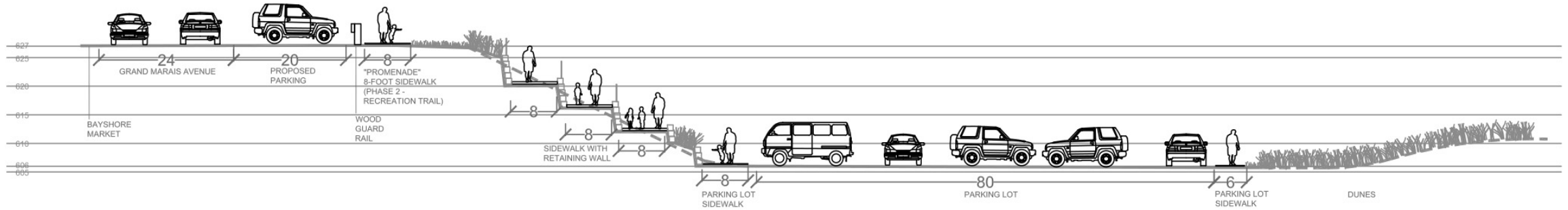
Accessible beach path “Mobi Mat”



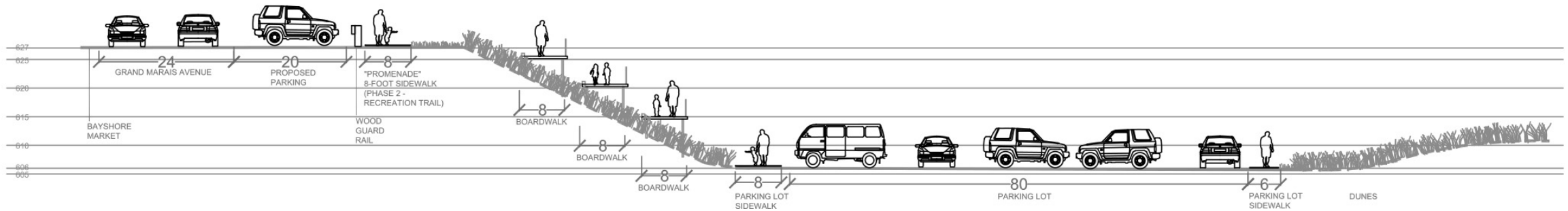
Bayshore Park Renovation



Overlooks & Accessible Ramps



OPTION: BLUFF WALK – RETAINING WALLS AND SIDEWALKS



OPTION: BLUFF WALK – BOARDWALKS

Overlooks & Accessible Ramps



Overlooks & Accessible Ramps



Bayshore Park Renovation



Bayshore Park Renovation



Play on the Bluff



Can we still do what we've always done?

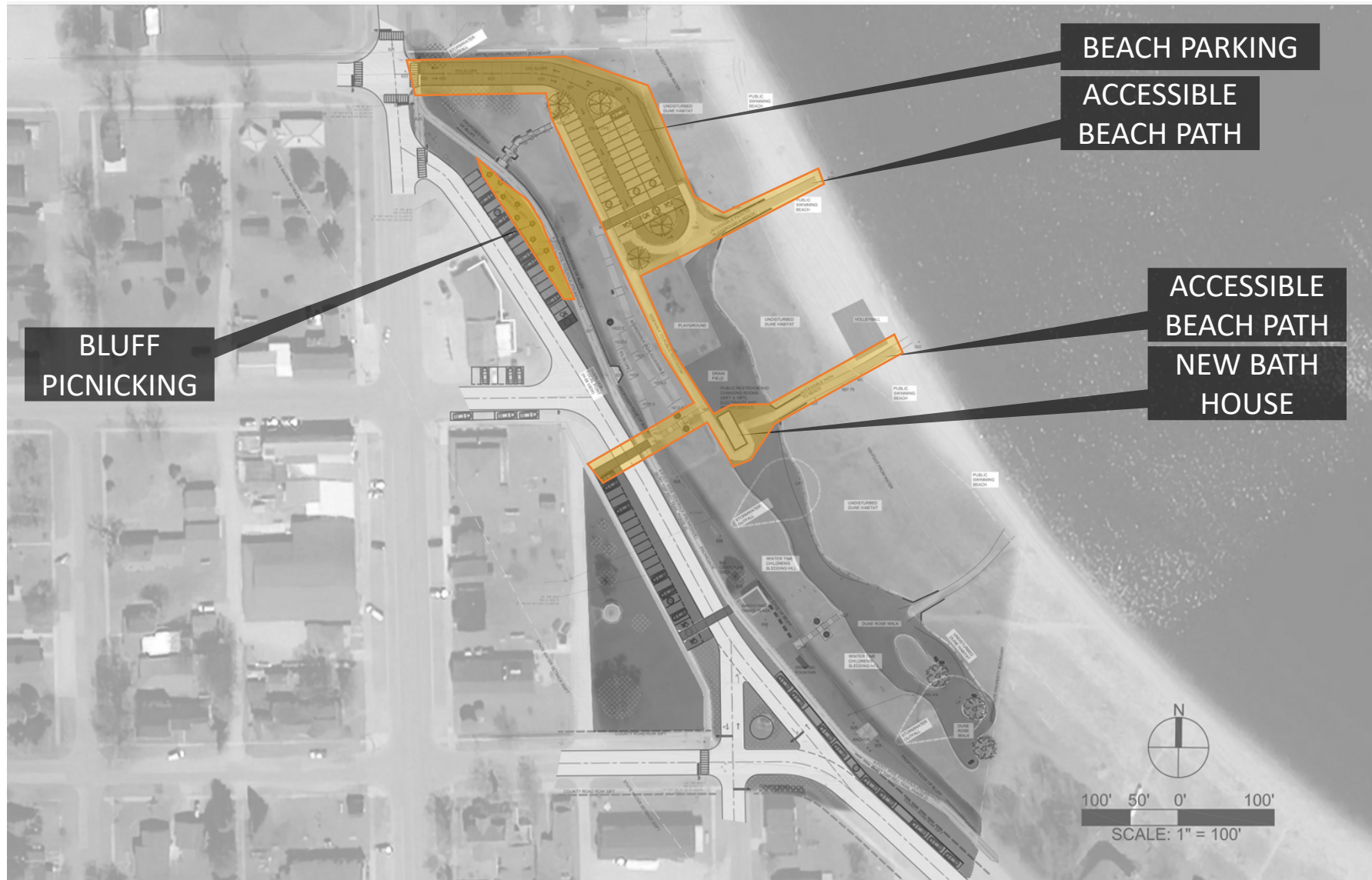
- Events: Fourth of July fireworks, Car Show, Farmers Market, Christmas Tree lighting, Splash-In, Kayak clinic, ...
- Sledding Hill
- View of Bay: improved with buried power lines
- Beach access and swimming (now ADA-accessible)
- Bandstand
- Picnicking
- Village Recreation Trail (Phase 2) “Grand Marais Promenade”
- Open road: Grand Marais Avenue and H-58 stay the same

What happens next?

- **Today = First look at the design**
 - Public input used to revised the concept design
 - **Next public meeting in March (revised concept design)**
 - Apply for Grant Funding (April 1)
- **When is the renovation happening?**
 - Renovations will be built in phases
 - 2023: Picnic tables, boundary survey, drain field evaluation, stakeholder discussions, grant award notification
 - 2024: Prepare construction design (with public input); build Phase 1 (stairs, parking lot, and bathroom building)
- **How are we going to pay for it?**
 - Grant: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - Grants, additional funding sources under evaluation
 - Potential Partners: Alger-Delta Electric, Alger County Road Commission, North Country Trail, others
- **Who is going to keep it nice?**
 - Phase 1 is similar to what we have now. We can maintain the new bath house, parking lot, and staircase.
 - Future phases will be different than what we have now.
 - Figure it out with Alger County Road Commission, Department of Public Works, and community stakeholders



Bayshore Park Renovation – PHASE 1



- New public restroom and bath house building
- Hillside stairs
- Beach parking
- Picnic tables and benches

The Gem of Grand Marais



View of Grand Marais Harbor from Bayshore Park beach, Fall 2022