
General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Last Update

17 Jan 2019 06:19:58

Park or Trail Name

Northerly Park

District

2

Location Description

This parcel of land is the southwest corner of Township 168, Range 35, Section 28. Lake of the Woods County is in process of purchasing the parcel from the state (for the agreed price of the closing costs) with sole purpose being construction of a public park. It is approximately .25 square miles or 162 acres. Currently untouched forest, the land is centrally located within the NW Angle community and borders the main road. The northwest corner of the parcel is partial muskeg on the waters of Angle Inlet Bay, near Minnesota Historic Site Fort St. Charles on Lake of the Woods. The land encapsulates a near-perfect representation of Northwest Angle terrain and vegetation, missing only the exposed bedrock that is common and unique to the area.

Park/Trail Address

16834 Nelson Drive

City

Angle Inlet

Park/Trail State

Minnesota

Zip

56711

Latitude

49.33955279

Longitude

-95.04564285

Map of Park/Trail

Description: Park Boundary

[Park Property Boundry Map 2020_d8bb25.png](#)

Description: Park with future plans

[Park_Map_21_Final_eaca2b.jpg](#)

Facility Website

www.nwaedgeriders.org

Organization

Lake of the Woods County

Lead Contact Person

Title

Joe Laurin

President - Edge Riders

Mailing Address

4071 Flag Island, PO Box 24

City

Angle Inlet

State

Minnesota

Zip

56711

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Joint Applicants

Joint Applicant #1

Kelly Knight

Joint Applicant #2

Brian McKeever

Joint Applicant #3

Bonny Edin

Joint Applicant #4

Eric Vasko

Other project supporters

Lake of the Woods County (County Commissioners - James Nordlof, Tom Hanson, Ken Moorman, Patricia Beckel, Edward Arneson, County Engineer - Tim Erickson) Department of Natural Resources - Forestry - Adam S. Munstenteiger, Lake of the Woods Tourism - Joe Henry, DNR State-wide Forestry Lands Coordinator - Bob Milne, DNR Warroad Area Forestry - Adam Munstenteiger.

Description

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Regional Significance Statement

Northwest Angle is in the news for its unique location a lot. This park would be the most Northern Park in the USA.

Classification

Special Recreational Feature Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

Northerly Park would be the northernmost park in the lower 48, providing equitable access for all to the Northwest Angle, a unique and beautiful landmark location. Currently, unless you have a resort reservation or know a cabin owner, The Angle is generally inaccessible to budget-conscious outdoor enthusiasts due to the lack of public day-use facilities or even a public restroom. The park would serve resort goers, day-trip visitors and the local community with outdoor recreation, group gathering amenities, and educational experiences ideal for school field trips. Northerly Park would allow thousands of tourists to document (via photos, geocache and other social media) their visit to this northernmost spot with a special iconic marker, similar to the buoy in Key West, Florida.

Built in phases, Northerly Park begins as a rustic, low-maintenance day-use only destination, with outhouses in lieu of plumbing and gravel roads and parking lots. Two acres of open grassy area with shade trees holds a rugged children's play structure, exercise equipment, and several trail heads. A 30x50 cedar log pavilion is

the primary structure, complete with cement floor, steel roof, log picnic tables, cooking grills and a stone fireplace. The park contains ten additional separate picnicking spots. A grass amphitheater is built off the main area and is used for outdoor movies, weddings, and music festivals. In later phases, the park will evolve to plumbing and its own well. Compost toilets are a goal. The looping trail system is four miles long and culminates at a remote picnic area with an observation tower overlooking Lake of the Woods and the bountiful muskeg bird- and wildlife. From this higher vantage, visitors can point to the northernmost spot, take photographs and learn the history. The tower would surely become a Must-See attraction at The Angle. A floating dock system would allow additional park recreation, such as fishing, canoeing and wildlife viewing opportunities. Durable park signage, trail maps and natural insect control, i.e., Bat Houses and Lake Swallow Houses, would be a priority. Educational signage compliments the natural scenery. Visitors learn about local Native American history, European explorers, Benjamin Franklin's contribution to obtaining The Angle, Fort St. Charles, the homesteaders, historical logging and fishing industries, flora and fauna, and present day life, including The Angle's one-room school house, Minnesota's last. Park volunteers are available for educational tours. A cedar boardwalk would allow better accessibility for all ages and keep visitors on-trail in the delicate cedar swamp areas, protecting the state flower, the Showy Lady Slipper, a wild orchard that abounds in the area. The central trail is open to snowmobilers in the winter, connecting the park to hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails throughout Minnesota, Ontario and Manitoba. There are no parks in the Northwest Angle; the closest are in neighboring towns, Warroad and Roseau, 60+ miles away. There is a remote state park on Garden Island of Lake of the Woods and at Zipple Bay on the south shores of Lake of the Woods, 87 miles away.

Total Acreage or Mileage

160

Acquisition and Development Status

New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)

Lake of the Woods County owned

100

Development status

No development

Facility Listing

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics .

Existing Facilities

Proposed Facilities

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Canoeing Facilities
- Fishing Piers
- Visitor Center
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Dog Parks
- Climbing (natural/man-made)
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities Other Information

Observation Tower;

Educational Signage and Tours (Birdwatching, Flora and Fauna, Native American and European Settlement History, Industrial History, Last One-Room School House in MN, Fort St. Charles, Massacre Island, Lake of the Woods Island Settlement History, etc.);

Warming Hut for Winter Recreation (snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing),

"Walk of the Cedars" inspired Boardwalk,

Muskeg Boardwalk;

Grass Amphitheater and Stage,

Natural Outhouses,

Future-phased Plumbing and Compost Toilets

General Site Characteristics

The land borders a county road and Lake of the woods.

Site characteristics upload

Description: Detailed Drawing

[Northerly Park Map Engineering Drawing bf9833.png](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Welcome Center

[Welcome Center Fort Final_7a5acb.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Tower Structure Design

[Tower Structural Design_2ca36d.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Boardwalk ACOG and MN DNR approved

[Northerly Park Boardwalk Drawings Final_58c40d.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Welcome Center Interior

[Northerly Park Welcome Center Interior View FInal_23a76f.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Finished Tower with ADA Ramps

[TowerDesign ADA approved \(2\)_4bfe78.png](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Board Walk Design ACOG approved

[Northerly Park BW Drawings F21-20_1e6767.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Park Topo Map

[Park Contour Map 2020_805b69.png](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Land Deed State of MN

[Northerly Park Land Deed_5ee6af.pdf](#)

Master Plan

Master Plan Status:

Master Plan meeting requirements of strategic plan is available

Upload Existing Master Plan

[Northwest Angle Park Master Plan Final PDF_fdb966.pdf](#)

Additional Supportive Information:

Park land is now owned by Lake of the Woods County, this was the primary issue with our original application.

Classification Details

Special Recreational Feature Park Classification

Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Northerly Park will attract outdoor enthusiasts in all seasons. Winter snowmobilers can pass from the nearby Outlying Area Reporting Station (OARS), to the park. Warming Hut and directly out to trails on the frozen lake or southbound trails along the main roads. Snow-shoers and cross-country skiers will have access to wooded trails and lake trails, as well. Spring, summer and fall will provide flora and fauna tours, walking and biking trails, public fishing opportunities, and historical and educational experiences. The location of the park, along with the history of its land, makes this the most unique park in northern Minnesota.

The high-focus areas would include an observation tower overlooking the lake, cedar boardwalks over the muskeg and through the beautiful cedar swamp, as well as the primary structure, a 30x50 cedar log pavilion with six log picnic tables, all built from the trees logged during the park construction. Cement floor and steel roof provide durability and protection from the elements. A grand stone fireplace built from local stone can be used for cooking, heat and light. There would be a children natural play area and structure, as well as a rugged log outdoor fitness area with push-up logs, sit-up planks and pull-up bars. A small grass amphitheater (and future cedar log stage) would host local and visiting musicians, outdoor movies, weddings and other events, and possibly even the one-room school annual Spring Play.

The area has significant history. Local schools already journey to The Angle for class field trips. Northerly Park would be a natural extension and educational experience for existing field trips and would attract additional groups.

Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place

Arriving at The Angle by vehicle, all visitors would see the entrance to Northerly Park naturally-wooded, picturesque day-use area for outdoor enthusiasts of all seasons. It will be a peaceful place to decompress after a dusty drive, get a first glimpse of beautiful Lake of the Woods, and learn about The Angles unique history. Apart from asking the community elders, no other such educational opportunity has existed in the past. And apart from the small church and the one-room school playground structure, there are no other public facilities at The Angle. They are sorely needed.

It is a remote area and yet a very popular outdoor destination at the same time. The park would serve as a representative microcosm for all that The Angle has to offer: winter and summer trails, wildlife, fishing, birding, and the perfection and solitude of untouched nature. A four-mile circuit of intersecting trails with unique stopping points would highlight the park main activities, including the Observation Tower, foot bridge over a spring stream, boardwalk through the cedar swamp, Showy Lady Slipper observation, bird watching, fishing, etc. The boardwalks would help provide access for all ages to the pristine natural environment of The Angle. A muskeg boardwalk leads visitors to a floating dock system and fishing platform, the first public access to Lake of the Woods at The Angle proper.

Many visitors come simply to document being at the northernmost spot in the contiguous US, but they are quickly enthralled with the uniquely rugged attributes and quaint remote lifestyle. They stay on, or often return again, to learn more about how life came to be as it is here. Northerly Park would be a first-of-its-kind public place at The Angle, a place to take it all in, learn and enjoy.

Well-located to Serve a Regional Need and/or Tourist Destination

Northerly Park is exactly centrally located in Angle Inlet or The Angle, as it is known by the locals. The park is at the intersection of two main roads; all vehicular traffic in and out of The Angle passes by the park.

Though The Angle is generally remote, according to the Lake of the Woods Tourism Bureau, \$1.9M was spent on lodging at The Angle in 2015, which has an economic impact to the area in excess of \$10M. This is an increase of 15% over 2014 lodging expenditures, which means The Angle is growing. There are currently 16 lodging facilities in The Angle but no public facilities whatsoever. Day-trip visitors can even use the restroom without walking into a bar or a resort lodge.

Keeping the park as Day-Use Only (at least in the beginning) would maintain no- to low-impact on the two neighboring resorts that offer minimal camping spaces.

A new airport is in pre-construction planning stages, which would add another port of entry to the NW Angle. Visitors arrive primarily by road and secondarily by boat across Lake of the Woods. It is a hugely popular snowmobiling destination and the park central trail would connect the groomed lake trails to the OARS reporting station and the southbound land trails. Mostly, the area is in need of an iconic emblem within a representative environment that denotes arrival at the northernmost spot in the lower 48. GPS units put that spot out in the shallow, weedy waters of Angle Inlet Bay and the locals believe it is a rock on the far side of Magnuson Island. Regardless, it is either inaccessible or on private property. The observation tower, and Northerly Park as a whole, gives visitors the opportunity to at that northernmost spot.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

The nearest park to The Angle is the Roseau City park, 67 miles away, and there are other regional parks near Warroad, MN, 73 miles away. A remote state park exists on Garden Island of Lake of the Woods and at Zipple Bay on the south shores of Lake of the Woods, 87 miles away.

Currently, there is no trail system in the area for walking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. People utilize the main road, which is heavily traveled by vehicles towing boat and RV trailers. All roads at The Angle are gravel with no sidewalks or side ATV trails, which poses a risk for pedestrians due to dust and flying rocks. The park would fill a huge safety gap for locals and resort goers who want outdoor exercise, bird watchers needing amenities, and winter sports enthusiasts needing a business-neutral warming location. It would also provide budget-conscious families with a public summer fishing spot and canoe

access, something that does not currently exist at The Angle.

In the whole of the NW Angle, there exists one small educational or historical sign. The park would serve as an outdoor community museum of sorts, cataloging and documenting the varied and incredible history of this unique place.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Location Map	Lake of the Woods County Plat Map	1461946349819-Plat Map.pdf
Location Map	Plat Map close-up	1461946378749-Plat map Close-up.JPG
Other	Northerly Park Vision Board	1461946574875-Northerly Park - vision board.pptx
Agreement	Contractors Estimate	1461947551568-Est 28 from Angle Wood Buil.pdf
Agreement	Contractor Certification	1461947578896-Contractor Certification.JPG
Resolution	Lake of the Woods County Resolution	1461947604732-nwa edge 20150619091435.pdf
Letters Of Support	LOW County Commissioners Support Letter	1461947692001-LOTW County Commissioners letter of support for Northerly Park.jpeg
Letters Of Support	LOW Tourism Board Support Letter	1461947716810-LOTW Tourism Bureau Northerly Park Support 061915.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Detailed Drawing	Northerly Park Map Engineering Drawing bf9833.png
Site Map Upload	Contour Map 2020	Park Contour Map 2020 68e49d.png
Site Map Upload	Park Land Hydric Rating	Park Hydric Rating 431fb0.jpg
Site Map Upload	Park Soil Map 2020	Park Soil Map 950cbc.jpg
Site Map Upload	Park Wetland Map 2020	Park Wetland Map 2020 4410d0.png
Additional Attachment	Master Plan	Northwest Angle Park Master Plan Final PDF cd7438.pdf
Site Map Upload	Site Map	Site Map aca377.png
Regional Map Uploads	Regional Map	Regional map 116eea.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Welcome Center	Welcome Center Fort

		Final_7a5acb.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Tower Structure Design	Tower Structural Design_2ca36d.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Boardwalk ACOG and MN DNR approved	Northerly Park Boardwalk Drawings Final_58c40d.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Tower Soil Support Report	M5195037_Geotech Report_a7eb13.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Wetland Specialist Letter	LetterReport_NortherlyPark_Revised01022020_97f162.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Welcome Center Interior	Northerly Park Welcome Center Interior View FInal_23a76f.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Finished Tower with ADA Ramps	TowerDesign ADA approved (2)_4bfe78.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Board Walk Design ACOG approved	Northerly Park BW Drawings F21-20_1e6767.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Tourism Letter	Tourism Letter_7bb257.png
Public Involvement Summ Upload	County Support 2015	County Support 2015_c0e5e7.png
Public Involvement Summ Upload	County Support 2018	County Support 2018_276dc6.jpg
Public Involvement Summ Upload	DNR Support Page 1	DNR Letter Page 1_0db8c6.png
Public Involvement Summ Upload	DNR Support Page 2	DNR Letter Page 2_810312.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Buoy NorthWest Angle	Buoy_2aeb7c.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Buoy Key West	Key West_924b28.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Ben Franklin Sign	History Sign_21692c.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Fort St Charles Sign	Fort St Charles Sign_ad8ac4.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Board Walk	Northerly Park Boardwalk Drawings Final_de6359.pdf
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Walking Trail	Boardwalk 2_7f8398.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Fort Shaped Welcome Center	Welcome Center Fort Final_5bc8ea.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Wildlife Views	IMG_0217_00bcd7.jpg
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Picture spot near park	Buoy_79deff.png
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Park Land	Park Land_f9c59f.png
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	Land Transfer Page 1	DNR Letter Page 1_6e6321.png
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	Land Transfer Page 2	DNR Letter Page 2_1ad2c2.png
Development Feature Upload		Welcome Center Fort Final_f6a985.jpg

Development Feature Upload		History Sign_b3e2aa.png
Development Feature Upload		Tower finished Design_2848dc.png
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Welcome Center	Northerly Park Welcome Center Interior View FInal_1f1e8b.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Board Walk	Boardwalk 1_560cd7.png
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	All Features Map	Mission statement cover art_980b8a.JPG
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Welcome Center TimberFrame	Welcome Center Timberframe Quote_ee944c.docx
Existing Master Plan		Northwest Angle Park Master Plan Final PDF_fdb966.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Park Cost Spreadsheet	Park Cost Spreadsheet_ccaa06.xlsx
Site Map Upload	Drone pictures	Site Drone Pic and Dry Lake Trail_43f52e.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	Park Land and Trail	Site Drone Pic and Dry Lake Trail_c56515.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	Site Map Overall	Site Map_9658d7.pdf
Site Map Upload	Park Property Pro Map	Park Property Boundry Map 2020_71d26f.png
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Boardwalk Lumber Quote	2020 Quote Boardwalk Lumber_5777eb.docx
Joint Org Responsibilities Upload	Local Business Support	Local Business Support Letter_c7f16d.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Soil Survey	Soil Survey_16471f.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Wetland Map	Wetland Map_e45329.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Tower Timberframe	Tower Quote Timerframe_c5ba86.docx
Regional Map Uploads	Recreation within 50mi	Recreation within 50 miles_f5b047.pdf
Joint Org Responsibilities Upload	Park Procedures	Park Procedure Handbook_af1158.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload	Park Survey	Park Survey_76067a.pdf
Site Map Upload	NEW Regional Significance and Vision by Sara	regional and vison plan (2)_e9c3d9.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	New - Survey Results by Sara	Park Survey_bd6c11.pdf
Park Trail Map	Park Boundary	Park Property Boundry Map 2020_d8bb25.png

Site Characteristics Upload	Park Topo Map	Park Contour Map 2020_805b69.png
Public Involvement Summ Upload	2020 Land Approval	NortherlyPark USACE Approval_a23886.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Final Land Usage Approval	Park Notice of Decision_d7bcc7.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload	LOTW Demographics	Lake of the Woods Demographics_a06b98.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	Public Health Documents	Northerly Park Public Health Support_1cd526.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	Recreational Trend	Recreational Trends 2019 Research_86a3c5.pdf
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Tower	TowerDesign ADA approved (2)_f8711c.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Boardwalk Visual	Boardwalk 1_e52958.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	History along Boardwalk 1	History Sign_14d987.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Gold Mine History	IMG_1634_83f8a5.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Waterfalls Nearby	IMG_1676_a1f4fe.GIF
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Unique Gold Mines	IMG_2703_ebf553.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Wildlife Swimming	IMG_4066_7a34bc.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Petroglyphs nearby	IMG_4222_33dab9.JPG
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AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Welcome Center	Welcome Center Infrastructure and Lumber_5add5c.docx
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Board Walk Piers	Pier Quote_aab148.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Boardwalk Installation	boardwalk installation_526168.pdf
Programming Plan Upload	Design format of Park	park website_6716bd.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Lake of the Woods Tourism Site	Presentation_61381f.pptx
User Metrics Research Plan Upload	Tourism Growth	Tourism_41767e.pdf

Site Characteristics Upload	Land Deed State of MN	Northerly Park Land Deed_5ee6af.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Park Study 2020	Northerly Park Facts_826871.docx
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Park Study 2021	Northerly Park Facts_9babde.docx
Public Involvement Summ Upload	July 12 Congresswoman and Senator NWA meeting.	Congresswoman and Senators_a9ed6f.jpg
Joint Org Responsibilities Upload	New, Hours, Funds, Maintenance	Welcome Center Details New_3c2100.pptx
Regional Demographic Upload	New Demographic and Visitor Info	Demographic and Visitor Info_21e05f.pdf