



COASTAL HORIZONS



The Coastal Program's goal is to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance coastal resources along Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior.

Fall 2007

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COASTAL FACT

Want to find out how cold Lake Superior's surface temperatures are for fishing, diving, swimming, or just for fun?

Check out the Michigan Sea Grant site: www.coastwatch.msu.edu/twosuperiors.html

NEW GRANT CYCLE OPEN

The Coastal Program is requesting proposals for the 2008 grant cycle. Approximately \$600,000 will be made available for grant projects to preserve, protect, restore, develop and enhance Lake Superior's coastline. Applications are due December 7, 2007.

For full details visit: mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior/

COASTAL SPOTLIGHT

If you spent any time in downtown Grand Marais this summer, you probably set foot in Harbor Park. At one time an aging gas service station existed where the newly constructed park lies. Today, visitors stroll the park's paths, sit on the park's benches, and enjoy views and access to Lake Superior.

The Harbor Park project was truly a community effort so it is fitting that community gatherings such as art festivals and the annual Fisherman's Picnic take place on or by the new park. The city's parks and utility crews installed the water, sewer, and irrigation. Buck's Hardware supplied the plants at cost, while Hedstrom's Lumber donated the bark mulch.



Visitors enjoy the view of Lake Superior from a Harbor Park bench, summer 2006.

The Master Gardeners coordinated the planting effort demonstrating how a community can come together to create something beautiful. Old concrete structures and rotted wood barriers were removed to enhance the natural beach area.

Public access projects such as Harbor Park reflect the reason Outside Magazine ranked Grand Marais, MN as one of the top 10 family beach getaways in 2006.

A view of Grand Marais Harbor Park from an oblique photograph from May 2007. (see story below)

FAQ - WHO OVERSEES NORTH SHORE DEVELOPMENT?

Local governments make decisions about development in Minnesota. For example, development along the Lake Superior shoreline lying within the city limits of Duluth or the Grand Portage Reservation is governed by the land-use rules and shoreland zoning of these two local governments. For the rest of Minnesota's North Shore, the North Shore Management Board (NSMB) defines the minimum zoning standards. The Board's area of authority starts at Lake Superior and extends 300 feet inland from Highway 61 (or 1,000 feet from Lake Superior, whichever is greater).

The NSMB finished an update of its Management Plan in June 2004, and continues to work with participating entities to implement the new regulations.

Recently, the NSMB completed a Coastal grant to implement Regional Priority Projects that included:

- defining development nodes,
- conducting a wastewater forum, and
- identifying ridge-line viewsheds.



Visit the North Shore Management Board website, a Regional Planning Division Program of www.arrowheadplanning.org

NORTH SHORE OBLIQUE PHOTOGRAPHS



In the spring of 2007, the entire shore of Lake Superior was photographed by Community GIS, through a Coastal Enhancement Program grant. These high-resolution oblique photographs complement a 2002 data set, document the condition of the shore, and help identify erosion hazards. The photos are shared with local governments and land use agencies. Data requests can be directed to Clinton Little at 218-834-6636 or Clinton.Little@dnr.state.mn.us

Senior housing development, St. Louis County, MN

A MINUTE WITH A COUNCIL MEMBER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Beach Sweep 2007: September 22, 11am - 4 pm, Duluth, Two Harbors, Grand Marais and other North Shore beaches. Call Sarah 218-740-3474 (x1020) or Mindy 218-834-6625 for details.

Making a Great Lake Superior: Duluth, MN October 29-31

Volunteering is a way of life for Stacy Radosevich; she has been active within her children's school, with the Lester Park Community Club, and continues to cherish coaching girls basketball. Even though some of her activities have had to be sidelined, Stacy recognized the important role of the Coastal Council and has kept it as a priority.

After nine years serving on the Coastal Council, Stacy has now taken the lead; on July 20 she was elected the new Council chair. As the Chair, Stacy will be leading the Council through some tough challenges as grant application requests continue to exceed the available funding by a larger margin each year.

Stacy recently returned from the 2007 Coastal Zone conference in Portland, Oregon where she had opportunity to engage in coastal issues that concern her, such as land use. "Seeing similar issues from the shores of Maine to the shores of Oregon was reassuring," she said. "There are good examples of solutions out there that we

can learn from." Particularly, she noticed the emphasis on collaboration, and how the work for good coastal management won't get done without participation from many sectors, including both public and private. Stacy was thankful to have the opportunity to go to the conference, which was also attended by Council member, and former chair, Al Katz.



Stacy Radosevich on the shore of Lake Superior. Photo by Tony Belsito.

WELCOME TO THE WATERSHED!

Drivers along northern Minnesota's roads may notice new signs welcoming visitors and residents to the Lake Superior Watershed. Over twenty signs have been placed on 10 state highways and 11 county roads in St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Pine, Aitkin, and Itasca counties.

The project was made possible by funding from the Lake Superior Binational Program and the Lakewide Management Plan. Purchase and installation of the Lake Superior signs were coordinated by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff.



Photo courtesy of Joel Peterson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

REPORTING REMINDERS

Do you have an open Coastal Program grant? The current reporting period ends September 30. Progress reports are due October 15, even if no work was done on the grant.

MAKING A GREAT LAKE SUPERIOR

From October 29-31, researchers, educators, and resource managers will gather at the Making a Great Lake Superior conference in Duluth, MN. The conference will unite people from throughout the watershed to discuss Lake Superior's past, present, and future. Sessions will include research, educational programs, and management experiences relating to:

- invasive species
- Areas of Concern
- toxic pollutants
- water levels/withdrawals
- fisheries
- economics/sustainability
- habitat /species management
- human health
- nonpoint source pollution
- GIS
- climate change
- watershed stewardship
- aquatic ecology

Registration before September 14 is \$150. Single-day and student rates are available. For information and registration visit www.seagrants.umn.edu/superior2007 or contact Minnesota Sea Grant at 218-726-8106.

Conference organizers include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, and the University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program. Twenty-six organizations are sponsoring the event, including U.S. and Canadian government departments, academic institutions, Sea Grant programs, international organizations, tribal organizations, and watershed groups.

STORMWATER TOURS

Some people get so excited about stormwater. The landscape, the storms, the plants...and the people. In June 2007, the South St. Louis Soil Water Conservation District hosted a stormwater Best Management Practice tour, visiting rain gardens, filter systems, created wetlands, filtration/detention basins, pervious pavers, and more. If you missed June's tour, you can attend a similar tour, through the Making a Great Lake Superior conference (see above) on October 31.

Keith Anderson, engineer for Cook, Carlton, Lake, and St Louis County Soil Water Conservation Districts, explains a rain garden system at Lake Superior College.



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www.mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior