

APPENDICES

Cumberland Advocate Newspaper Article and Public Notice

Cumberland Advocate



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Print Page

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Library Lake Restoration Proposal to be revealed at August 22 meeting

Library Lake was once a pristine, sand-bottom recreational treasure of the City of Cumberland, providing visitors with their first "signature view" of the Island City. Baby boomers recall the 1960s, when Library Lake was used for swimming, waterskiing, fishing, and boats could dock and use businesses in town. It was the gateway to Beaver Dam Lake, the envy of every visitor who drove through Cumberland; a vibrant part of the community and a major source of civic pride.

However, since the 1960s Library Lake has taken a tremendous turn for the worse. Sediment generated from 11 city storm drains caused the lake to fill with silt as much as 15 feet deep. In the 1970s vegetation began to take over, leading to invasive species such as Curly Leaf Pond Weed and Eurasian Milfoil. Now this vegetative mass grows and dies every year, limiting access to the lake and creating a bog. Since 1938, the lakes open water area has been reduced by 67%. Eventually, if the process continues, it will render the lake useless to residents of Cumberland and threaten US Highway 63 during highwater events.

But that could all change as a plan to restore the lake was given initial approval by the Beaver Dam Lake Management District in July. The Lake Management district is responsible for water quality and management of the water resources that are so important to Cumberland.

In the past three years they have created a five phase plan for Library Lake. Citizens attending the annual Lake District meeting unanimously approved a \$50,000 contract to develop a restoration and economic development plan for the lake. Cost estimates and time lines will be developed in this first effort. Lake Management District President Dave Evenson said, "This is a most important lake improvement project and the final cost will be shared between Federal, State and Local governments. Once we have our plan in place, we will meet with agencies that have funding available." Mayor Carl Bents has listed Library Lake as a very important priority for Cumberland, along with the many improvements on Main Street and the Thomas St. Angelo Public Library. "It's a shame to let Library Lake get into such trouble. We need to make these improvements for the good of our community. Everyone in our city should support this plan," stated Mayor Bents.

The five phases for Library Lake restoration are as follows:

1. Create storm water treatment areas to prohibit the lake from filling in with sediment.
2. Selectively dredge the lake to provide access to the residential docks and provide access to the downtown businesses.
3. Reconstruct the original Collingwood Lake outlet to restore native hydrology, flush the lake during high water events and provide flood protection.
4. Create a State Trail connection through Cumberland using Library Bay to provide downtown access.
5. Make the Grove Street Bridge large enough to facilitate two-way boat traffic.

The project is gaining tremendous support from the City Council, the Lake Management District and the community. Cumberland's City Council will be asked for additional funding so they requested a meeting to inform the public of the project. The Beaver Dam Lake Management District would like to invite the citizens of Cumberland to a special meeting at the Cumberland Elementary School Commons Saturday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will inform residents about the project and staff will be available to answer questions.

Make sure to check out the back page of next weeks Advocate for more details.

Public Comments

Public Information Session Survey Results: August 22, 2009

1) Do you support the Library Lake Restoration Project?

Yes: 36 No: 0 No comment: 2

Comments: Too general need more info; glad there is a website; looks good; depends on how much it costs and where the money is coming from; depends on the cost to the taxpayer; if not now when; thank you for the thorough presentation.

2) Are you in favor of enhancing the appearance of Library Lake and surrounding shoreline?

Yes: 36 No: 1 No comment: 1

Comments: As a homeowner on the lake I look forward especially to better stormwater management . . . we have long know this ourselves!

3) Should the City of Cumberland make Library Lake a priority improvement project?

Yes: 36 No: 1 No comment: 1

4) Should the City of Cumberland seek State and Federal funding grants for this public improvement?

Yes: 37 No: 1 No comment: 0

Comments: Yes and be patient, may not come as you wish but it could!

City of Cumberland Information¹⁸

Population in July 2008: 2,240. Population change since 2000: -1.8%

Estimated median house or condo value in 2008: \$126,978 (it was \$77,400 in 2000)

Cumberland:  \$126,978

Wisconsin:  \$173,300

Mean prices in 2008: All housing units: \$151,026; Detached houses: \$157,203; Townhouses or other attached units: \$137,677; In 2-unit structures: \$46,583; In 3-to-4-unit structures: \$256,365; Mobile homes: \$20,814

Dec. 2009 cost of living index in Cumberland: 77.9 (low, U.S. average is 100)

¹⁸ www.city-data.com/city

Mayor Carl S. Bents' Endorsement for Library Lake Restoration

Cumberland's Future

By

Carl S. Bents, Mayor

I would like to thank the voters in Cumberland for placing their trust in me for another term as mayor. We have made some wonderful improvements in Cumberland and it is an honor to serve as your mayor, a job I take very seriously. At the beginning of my last term I outlined goals for the City and I am taking this opportunity to tell the City Council and citizens what I would like to see for the next two years. We have several new council members and we will also miss the leadership and many years of experience of the outgoing members. On behalf of all our citizens, I thank them for the service to our City.

My first goal would be to continue the renovation of main street businesses that was started two years ago. We have many new and remodeled businesses and our downtown has really "come alive." We are all grateful for our business leaders who have the confidence to invest in our community. There are too many to list, but Peter and Annie's, Isle Theater, The Dancing Bird Art Studio, Jacobsen's Eye Clinic, Mainstream Boutique, Radio Shack, and Mr. G's Car Wash to name a few. I am asking all the residents of Cumberland to support these fine businesses. There is still more to do, but with the help of our Chamber of Commerce and the business leaders in Cumberland we will continue this joint effort. A community's "downtown" says a lot about the pride of the community. The improvements in Cumberland make us all proud.

A second goal is to improve our City Hall, Municipal Court, and Police facility. By any measure, our 1945 building does not meet the needs of our City, is in violation of the handicapped accessibility codes in Wisconsin, wastes valuable energy, and can not be expanded for future growth. We have the opportunity for a building with environmentally friendly "green construction," as part of the leadership legacy in Cumberland. The City Council has looked at two possible sites to locate a new facility. I clearly believe a City Hall is part of the culture and history of a town and belongs downtown where it is accessible to everyone. As mayor, I am willing to lead the effort to build a new City facility. I believe the recent public vote on whether to build a City Hall was unfortunate because it lacked sufficient information on cost and location for citizens to make an informed decision. If the Council authorizes the construction there will be many opportunities to voice your opinions. I appreciate the recent editorial support by the *Advocate*, noting that "communities need to keep moving forward or they slide backwards." Our City Hall is a disgrace to the Citizens of Cumberland.

A third goal is to clean-up Library Lake, a goal every citizen in Cumberland should agree with. One of Cumberland's greatest assets is our chain of lakes that makes us the "Island City." Library Lake is the signature view that we see from main street and highways going through Cumberland. It should be restored. Our Lake Management District, our Council, and our Public Works Department are all working on plans to save Library Lake. A senior architecture student from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is working on a recreation plan for the lake. Our plans for a library addition will likely utilize a front view toward the Lake. These plans need to be supported.

Next on the agenda is support for the 5-year street and municipal improvement plan in Cumberland. I would like to move ahead with the difficult work of improving our streets and water systems to avoid any future problems. This plan should have the City pay for installing sidewalks on every street project. I would like to work with the Healthier Cumberland Coalition to develop a citywide walking program so that all residents can safely use our sidewalks.

Finally, I will continue to work on improvements in City Administration. In my two years as mayor, I have learned to respect the dedicated contributions of the women and men that work for us all as City employees. They keep us safe, protect our property, maintain our streets and parks, and do the financial planning and administration that keeps the City running. There are many good ideas to improve our services and we will be looking for ways to support these ideas.

Our City Council works hard to make Cumberland a wonderful place to live and raise our families. I look forward to working with the Council on all the issues that will need attention in the years ahead. There will be numerous other issues for the City to address, but these are the five priority areas where I would like to focus. I also appreciate hearing from citizens so we pay attention to what is important to you. Again, thanks for the confidence you have in Cumberland and my efforts as mayor.

Public Comments

Library Lake Committee Meeting 2/16/10

Note: Following public comment, the committee unanimously approved the plan at the 2/16/10 meeting with the understanding that the plan is a working document open to improvement.

Chris Stowe
1275 Growe Street property owner
Vadnais Heights, MN resident

1. Expressed concern that dredging was drastically reduced
 2. Suggested that committee go "above" DNR to the Army Corps of Engineers, consider a lawsuit if permits are not granted
 3. Citizens are not satisfied with current amounts of dredging proposed
 4. His lot on Growe St. extends to the lake
-

Committee Member Comments

1. General sentiment is that the plan is not aggressive enough
 2. DNR supports stormwater treatment
 3. Comments from the public are always welcome
 4. The plan is a starting point, and it states that content/alternatives are under development
 5. Additional comments on the plan will be accepted through Friday noon
-

2/16/10 (written comment)
Dr. John Ostrem, Cumberland
Nancy Ostrem, Cumberland

I am disappointed with the Library Lake preliminary plans. I was looking for a way to balance the community interests in recreation, business development and water improvement with the ecological interests that are from the state of Wisconsin. I urge the Lake Management District to move aggressively to increase the recreation and commercial value of the lake. The unique location of this lake will allow for both types of development. We would ask for the plan to be redrafted to make the lake navigable for all residents and those who use the lake.

Thank you.

Email Comments Received

From: Morgan, Kevin A - DNR
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Harrington, Dan - DNR
Cc: Benike, Heath M - DNR

Subject: RE: Library Lake Management Plan

They have a lot to be proud of with this plan. There is a lot of good information in it and some excellent ways to improve the lake and shoreline habitat for the benefit of wildlife, fisheries, and the public. I agree with most of what is in the plan.

There are a few sticking points that seem to be repeated, unfortunately. One is the severe decline of the open water area. That is not the case and many of their photos or illustrations show there is mostly open water. Even the one from 1880 shows there is a shallow water area near shore that is not open water while supposedly there was open water all the way to shore in 1939. The area around the very center is still open water that just happens to have vegetation, which is a good thing.

The boardwalk did not go away either. I thought that was put the bed. It is a bad idea from the wildlife perspective due to habitat fragmentation and potential disruption to wildlife use of the area. Putting a pier halfway across this small lake is not a way to improve what they want to improve. And, as I said earlier, is not necessary to interpretive use of the area. There are many alternatives that are cheaper and much less disruptive. Putting that energy and money into improving the shoreline, as they are proposing, is a much better use of time and resources than the boardwalk. I do not see how we could approve any plan that contains the boardwalk.

I have hit a few of the highlights and I can forward my e-mail from months ago that also mentions concerns about the boardwalk.

 Kevin A. Morgan
Wildlife Biologist
127 South 4th Street
Barron, WI 54812
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(☎) phone: (715) 637-6867
(☎) fax: (715) 537-3246
cell phone: (715) 651-0202
(✉) e-mail: kevin.morgan@wisconsin.gov

From: Paul Nelson [mailto:pnellie@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 11:09 AM
To: 'Cheryl Clemens'
Subject: Library Lake Management Plan

Library Lake Management Plan

Each summer the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce hosts one Northwest Wisconsin's largest and best run festivals. The Island City Rutabaga Festival. This event is attended by thousands of visitors to the Island City. The most talked about subject from people attending this Festival is the terrible condition of Library Bay. While the 100 year name Island City, sounds aesthetically beautiful in nature, the Bay reflects a powerful contradiction. In addition, the condition of the shoreline to the Municipal parking lot is extremely dangerous for this event and lastly, visitors are yearning for the opportunity to visit this by water. This year marks the 78th annual running of this event and let this letter serve as our enthusiastic support to the Library Lake Restoration Committee and City of Cumberland for their aggressive plan to bring the original condition of the Bay back to the residents and visitors to Cumberland. Wisconsin's Island City.

Paul Nelson
Festival Coordinator
Island City Rutabaga Festival

February 17, 2010

Library Lake Management Plan,

The recent project of cleaning up the bay on Beaver Dam lake has brought a whole new level of excitement to our community and our Chamber Board. The business possibilities are endless as is the potential of new business to our community and our downtown area. Beaver Dam Lake is one of our most important resources and cleaning it up would be a huge improvement to our community.

The Cumberland Chamber of Commerce gives it's full support to this much-needed project and hope it can move forward as soon as possible.

Jonathan W. Hile

Cumberland Chamber of Commerce president
Re/Max Island City Co-Owner

Library Lake Management Plan,

As a business owner of the Cumberland community we are extremely excited about the restoration of Library Lake located on Beaver Dam Lake. Not only will this increase our local business activity, it will also increase the values of our local real estate market. The lakefront homes, cabins and vacant lots should see the largest increase in value and demand. It should increase home Values close to the water as well.

As a real estate business one of our biggest requests is whether or not a lake owner can boat from their cabin directly to restaurants or Bars. With the clean up of the bay this will be possible to get to downtown Cumberland via boat or pontoon. We believe this project will make our community a more desirable destination, not only for lake owners but businesses as well.

Matthew K. Weber

Co-Owner of Re/Max Island City
1215 Elm St.
Cumberland, WI 54829

From: Keknutson@aol.com [mailto:Keknutson@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:03 PM
To: Harmonyenv@amerytel.net
Subject: Library Lake Management Plan, Cumberland, Wisconsin

Hello Ms. Clemens,

I am writing to convey my support of the Library Lake Management Plan and the overall goals of the Library Lake Committee and the Beaver Dam Lake District. I am a property owner on Library Lake at 1355 Grove Street. This property has been in my family since 1953. The lake was navigable then. I no longer have a boat on my property, having been forced by low water and excessive vegetation to dock the boat at a friends house on another part of Beaver Dam Lake.

I am in support of dredging of the north shore of the Lake to allow boating access to properties along Grove Street which border on Library Lake.

Thank you.

Kristina Knutson Young
1355 Grove Street
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-4065

Email Comments from Committee Members

From: bjbyrd138@comcast.net [mailto:bjbyrd138@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 12:57 PM
To: harmonyenv@amerytel.net
Subject: Library Lake Management Plan

We are property owners on Beaver Dam Lake, we want it known that we are infavor of the Library Lake Management Plan with certain needed modifications and the goals of the Library Lake Committee. Access of water craft to Library Lake will encourage recreational use and enhance the commercial value of the lake.

Bill and Joan Byrd
2485 Jeffery Blvd.
Cumberland, WI 54829

Winter:
138 SW Seville PI
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

From: Seth Bailey [mailto:sdbailey4@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Cheryl Clemens
Subject: Re: Library Lake Management Plan

Looks good to me Cheryl. Nice job.

-Seth

From: Tony Curella [mailto:tonyc@blasersusa.com]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Cheryl Clemens
Subject: RE: Library Lake Management Plan

Good morning Cheryl,

This looks great.

Tony