

## *2023 Road, Bridge, Trails, and Wastewater Project Update*

### **Gull Dam Road change, New Bridge and Trails, Decommission of North Wastewater Plant for Piping to South Wastewater Plant**

Chris Sonmor

Since last fall, WSB has been working closely with East Gull Lake City Staff on preliminary design and planning for the upcoming wastewater, street and trail improvements that are scheduled to begin in 2023. The initial steps in the planning process have been focused on potential funding opportunities to minimize to amount of City dollars that will be needed to fund the project. To date, multiple funding sources have been considered with a few applications already being submitted. Funding applications already submitted include the following:

- Local Road Improvements Program (LRIP) – MnDOT
- Federal Earmark – Senator Tina Smith
- Fund 73 – Cass County

In the next year, requests for funding will be made to multiple funding sources to continue to look for grant funds and low interest loans to fund the project. Some of those funding sources include the following:

**1. Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA)**

Applications will most likely be submitted to PFA. Grant funds are the preference through PFA, but they do also offer low interest loans that will be necessary to fund at least a portion of the project as it is unlikely to obtain grant money to fund the entire project.

**2. Minnesota DNR**

The DNR annually has a number of park and trail funding opportunities. These park and trail grants will be reviewed to determine which are the best opportunities to secure grant funds for extension of the new trail from proposed roundabout near City Hall north to Gull Point.

**3. Minnesota State Legislature**

Preliminary design documents will be provided to local state representative to pursue direct funds from the State legislature.

It is unlikely that one sole funding source will provide enough grant money to fund a significant portion of the project. Therefore, multiple applications are being submitted to different agencies.

Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the City of East Gull Lake is expected to receive approximately \$120,000 that can be used toward infrastructure for public water systems, sanitary sewer and broadband. Since East Gull Lake does not have a public water supply system, these funds will likely be used toward improvements on the sanitary sewer system. The first payment of approximately half of the funds will be dispersed in the spring/summer of 2021 with the remaining funds coming in 2022.

### **EAST GULL LAKE MEETINGS:**

- ◆ Council: First Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM
- ◆ Planning Commission: Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM, no scheduled meeting in December
- ◆ Committee meetings determined as needed

Please check the City [website](#) for additional meeting information.



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*2023 Road, Bridge, Trails, and Wastewater Project Update—Continued*

One option currently being considered to reduce cost of the proposed trail network is the purchase and re-use of an existing bridge to be placed at the channel crossing. A new pedestrian bridge for the crossing could range from \$50,000 – \$60,000 for a prefabricated bridge alone. Labor costs and foundations are likely to double that cost. A used bridge could be acquired for minimal cost plus the cost of shipping. WSB is currently monitoring a project in the Rochester area that may have bridges available for reuse. The bridge in the photo below is one of the bridges being replaced.

Moving forward, the schedule for the project is expected to be as follows:

WASTEWATER,  
STREET AND  
TRAIL  
IMPROVEMENT  
SCHEDULED TO  
BEGIN IN 2023

Task	Date
Finalize Preliminary Plans	Summer 2021
Pursue Funding	2021 - 2022
Wetland Delineation	Summer 2021
Geotechnical Exploration	Summer 2021
Final Design	Winter of 2021/2022
Bidding	Spring of 2022
Construction	2023

Since this project is closely connected to the realignment of CSAH 70 being completed by Cass County, schedules are subject to change. Final design of the CSAH 70 realignment is expected to begin in the summer/fall of 2021.



**POTENTIAL BRIDGE FOR REUSE AT CHANNEL CROSSING**

## Road Name Changes—Squaw Point Road & Indian Trail

Squaw Point Road is in the process of being changed to Gull Point Road and Indian Trail to Gull Point Trail. All the address numbers will remain the same.

About 30 years ago, the point was renamed to Gull Point and the road name was to be changed also, but was not changed at that time.

Due to a request from Cass County, the City Council



has voted to change the names effective May 2021. The post office has been notified and new street signs have been received.

Letters of notification to residents have been sent out.



Please note that the Squaw Point and Indian Trail names will still be in the post office system for another year.

**ROAD NAME  
CHANGES**

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## Update on Gull Lake Trail System

Rob Mason

On Tuesday May 17, 2021, work began for the first phase of the long-awaited Fairview Township portion of the Gull Lake Trail. If all goes well, by fall of 2021 there should be 4.1 miles of newly paved trail extending from the East Gull Lake Trail by “The Woods Development” going west and north to the Hunters Point area of Gull Lake. The remaining 3.7 Miles of the trail in Fairview Township to connect with the trail that Lakeshore has already constructed is awaiting funding and hopefully will be completed in the near future.

Lakeshore and Niswaw have received \$2.4 million in

funds to continue the Gull Lake Trail from Bar Harbor and going east to connect to the Niswaw Park. Engineering and bidding will be commencing soon and if all goes well, that portion could be under construction by 2022 or 2023.

The East Gull Lake Park and Trail committee met recently and discussed the one-mile portion of trail that is being engineered currently to go from City Hall north through the land south of the channel by “The Harbor” and then with a bridge crossing the channel and proceeding north to the intersection of Gull Point Road and Hillview Forest Road. The new road and bridge that will cross the Gull River east of the Corps

campground will also have a trail and will provide a nice loop for residents and guests.

Cass County has formally allotted \$100,000 in Fund 73 to the City of East Gull Lake to use for matching dollars in applications for additional funding on these trails. East Gull Lake is also reviewing some additional trail options that would extend the Gull Lake Trail into Crow Wing County along County Road 77 and eventually joining the Baxter trail system that connects with the Paul Bunyan trail.

We are looking into some other trail extensions as well, so stay tuned for the future.

**FUTURE  
CONNECTIONS  
TO MORE TRAILS  
INCLUDING THE  
PAUL BUNYAN  
TRAIL**

## *Camp Confidence—52 years and counting*

### **Hello to citizens of East Gull Lake:**

Thank you for your continued support to the programs and campers at Confidence Learning Center. We are proud to call East Gull Lake our home for the past 52 years and look forward in doing so for many more years to come!

Our location near the access of the public landing on Sylvan Lake gives us an incredible opportunity to see the vibrance of the lake year-round as we see our fellow neighbors enjoying all that the lake provides (*and YES! We consider ourselves the 'unofficial watch-dog' of the access*). We love seeing the people using the paved path all the way to Camp as well!

**PARTNERS SERVING  
PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES**

2020 proved to be a challenging year for everyone, including Confidence Learning Center. Each year, our 501c3 non-profit charity proudly serves 10,000+ 'Camper Days' to people of all ages with cognitive & developmental disabilities. In 2020 we are proud to say that even with a Global Pandemic, after making changes to our day-to-day operations we were able to serve 3,000+ Camper Days.

**CAMP IS OPEN**, after the start and stop winter months, we are proud to announce that all of our Specialty camps are available and reservations are being made for campers of all ages and all year long.



**Examples of our Specialty Camps include:**

- Camp Journey (Children who have suffered a major loss in their Life.)
- Camp Sertoma of the Great Plains Region (Children who are deaf or hard of hearing)

**Camp has very important dates to remember for this 2021 summer season:**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** we INVITE YOU TO BID on our online silent auction that will include many different items big and small to bid on. You can register to view items and bid at the [Confidence Learning Center](#) website.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** is the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic at The Classic of Maddens, which FILLED UP EARLY this year – HOWEVER, there’s still room to join our 9-hole event at Madden’s West

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** is the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Classic bringing some of the top fisherman in the state to guide our participants. (This tournament is still open for participants!)

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** will be our Annual Fall Auction – details of this years event are to come, but please keep us in mind as you do any cleaning of cabins, updating of household items or even cars!

We are grateful to the compliments that come from people boating on Sylvan Lake excited to see our Campers out fishing or boating on pontoons – and YES, we are catch and release!

**We want to continue to say THANK YOU for all your support to our organization whether it be as a volunteer, a donor or simply as our neighbor!**

Sincerely,  
The Team at Confidence Learning Center

**Click on the logo below to learn more:**



**BE SOCIAL! Be sure to follow us to keep up to date and watch for CONTESTS!!!**



**Make sure to tag Camp with #ConfidenceLearningCenter**

**CAMP FACT:**

*CAMP IS*

*CELEBRATING 52*

*YEARS OF SERVING*

*OUR CAMPERS!*

## *Cragun's Legacy Remodel and New Housing Development*

### **CRAGUNS LEGACY SOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND LEGACY GOLF COURSE UPGRADE**

Eric Peterson  
Cragun's General Manager

I am sure you have noticed the construction around the Legacy Courses and along County Road 77 this Spring. We are excited to share some details of this amazing project.

We have partnered with Minnesota's own, Tom Lehman, and his Lehman Design Group, to renovate and expand Legacy's championship golf courses.

When the first stage, Phase One, is completed, Cragun's Legacy Courses will consist of a completely redesigned 27-hole course, the Dutch 27, and a new 18-hole course named the Lehman 18.

The renovations include all new bunkers with white sand, new green complexes, new cart paths throughout, some new tee boxes, and reversing the direction of some holes.

Some of the renovated holes will be available to play as soon as late July of this year with the new Lehman 18 projected to open late summer of 2022. We will keep 27-holes open throughout the 2-year project.

This project will also bring two new golf course developments that will be located on the Lehman 18. Legacy Ridge and Legacy

Pointe join the successful Legacy Village development owned by Cragun's.

Our first development, Legacy Village, already has 27 of the 38 homes sold in just a couple of short years. Legacy Pointe is accessed from Gull River Road and has 16 beautiful home sites that overlook holes 4, 5, 6, & 7 of the Lehman Course.

Legacy Ridge is conveniently located on County Road 77 making it just a short drive into Baxter. It consists of 53 amazing homesites that will be positioned with views of holes 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 of the Lehman course.

The average lot size in the two new developments is just under one acre. Sales are scheduled to start in mid-summer, so interested parties are encouraged to contact General Manager Eric Peterson at [epeterson@craguns.com](mailto:epeterson@craguns.com) or 218-825-2885.

More exciting news for the course is that the Legacy Grille will continue to be open year-round for dining and events. We will let you know more details as we approach the end of the summer season.

The past 12 months have been challenging in the hospitality business, but 2021 summer is looking to be a record summer for

vacationers at Cragun's Resort & throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area.

We are also starting to see some great trends in the special event and group business, as it is returning this fall and winter.

We look forward to seeing many of our East Gull Lake neighbors on the lake, on the course, or at Irma's Kitchen this summer.

Hope you all have an amazing summer spending time with family and friends.

Eric Peterson,  
General Manager  
Cragun's Resort

**Picture 1**—Renovation on Old Bobby's #10 Fairway

**Picture 2**—View of New Lehman #16 and #17

**Picture 3**—#17 Lehman Course Greenside with new Bunker Sand





## *How Lake Friendly Are You?*

### **Take the Quiz to find out**

Dorothy Whitmer, MD

Volunteer Lake Steward Coordinator, GCOLA

[lakesteward@gcola.org](mailto:lakesteward@gcola.org)

Lakes and rivers are vital to the City of East Gull Lake. They are our identity and our way of life. So how well are we treating our precious water resources? If you live on a lake, river or stream, or are just curious, click on [Take the Quiz!](#) Four questions that take an average of three minutes to complete, and please leave an email address. Lake Steward of GCOLA (Gull Chain of Lakes Association) will contact you by email to thank you, and if you wish, offer you the opportunity to be a Lake Steward.

## TAKE THE QUIZ

Our lakes are renowned for pristine water quality that attracts visitors to our world-class resorts and makes living on lakeshore the dream of a lifetime. The question for our City is, who will step forward to protect our lakes? There is an easy answer: the people of East Gull Lake will! In May of 2019, GCOLA asked our members to Take the Quiz, and hundreds who live on the Gull Chain of Lakes have done so. Within the first few months, 5 residents of our City were awarded Lake Steward, and we now have 8 Lake Stewards and another 15 candidates who are poised to earn the award this year. On the Gull Chain as a whole, we have 51 Lake Stewards, as shown on the map below, and over 100 candidates. You do not need to be a GCOLA member to be a Lake Steward! Lake

Stewards set the pace for managing their property so as to protect our lakes, and with the beautiful Lake Steward sign on the end of their dock, they influence their neighbors to join in: note the clustering of Lake Stewards on the map. Three of our Lake Steward families are pictured below, our thanks to all of them for protecting our lakes!



Map of Gull Lake with locations of our

51 Lake Stewards of GCOLA

Natural lakeshore is best for water quality. We are fortunate to have mixed deciduous and evergreen forest on the shores of our lakes. The original shoreline can be seen by water on the west side of main Gull Lake: the Pillsbury State Forest. There is a wall of dense trees overhanging the water, providing shade and habitat for wildlife. From a boat looking at natural shoreline, people feel instinctively that the water must be glacially clear, and there is a strong correlation. However, when most trees and native understory vegetation are gone, and the view from the water is of a building, there is an association with poor water quality, both in people's minds and in reality. That is because there is runoff of silt and nutrients into the lake, promoting the excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants and changing the water to encourage invasive species. Homeowners with lawns close to the shoreline, who are only doing what they think is expected or admired, are spending resources and effort to unknowingly add damaging phosphorus from the soil and nitrogen from fertilizer into the lake. Lake Steward of GCOLA believes that no one wants a polluted lake, least of all lakeshore owners, because it harms both recreation and property values. Becoming a Lake Steward is easy to do and brings lasting benefits. It enhances enjoyment, protects water quality, actually saves money and effort (!) and brings an award that is coveted in our City.

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The success of Lake Steward started here on Green Gables Road with David and Kathryn Matthew, GCOLA's first Lake Stewards. Now over two miles of Gull Chain lakeshore is under Lake Steward protection. Lake Steward has gone statewide in April 2021 with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers' program for lake associations called "MLR Lake Steward", which we helped to launch. We would be happy to help lakeshore owners on Sylvan Lake, Ruth Lake and other lakes in our City to be part of [MLR Lake Steward](#) or to start their own programs. Lake Steward of GCOLA won a \$1,000 Conservation Minnesota Innovation Grant, and we collaborated with Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District on a large grant that is currently under consideration by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. A Shoreline Working Group at the state level has been assembled that includes MLR Lake Steward. And Lake Steward of GCOLA is featured in the last chapter, "Ways Forward", of Ted Rulseh's upcoming book *The Greatest Places on Earth: How We're Hurting Our Lakes. How We Can Save Them* which went to press in April 2021.

Make Lake Stewardship as important a part of your life as the lakes themselves. [Take the Quiz](#), please leave an email address, and start setting the pace for "Clean Water, Healthy Habitat" for our beautiful City of East Gull Lake. Get Involved, go to [Lake Steward at GCOLA](#) for more information.

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LAKE  
STEWARDSHIP



THANK YOU  
LAKE STEWARDS OF EGL  
FOR PROTECTING OUR LAKE!

Top Left:  
David & Kathryn Matthew

Top Right:  
Marie (& Richard) Esser

Bottom:  
Jon and Mollie Villella and  
Family

## *Dedication Benches along East Gull Lake Trails*

Rob Mason

As East Gull Lake adds more people and neighborhoods in the future, it is very important to have safe routes for people to walk and ride while interacting with others in our community. Safe cities also have people that know each other and care about each other.

The purpose of any trail system is to provide the recreation and exercise that we all need on a regular basis, but it also serves as a way for residents to interact and get to know each other in a friendly way. Joining neighborhoods with trails helps people to see each other as they recreate and make new friendships and acquaintances at the same time.

One of the amenities that everyone appreciates along a trail is a bench to rest and perhaps have some of those get to know you through

casual conversations. We have some great scenic locations that you could consider to sponsor a bench along the nine miles of city trail. We have a few benches now that have been sponsored to honor a loved one who has passed away, but you can choose any reason to do so.

Currently we have one very nice engraved bench overlooking a beautiful view of Dade Lake that was donated and installed by the family and friends of the Frank and Sharon Dumbeck family. That bench is overlooking Dade Lake on the west side of the airport. Another bench is to honor the memory of a former Mayor and

longtime resident Wiljo Tuomi. That bench was sponsored by his family along County Road 70 near the Gull Lake Dam. It has been well maintained and decorated seasonally to brighten our scenery along my drive to work each day. We would be very happy to discuss with you the many areas and options that you could memorialize a loved one or just provide that perfect spot on the trail to take a rest and reflect on all the good things we have in life.

The cost and designs can vary depending on your preference.

### MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE



Our biggest concern is to keep them secure and make sure we can maintain the area around them. Please give the City a call if you would be interested in this opportunity.

*Reflections on 45 years of living and working in East Gull Lake*

Rob Mason

When I was first driving on county Road 77 on a beautiful sunny day in April of 1976 for a job interview at Madden's Resort, I came to the hill overlooking Dade and Sylvan lake and the water was sparkling in the sunshine. It was so beautiful that I felt very excited about the possibility of working in this area in the future. Needless to say, 45 years later it has been quite a ride. Growing up in rural Rochester Minnesota we did not have the beautiful lakes to enjoy. My family loved to camp and travel, so we visited northern Minnesota frequently. We traveled around and through the Brainerd area, but we never spent any time on Gull Lake. I was hired at Madden's on that April day to be a "General Boy", which in these times is now called conference services. I had an AA degree in hotel management from Rochester Community College so being a last-minute hire, the day I arrived, I was assigned as a desk clerk at Madden Inn. Desk clerk is the best job to have in the hospitality industry as you get to know everyone in the company and you learn the area very well.

I had a very memorable first year at Madden's and I was anxious to come back. The next year I was hired as an

assistant manager and over the next 38 years I had many jobs and responsibilities. I spent 22 years as the Director of Sales for Madden's and eight years as Director of Maintenance. I also met my wife Jane Mason and had two boys, Tony and Brett Mason who have enjoyed growing up and going to School in Pillager. I made many great friends and business contacts over those years that have helped me in my current job as City Administrator.

In 1996 I was recruited by City Councilor Sherm Kavanaugh to serve on the East Gull Lakes Planning and Zoning Commission. After serving on the planning commission, I decided to run for City Council in 2002. I lost in a 3-man race by 3 votes. I remained on the Planning Commission and ran again in 2010 and this time I was elected to City Council. During my term as a Councilor, the City Administrator resigned in 2014. I felt I could do this job and I applied for the position and was hired. This started by next job chapter in East Gull Lake on May 16, 2014. After being the City Administrator and Planning and Zoning Administrator for the last seven years, there has been some interesting times. The July 12, 2015 storm was a game changer for the city and was very challenging. The sluffing of the river bank near the Gull

Lake Dam in 2019 has brought about some changes and eventually in 2023 we will have a new bridge, road and trail to bypass the dam road that we have enjoyed for over 100 years. We've also seen a historic pandemic in 2020 that has changed the entire world and we still are waiting to see how that will turn out.

One result of the pandemic is East Gull Lake has had some amazing growth and to date we have issued permits for 52 new homes in the last 16 months. This has made for some busy times in Planning and Zoning.

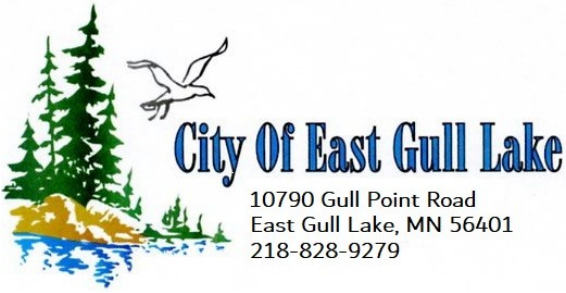
For those that have not heard. I intend to retire in the spring of 2022 as the City Administrator. I told the Mayor and City Council that I would be willing to work part time to help the new person with Planning and Zoning duties and finish up some of the very large projects that are currently underway in East Gull Lake to be completed in 2023.

It is not often that you can live and work in the same town for 46 years within six miles of your home. I intend to remain in East Gull Lake for the future and enjoy with more time, the great community we are blessed to live in.

Thank you for all the memories!

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45 YEARS



**SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS:**  
[www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com)

## Cass County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Mobile Collection Day

**East Gull Lake City Hall**  
**Thursday, June 24, 2021**  
**1:00—4:00 pm**

For Cass County Residents Only  
No appointment necessary

**Examples of accepted wastes:**

- Unwanted or unusable paint and paint products
- Adhesives, mercury products, corrosives, pesticides, oven cleaners, batteries
- Cleaning products, old gasoline, automotive products (except motor oil)
- Also accepting fluorescent bulbs

**Do NOT bring these items:**

- Explosives or radioactive wastes
- Used motor oil, oil filters or antifreeze—these can be taken to any county transfer site at no charge year round
- Unusable joint compound—this should be dried out and

disposed of in regular garbage  
If you have questions, or need to make an appointment to drop off our wastes at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility north of Pine River at other times call: Cass County HHW facility at Pine River: 888.910.2425, ext 2  
Cass County Environmental Service Department at Walker: 218.547.7241  
You can also check out information on the Cass County [Website](#).

