



CITY OF
EAST GULL LAKE
 GREEN TREES. BLUE WATER. GREAT PEOPLE. *Minnesota*

2023
NEWSLETTER



Busy Little City
 A Note From The City Administrator

The City of East Gull Lake has been abuzz with a myriad of capital project initiatives, project construction, planning and zoning, and other topics. Historically, 2023 has been one of our most successful years in procuring state and federal dollars for infrastructure projects.

In 2023:

- The City put to use a \$202,000 MnDOT grant paired with \$113,544 of federal funds to construct the new Gull Lake Lane and realign the intersection of Gull Point Road and Poplar Drive.
- The City secured \$2.9 million in state bonding monies for the wastewater consolidation project.
- The City was awarded \$781,200 through the MnDOT Transportation Alternatives program for trail construction.
- The City was awarded \$353,000 in state bonding monies for park and trail improvements.

A big thank you to our current and former local legislators and funding sponsors in recognizing the importance of these projects in East Gull Lake. Read more about these highlights in the pages following.

Further, I'd like to recognize our city leaders and staff who continue to take on challenges as they arise. Our elected and appointed officials have been faced with many difficult and controversial decisions over the past year. Our Public Works team continues to dedicate themselves to resolving infrastructure issues around the clock and our Administrative Assistant continues to complete daily essential functions.

Lastly I'd like to thank the residents for your continued communication and patience. Whether it be ideas, issues or any subject in-between, we appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you!!

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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Farewell to Chairman of the Planning Commission, Bruce Buxton

In 2023 the City of East Gull Lake said thank you to Bruce Buxton for his service and commitment to the city and residents. Bruce guided our Planning Commissioner Team for 15 years as chair for the Planning Commission. Bruce resigned his position as chair on June 6, 2023.

Bruce and Kathy moved to the Brainerd / Baxter area in 1978 and in 1996 purchased their home in East Gull Lake. In 2008, Bruce applied for and received a position on the Planning Commission, becoming the Chair almost immediately. For the next fifteen years Bruce held his position as chair with remarkable knowledge and professionalism, leading his team in support of our residents and city's vision of growth and continuous improvement to our community.

The City of East Gull Lake, and its leaders thank you, Bruce, for your service and wish the best of all our community offers to you and your wife Kathy. As you can see Bruce has "Gone Fishing".



THANK YOU

2023 Changes to our Planning Commission

Eunice Wiebolt – Planning Commissioner Chair

Paul Tollefson – Planning Commissioner 2nd Chair

Gene Bridges – Moved from alternate to Planning Commissioner

Albie Kuschel – Alternate Planning Commissioner

*Gene Bridges
Planning Commissioner*

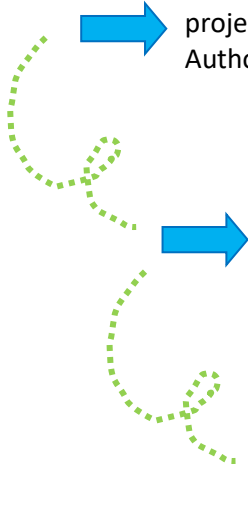
Wastewater Consolidation Project Update

Nearly all aspects are in alignment to commence construction of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) consolidation project. WSB has been working diligently with the City to design and secure funding and financing for the estimated \$5.8 million dollar project.

Background...

The City currently operates two wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF) on both the northern and southern ends of the City. A detailed facility report and long-term financial projection of the wastewater system showed necessary upgrades to the aging north plant would be more costly versus the alternative to reroute wastewater from the north end of the City, to the City's southern, upgraded Pine Beach WWTF. Here, the wastewater will receive treatment of phosphorus and other parameters in a more efficient and technologically advanced facility. The Pine Beach WWTF has the capacity to serve and treat all the north wastewater plant volume with residual volume for City growth.

Recent highlights...

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- The City was awarded **\$2.9 million** in state bonding to cover ½ of the \$5.8 million project cost. The City will be pursuing a low interest loan through the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) to finance the remaining cost of the infrastructure project.
 - WSB is at a **100% design** phase with project plans and has applied for the City's major modification permit to operate the new system and decommission the north plant through the MPCA. The permit modification is in a mandatory comment period, along with plans for the improvements being at the MPCA for review and certification. Once certification of the plans is achieved, the project will be ready to bid.
 - The project is **planned for construction in 2024**, with final decommissioning of the north plant sometime in late 2024 when the new system to the south Pine Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility is in place and operable.



Road Projects Update

The City contracted with Anderson Brother’s Construction of Brainerd, LLC to construct two roadway improvements on Gull Point Road (curve softening and realignment) and the new Gull Lake Lane for the access to Gull Lake Resort. The work started in June 2023 and is now considered substantially complete as we await growth of grass in the areas that were disturbed during construction.

The impetus for both projects is directly related to Cass County’s realignment of County Road 70. The intention of Cass County is to realign County Road 70 away from the existing United States Army Corp of Engineer (USACE) Dam crossing of the Gull River. The new County Road 70, scheduled to be constructed in late 2023 through Fall of 2024, will begin at the intersection of Gull Point Road and County Road 70 near City Hall and traverse south over a new bridge at the Gull River, and further tie back into the existing County Road 70 near Sun Valley Drive and Wood Duck Way.



Bolton and Menk rendering of the new County Road 70 project

Given the realignment of the County Road away from the Dam, access to Gull Lake Resort and the residents that utilize Gull Lake Lane near Gull Lake would lose access to their property due to the County project. The City was awarded Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds through the State of Minnesota in the amount of \$202,000 to complete the work on Gull Lake Lane and realign the roadway to serve those properties after the County work is completed.

It is anticipated that the Gull Lake Lane/Gull Point Road projects will be closed out this fall, 2023, and final payment will be made to the contractor once final establishment is achieved.

*Paul Sandy, WSB
City of East Gull Lake, Engineer*

Trail Project Update

In the spring of 2023, the City was awarded \$781,200 in Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds for the extension of the City trail system. This federal funding, in conjunction with a 20% match of local funds and the City covering all engineering, administrative, and legal costs, will be utilized to construct an extension of a trail along the west side of Gull Point Road (locally funded), then west along the old Pearl Road alignment south of the Harbor Development and Gull Lake channel, then north over the channel on a new pedestrian bridge to its intersection with Gull Point Road. The trail will then cross Gull Point Road to the east side and run northerly up to Hillview Forest Road. A project location map is attached to this article.

WSB has been contracted by the city to provide engineering services for the trail design. Being that this trail is funded with federal funds, there is a lengthy environmental review process that takes place, most specifically related to wetlands and environmental impacts, historic and culturally sensitive properties, noise, pollution, and other metrics.

Planned construction is from spring to fall of 2024. WSB is currently in the layout phase of the project, along with collecting this environmental data and analysis to put into a project memorandum, in which is the environmental document for the project.

*Paul Sandy, WSB
City of East Gull Lake, Engineer*



WSB Services

In tandem with the numerous projects underway in the City, the City has partnered with WSB, a locally staffed consulting firm who specializes in engineering, community planning, environmental, and construction services. Paul Sandy, a former engineer with the City of Brainerd, currently represents the City of East Gull Lake as their Engineer. Paul and his team have been and will be providing direction for wastewater, streets and trails, drainage, capital planning, policy formulation, funding and public works/maintenance issues and activities.

Kim Lindquist and her land use planning team at WSB have stepped in with the aim to strengthen the City's planning and zoning program. WSB is/will be working with the city on a myriad of tasks including reviewing applications, updating forms and zoning maps, and creating a more consistent overall user experience.

Kim's team has also undertaken the task of reviewing and revising the City's Land-Use, Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance. WSB came on board after the original consultant hired to perform this work notified the City they would not be able to fulfill their contract. This is a large task which will take several months to complete. Throughout the process there will be multiple community engagement opportunities which the City encourages the public to attend and provide input. Keep your eyes on the City's website and/or sign up for email notifications for notification of these meetings.

A Note From The Public Works Director

Hello,

While out raking leaves in your yard or simply enjoying the weather, see if you can locate your sewage pumping station. Many homes in the city have them. We tend to call them grinder pumps or septic tank effluent pumps (STEP stations for short). After you find one, here are a few items you can check for to try and eliminate problems:



- Is there any snow plow or lawn mower damage?
- Is the electrical control panel standing and not tipped over?
- Is there anything leaking out of the cover?
- Is the red light lit or horn going off?
- Another important item to check is to make sure the circuit breaker is on for the outside, sewage pump. The circuit breaker is located in an electrical panel that is usually in a utility room or your garage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call.

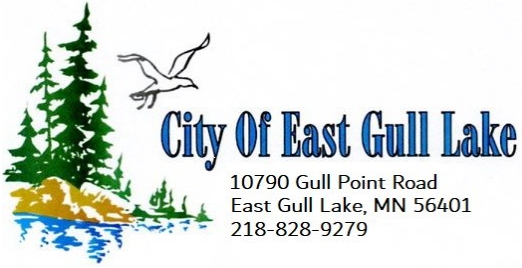
Have a great fall,

Matt Poythress
Public Works Director
Mobile: 218-821-1540

Pets in Public

Please be reminded that dogs and cats may not run at large within city limits. Dogs or cats on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person or accompanied by and under the control and direction of a responsible person, so as to be effectively restrained by command as by leash, shall be permitted in streets or on public land unless posted as prohibited by the City.

Thank you for respecting others and their properties in keeping your pets under supervised control!



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS:
www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com

Are You Connected?

Want to stay in the know? Sign up for email alerts to get notice of various happenings such as City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Serving on the City Council is an ever increasing challenging role. The Council has been faced with many difficult issues, topics, and decisions. Be sure to communicate with your elected officials, respectfully providing perspective and helpful feedback. And don't forget to thank them for their service!

MAYOR Dave Kavanaugh

COUNCIL MEMBER Jim Ruttger

COUNCIL MEMBER Carol Demgen

COUNCIL MEMBER Scott Hoffman

COUNCIL MEMBER Tim Bergin