

WATERFRONT PLANNING

Much of the City's planning efforts in the past several years have focused on the waterfront along Lake Superior. In March 2005, the City adopted the Waterfront Action Plan to guide land use and zoning decisions in the areas stretching from Burlington Bay to Agate Bay. This section revisits some of the goals and action steps contained in that document while focusing on issues within the Waterfront Business District and planned marina development. Several other waterfront related issues are discussed in the rest of this document.

The traditional downtown of Two Harbors developed north of Agate Bay. Many businesses are still located there and many buildings remain available for businesses. Revitalization of this area has been a concern for many years. With the planned construction of the DNR marina and safe harbor and the possibility of new housing and lodging on Lighthouse Point, the potential for revitalization is much improved.

Waterfront Goals

1. Revitalize the Waterfront Business District as an entertainment, hospitality, and retail destination relating to the development of a marina in Agate Bay.
2. Support construction of a marina in Agate Bay, while improving waterfront access and providing open space by protecting natural aspects of publicly owned land, and encouraging investment in the downtown.
3. Redevelop JJ Castings and roundhouse for industrial use. Provide site access to Agate Bay.
4. Maintain and improve public access and use of the Lake Superior waterfront through trails, green space, and public recreation sites.

Waterfront Action Steps

1. Plan to construct the public plaza terminating Waterfront Drive that is described in the MN DNR Safe Harbor and Marina Design Plan.
 - a. This project could be included in the planned request for state bonding for marina construction.
 - b. The plaza would provide needed temporary parking, provide space for public use, and enhance the Waterfront Drive experience.
2. Develop a program for off-premise/way-finding signage connecting the waterfront and downtown waterfront district.