ANALYSIS
COMMUNITY WEST END
COMMUNITY CENTER CIVIC SPACE
HWY. 61 STREETSCAPE DESIGN
COMMUNITY EAST END & TRAILHEAD
DESIGN DETAILS
BEAVER BAY

AREA CHARACTER ANALYSIS:
Beaver Bay, a small community at the mouth of the picturesque Beaver River, is the oldest community on the North Shore. A nineteenth century grist mill was located at the falls of the Beaver River, and for years it has been a summer colony. The river has good trout fishing, and a community smelt fry is held every spring. Located near many recreational amenities including two state parks, the community has a number of resorts and is a popular visitor stop.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS:
Existing HWY. 61 streetscape in Beaver Bay
East Gateway (View looking west to potential sign location)
West Gateway (View looking east to trailhead site)
Beaver River falls
Beaver Bay community center
Potential Gitch-Gami Trailhead
EXISTING HWY. 61 STREETSCAPE IN BEAVER BAY

WEST GATEWAY

BEAVER BAY COMMUNITY CENTER

BEAVER RIVER FALLS

EAST GATEWAY

POTENTIAL GITCHI-GAMI TRAILHEAD
DESIGN OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS: FOUR KEY AREAS

Beaver Bay has four areas of design opportunity; these include:

- Creating a gateway at the west entrance into the community,
- Configuring a civic space as a setting for the Beaver Bay Community Center,
- Designing the HWY. 61 streetscape which reinforces the community identity of Beaver Bay, and
- Organizing the community’s east end creating a Gitch-Gami Trail Trailhead and a rest stop for the North Shore Scenic Drive as a focal point.
ANALYSIS OF OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS:
Located at the mouth of the Beaver River, Beaver Bay has many resources that provide opportunities within the community; these opportunities include:

First views of Beaver Bay geologic intrusion,
A potential connection to the Superior Hiking Trail,
Many resorts,
A visitors’ information center,
Commercial development that includes restaurants, filling stations, small shops, and a museum,
Community center building,
Four sites of national historic significance that include the water tower, the old school, and John Beargrease’s grave,
The scenic Beaver River with its beautiful falls, and
A vacant parking lot that overlooks the Beaver River and its falls.

The community also has elements that provide design constraints; these constraints include:

Limited space for changing the alignment of Highway 61,
A short depth to bedrock,
Erosion on the banks of the Beaver River,
High speeds of traffic through town,
Key pieces of land in private ownership,
Limited or obscured community signs,
Circulation conflicts,
Weak connections between the business district and other resources, and
Poor pedestrian and bicycle circulation patterns.
SECTION A-A1 DEPICTED ON PLAN PG. 33
COMMUNITY WEST END:

Gitchi-Gami Trail and North Shore Scenic Drive (NSSD HWY.61) signs announce the entry into Beaver Bay. These signs:

- Are placed where the views of the Beaver Bay intrusion (bedrock and land form) and the entry to the community are first experienced,

- Use the regional design vocabulary of the Gitchi-Gami Trail and North Shore Scenic Drive, and

- Are constructed of regional materials.
HIGHWAY SIGN

NORTH SHORE SCENIC DRIVE ROCK CAIRN SIGN

NSSD HWY 61 & GITCHI-GAMITRAIL SECTION A-A1: (FROM ANALYSIS PLAN PAGE 31)
COMMUNITY CENTER CIVIC SPACE:

A civic space is designed to announce the eastbound progression to Beaver Bay’s community core by:

- Retrofitting the existing Beaver Bay community sign with a frame to match the gateway sign’s timbers and relocating it to the intersection of Highway 61 and Mac Donald Ave,

- Making a community civic / gathering space at the corner with seating, interpretive elements, and a rain garden of native plantings, boulders, and a water feature,

- Creating a tree-lined approach with parking and the beaver sculpture as a setting for the community center, and

- Connecting this space to the existing park.
HWY. 61 STREETSCAPE DESIGN:
The Community Center Park and the “Main Street” bind the west end and the east end of the community core. Changes to the North Shore Scenic Drive (Hwy. 61) are suggested to give further definition to the community core. Both options create a:

- Defined trail crossing at Mac Donald Ave,
- Series of well-defined pedestrian crosswalks,
- Street tree plantings that calm traffic and create a pedestrian-scale enclosure,
- New sidewalk on each side of Hwy. 61,
- Pedestrian circulation system in the community core, and
- Design for public open spaces at each end of the community defining the community core.
HWY. 61 STREETSCAPE DESIGN: SECTIONAL VIEWS

THE OPTION ONE STREETSCAPE DESIGN:

- Adds trees to the existing swale,
- Reduces the shoulder on the north side of the road from 8 feet to 2 feet,
- Moves the highway lanes 6 feet north, and
- Provides a new 6-foot sidewalk along the south edge.

THE OPTION TWO STREETSCAPE DESIGN:

- Adds trees to the existing roadside swale,
- Reduces the vegetated swale from 15 feet to 9 feet,
- Moves the highway lanes 6 feet north, and
- Provides a new 6-foot sidewalk along the south edge.
STREETSACE OPTIONS FOR A-A1:

EXISTING CONDITION:

BEAVER BAY FIRE DEPT.

GITCHI-GAMITRAIL

TRAFFIC W/ CENTER TURNING LANE

MOBILE GAS STATION

A1

OPTION ONE:

SHOULDER CHANGE 8' TO 2'

NEW SIDEWALK 6' PAVING SURFACE

A1

OPTION TWO:

VEGETATED SWALE CHANGE 15' TO 9'

NEW SIDEWALK 6' PAVING SURFACE

A1

STREETSACE OPTIONS FOR B-B1:

EXISTING CONDITION:

GITCHI-GAMITRAIL

TRAFFIC W/ CENTER TURNING LANE

RAISED CONCRETE MEDIAN

WOLF TRACKS GIFT SHOP

B1

OPTION ONE: (DEPICTED IN PLAN)

STREET TREE & LIGHTING

SHOULDER CHANGED TO 2'

NEW 6' SIDEWALK & 4' PLANTING AREA W/LIGHT

B1

OPTION TWO:

PLANTED EDGE CHANGE TO 12'

NEW 6' SIDEWALK & 6' PLANTING AREA W/LIGHT

B1
COMMUNITY EAST END & TRAILHEAD:

CIRCULATION SYSTEM:
The new pathway system connects the:

- Beaver River Park,
- Superior Hiking Trail Head,
- Historic cemetery,
- Additional parking, and
- Commercial core.

BEAVER RIVER PARK & TRAILHEAD:
The new Beaver River Park is the dominant feature of the east end. It is both a trailhead for the Gitchi-Gami Trail and a rest stop for the North Shore Scenic Drive. Built on vacate land, it features:

- A millstone promontory and shelter that overlooks the river and the falls,
- An interpretative kiosk,
- A North Shore Scenic Drive cairn sculpture,
- Bicycle racks,
- A parking lot for 35 cars that is designed to reduce erosion on the riverbank, and
- Facilities (restrooms and a drinking fountain).

BEAVER BAY VISITORS CENTER & MUSEUM:
The site of the existing Beaver Bay Visitors Center was designed to:

- Provide a visible setting for the John Beargrease Memorial,
- Serve as an important link between the Beaver River Park and the commercial core, and
- Accommodate 20 parked cars.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILHEAD & ADDITIONAL PARKING:
Additional parking is provided on underutilized land along Lax Lake Road. This space:

- Has an information kiosk,
- Accommodates 14 cars and 14 cars with trailers, and
- Serves as a trailhead for the snowmobile trail in winter.
COMMUNITY EAST END & TRAILHEAD:

The site designs of the Visitors Center & Museum and Beaver River Park share a number of things in common. Both were designed to be part of a whole, and both compliment each other. Each has:

- A parking lot that collects storm water and channels it into swale system,
- An interconnected swale system that filters storm water before it is infiltrated or carried to the river or the lake,
- Interpretive elements, and
- Native plants and trees.

The building on each site:

- Provides complimentary functions,
- Reflects the culture of the region,
- Uses regional materials, and
- Is in scale with each other.
DESIGN DETAILS: MILLSTONE PROMONTORY

The original millstone from the Beaver Bay Grist Mill is still in the community of Beaver Bay and is available to be used as an interpretive element. This design creates a promontory dedicated to telling the story of the millstone at a vantage point that overlooks the river and the original mill location. The location and the story enrich the Beaver River Park while capitalizing on the views of the river gorge. The promontory:

- Uses the turf knoll overlook to create a shelter that extends from the land form and continues visually to the river,
- Uses landform, trees, and structures to create an enclosed space with a trail access,
- Provides a resting area with fence, bench, and interpretive panel details,
- Places the millstone on a steel pedestal at the location of the mill site overlook,
- Allows visitors to interact with history by using a rotating mount that allows the stone to be turned, and
- Incorporates Gitchi Gami Trail design elements.

The Millstone Promontory overlooks the Beaver River and falls; it features:

- A timber structure with a bench,
- A viewing patio,
- The millstone from the old mill that was once powered by the Beaver River, and
- Gitchi-Gami Trail timber and steel signature fencing that is modified to display the historic mill stone.
SECTION OF TURF KNOLL OVERLOOK, TIMBER STRUCTURE & PROMONTORY

- TURF KNOLL OVERLOOK
- MILLSTONE PROMONTORY
- TIMBER STRUCTURE W/BENCH
- 8' PATH
- 15' PROMONTORY PATIO
- ORIGINAL MILLSTONE
- TIMBER BENCH
- 6' X 6' TIMBER
- 6'' STEEL I-BEAM
- 2'' CIRCLE BOLT W/TURNBUCKLE & WIRE

INTERPRETIVE PANEL
- STONE PAVERS
- BENCHES
- TIMBER STRUCTURE
- TURF KNOLL OVERLOOK
- WOODLAND FOOTPATH
- ASPEN / BIRCH PLANTINGS

VISTA OVER RIVER FALLS & MILL SITE
- ORIGINAL MILLSTONE
- NORTH SHORE MEADOW (WILD FLOWER PLANTINGS)
- INTERPRETIVE PANEL
- 8' TRAIL
- WHITE PINE PLANTINGS

SECTION A-A1
DESIGN DETAILS: KIOSK & INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

This signature kiosk is to be placed along the trail to interpret the both the natural and the cultural landscape.

KIOSK:
Each kiosk will have Gitchi-Gami logo and a drawing of the larger landscape that portrays its very spectacular richness. The other three panels on the four-sided kiosk interpret the special place in which it is located. The two panel version includes a small bench designed into the kiosk to provide shelter and a rest spot along the trail while displaying the regional graphic and either a local or historical information. The kiosk’s form recalls the shore’s Scandinavian heritage. Is it made of wood and steel, products that play important roles in the region’s economy. Local rocks are embedded in the kiosk’s concrete base.

THE KIOSK’S INTERPRETATIVE PANELS:
Regional Panel: The regional panel calls out the communities, the state parks, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and the region’s major linear recreational systems. These systems are the Gitchi-Gami Trail, the North Shore Trail, the North Shore Scenic Drive, the Superior Hiking Trail, and the Superior Water Trail. It also identifies the community in which the kiosk is placed in order to tell the viewer, “You are here.”

Local Panel: The local panel is a bird’s eye drawing of the local area depicting its landscape and calling out its linear recreational systems. Community resources such as parks, local trails, the central business area, and trailheads are noted.

History & Culture: The history and culture panel presents the community’s natural and cultural history through narrative, maps, drawings, and photographs.

Special Focus: The fourth panel could display a calendar of local events and information about local businesses. It may dispense brochures and maps. Special interpretive information addressing the vegetation, hydrology, geology, and other environmental characteristics may be displayed.
BEAVER RIVER PARK KIOSK DESIGN: (2 PANEL W/ BENCH)

METAL ROOF

2 X 8 FACIA

4 X 4 TIMBER

STAINLESS SQUARE BAR

INTERPRETIVE PANEL

BENCH (2 PANEL KIOSK)

CONCRETE BASE (CLR.)

1.5" STAINLESS BAR

2 X 6 HOARD

2" STAINLESS FLASHING

1" X 1" PANEL

2" STAINLESS BAR

30" TO 36" PANEL

11/2" GAP

11/2" STAINLESS FRAME

2 X 6 SET IN STAINLESS FRAME

4 X 4 POSTS

CONCRETE BASE

BENCH

STAINLESS FRAME

STONE PAVERS

CONCRETE APRON
DESIGN DETAILS: NSSD CAIRN, HWY & TRAIL SIGNS

NORTH SHORE SCENIC DRIVE SIGNATURE CAIRN:
This cairn is the identifying object for the scenic drive. It reflects the importance of rocks in the North Shore landscape, and can be used to mark important public places along the shore. At Taconite Harbor two cairns flank the entrance road to the village center to mark it. This cairn is:

The signature sign for the North Shore Scenic Drive,
Made of regional rock,
Used to identify important places along the North Shore, and
Placed at the rest stop/trailhead at Beaver River Park.

GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL & HWY SIGNS:
Two signs of timber and steel were designed for use along the trail. The larger sign may be used for a map or for interpretative materials at places of special interest. The smaller sign is for the Gitchi-Gami Trail logo and may be used periodically to identify the trail.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT:
Design development addresses both the Gitchi-Gami Trail and North Shore Scenic Drive. The intent is to create a common “Regional Design Vocabulary” that fosters an identity along the North Shore, and creates connections that will lead to cooperative decision making and potential project funding.