

**Sawtooth Bluff Site Development Public Feedback (54 total comments)**

<b>Ideas</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>
Business Idea	No residential or business development on the land			-90.34	47.76
Business Idea	LEAVE IT ALONE! We do not need to drive into Grand Marais and see a pile of development. There is NO NEED to do anything to this area but leave it wild, as was established the last time we had to go through this process.	Kindly read the information from our last discussion about the Bluff. There is a very valuable fen up there that needs to be left alone. And any kind of building up there is going to ruin the entire visible effect of Grand Marais. NO DEVELOPMENT!! I want to know when you are having your meetings as I want to attend.	Annie DeBevec, resident of Grand Marais. annie.debevec@gmail.com	-90.35	47.77
Business Idea	Fee based campground	Test the waters of offering more RV and tent camping close to town.		-90.35	47.76
Business Idea	Residential housing	Creechville West		-90.34	47.76
Business Idea	Fee based campground	Again, offer more camping options close to town		-90.35	47.77
Education Idea	Interpretation of the Speckled Fen	Boardwalk with interpretive features for the unique environment present in the area.		-90.36	47.77
Other Idea	Designate a special use area	The current location for communication equipment (antenna farm) has not been specifically defined. It is a perfect location for additional broadcast towers, receivers and facilities. A 20 year plan should be developed that would allow flexibility in designing new installation work and improvement. No additional uses, road construction or building locations should jeopardize engineering proposals for the antenna farm location. A thorough study of the current farm area should identify dedicated land for communications use.	tom.mccannstudio@yahoo.com	-90.35	47.77
Other Idea	Every ten years or so somebody wants to develop the Sawtooth Ridge north of Grand Marais, and the community has been clear each time that minimal to no development should be considered for this site. There is a rare fen that comprises a good part of the site, there are major water drainage/runoff issues that have been researched before, and visual pollution concerns if residential or commercial development is pursued. It is a pristine, fragile, and naturally beautiful border for our community--please do not love it to death!		mike.debevec@gmail.com Grand Marais city resident	-90.32	47.77

Other Idea	Every ten years or so somebody or some governmental organization wants to develop the Sawtooth Bluff. Extensive review of this issue has been done in the past, with lots of citizen input. There are significant water drainage/runoff issues of any residential or commercial development that will effect the residents of Grand Marais, there is a large rare and unique fen that comprises a large part of the area, and visual pollution concerns if any residential or commercial development occurs. This is a pristine, fragile, and naturally beautiful border to our unique community--don't love it to death!		Mike DeBevec, Grand Marais city resident, mike.debevec@g mail.com	-90.35	47.76
Other Idea	A gondola/cable car that runs from the shore/downtown to this site.	Such a feature could earn considerable income for the city while serving as a tourism landmark. One couldn't go to GM without riding the gondola to the overlook.		-90.35	47.77
Other Idea	Multi-purpose building showcasing truly sustainable & universal access building and operating practices. The building could serve as a community center, educational facility, and an information center / resource for travelers.	In constructing a multi-purpose facility that is thoughtfully and professionally designed the building could also be available for event rental by individuals which would help offset any operational and maintenance costs associated with the facility.		-90.35	47.76
Other Idea	Storm Water Analysis	Before the engineering work located in Creechville was funded, the ACoE required a storm water analysis for the contributing area. It would be prudent to update that analysis with new disturbance data created by the proposals and existing condition changes from when the storm water analysis was run.	tom.mccannstudi o@yahoo.com	-90.34	47.77
Other Idea	Interpretation of the existing geophysical post-glacial feature	The lateral moraine of the Lake Superior Lobe runs east/west from the tower site and becomes part of the impoundment system for the Fen. A user-developed hiking trail follows the top of this feature for about 1,000 feet. This is a great location for an interpretive trail that explains the emplacement and importance of the moraine.		-90.35	47.77
Other Idea	Nothing leave it as is.	I do not feel the County needs to be spending money to build trails here. There are tons of trails throughout the county and there is already a problem with getting volunteers to help maintain the ski and snowmobile trails that are already established. There was a committee a number of years ago that had a number of ideas for this property and look where that went.		-90.35	47.77

Other Idea	Please leave this area alone. It is environmentally sensitive due to the fen, erosion potential and development might increase light pollution. I would not want to see lights on that bluff at night. The darkness contributes to quality wildlife habitat and dark skies for the community to enjoy. Old Ski Hill Road cannot handle more traffic and the intersection with the Gunflint Trail would be dangerous if traffic increased. Please review discussions from previous reviews over the last 20 years.		lissa5310@gmail.com	-90.35	47.77
Other Idea	No development	Are new trails needed? What is the current capacity? The Comprehensive Trail plan does a good job of outlining the existing trails but there is no evaluation of the amount of current use and the need for more more trails. Are new trails needed when there are trails already in need of maintenance? Grants for maintenance are few and volunteers can only be depended upon to a limited degree.		-90.34	47.76
Other Idea	Would like to see the property left as is.	As a previous member of the original consensus committee and a resident of CC64, I am proposing to leave the property as is. I realize you have the opportunity to take advantage of a grant, but there are so many existing recreational areas that could use more assistance. The Pincushion trails and the Sweet Heart's Bluff trails are just a few to name. They require volunteers to perform there maintenance work. Why not invest more in what we already have. I would also not like to see access to any development from CC 64. This road is used by its residents and others for walking, horseback riding, biking, skiing, etc. With little traffic, people can walk on the road with little disturbance. Something unique when you consider it's location to Grand Marais. The road would also have to be dramatically improved. Currently there are problems with erosion, plugged culverts, and its entrance has major runoff during extreme rainfall periods. This hillside is also sandwiched between the Fall River Pattern Fen and the City of Grand Marais. The fen is identified as a Unique Biological Area by the Superior National Forest and the hillside acts as a backdrop to the city. Worth its weight in gold! The MN Land Trust has also spearheaded the North Shore Protection Initiative to create an integrated conservation strategy for the North Shore. It's goal is to protect the natural and scenic heritage of MN's North Shore. I would check it out at 651-647-9590. Thanks for letting me commen	Amy Wilfahrt; ajwilfahrt@outlook.com	-90.34	47.76

Other Idea	residential development with access to enhance development of private 80 acre parcel adjacent on west.	I Have been working with Lisa Kerr and Jeff Cadwell from the County on a Conservation Partners Legacy(CPL) Grant for purchase of my 80 acre parcel adjacent to the Project land on the west described as the North Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 18, Twp 61, Rge 1E. The County has an extensive file on this parcel as we have been negotiating ideas for establishing road and utility access over the Sawtooth Bluff Project land, or, alternatively, the acquisition of the parcel by the County by purchase or exchange. If the purchase/exchange process proves not feasible, then I will need to establish access to my parcel over the Project land from the tower area on the Old Ski Hill Road to the east boundary of my parcel. I would have the right to establish such access under the "cartway" statute available to land owners in Minnesota. The Project should plan for such access and coordinate it with the Project plans, so that perhaps residential development can occur along the access road or recreational amenities that would be supportive of the residential development. I would be happy to meet and discuss this planning with the Project committee.	jjischeef@hotmail.com	-90.36	47.77
Other Idea	I think one option for this land should be to do nothing. Why isn't this an option? The upper part of this tract has large areas of wetlands and communications equipment--both are problematic for different reasons. Leaving it alone would certainly "preserve diverse natural resources". Maybe the area closest to town could be used for low-income housing or other use but I oppose developing off the Ski Hill Road and the upper section. Another concern in the county is taxation. Although grants, etc. may now be available, eventually there will be a need for the country and city to maintain, improve or provide funding for facilities, trails and roads.	There is a statement inferring that residents need more recreational opportunities. As a full-time resident just outside Grand Marais, I already have a multitude of recreational opportunities. I do find, however, that many trails and facilities need maintenance. I see a lot of erosion, water run-off problems and other issues. Maybe we have too many trails? Not enough funding and volunteers to take care of what we currently have? I would like to see some research on why this development is needed. Is it needed because funding is available? The statement that this development will "spur economic growth"—where's the research that this is true? I think it would be a good idea to have a bike lane along the Gunflint Trail at least up to Pincushion. I currently see people riding bicycles on the dangerous road shoulder. Also, hikers from the Superior Hiking Trail are hiking to and from town along the road. Why not a better connection between Pincushion Trails and town, maybe the school area? I realize some of these things are not in the Sawtooth Bluffs planning area but why duplicate what we already have instead of improving and utilizing what already exists?	Dennis Kaleta, denniskaleta@hotmail.com	-90.34	47.77

Other Idea		While I agree with the mission statement of this effort, many of the ideas that have been generated (housing, as an example) are inconsistent with the mission. The recreational ideas are consistent, however, this whole effort feels like a hammer looking for a nail as it is not apparent to me that we have a need for additional trails or parks. I understand that the specific question is what to do with the 600 plus acres in question but I don't see the need for development as much I see a need for preserving this land as it is. It is full of wetlands and the land needs to be respected. I could support thoughtfully developed nature trails and/ a center, however, I have grave concerns that whatever is developed will need an operational budget to be maintained. My perspective is that there are limited funds to maintain many of the local recreational venues that we already have (for example, Pincushion has almost no budget and a small contingent of weary volunteers) and that adding more recreational venues will dilute the time and attention of a limited volunteer pool. Finally, I would like to see an economic development analysis that give me confidence that investing in this land as a recreational hub will indeed have a return on investment to Grand Marais. Just because you build it, doesn't mean that they will come. I have not seen any evidence that our local trails are overcrowded or that visitors are frustrated by lack of recreational opportunities.	jalexander813@i cloud.com	-90.34	47.75
Other Idea	Leave it natural.	Just leave the area as it is.		-90.36	47.76
Recreation Idea	Gated Dog Park			-90.35	47.76
Recreation Idea	I would like to see a recreational area here. Preferably trail system. both for winter and summer use. Some of the view shed opportunities from the road alone in this area are beautiful. This could be paired with educational use as well.	What I wouldn't like to see is residential. I think the city and county would have to consider if the town was really growing enough to warrant this development. If development were to occur it would be nice to see sustainable development and not cookie cutter houses. These would most likely be seasonal as well so the nicer they function and the more efficient they are the better it would be for everyone involved.		-90.35	47.76
Recreation Idea	A regionally significant trail center for multiple users (but specifically mountain biking)	Up to 20 miles of purpose built, sustainable trails that provide for multiple user groups and multiple skill levels. Camping opportunities, trailhead facilities.		-90.35	47.77
Recreation Idea	An off leash dog park			-90.35	47.76

Recreation Idea	Softball Field	<p>There are a number of reasons to build a softball field around this location. Current students who play softball must walk to the Recreation Park for practices and games. While Senior High players may have their own vehicles to drive, younger students do not. This takes time away from practice time and is less safe when you consider baseball players just have to walk outside the school to practice. As a parent with a girl on the softball team and a boy on the baseball team I must choose who to watch because I can't do both from one location. Many communities have their fields right next to each other. When the kids were younger sometimes one would have practice or a game at the Rec Park and the other at the Little League field. That meant two adults were needed to watch the kids unless you left one by themselves which isn't a great option when they are real young. Offering a quality tournament for softball isn't feasible in our town because of the multiple locations of fields. Softball league would be way more fun if four teams were playing in one location rather than 2 teams at each location. Concessions aren't available at either location but would provide a significant income and a service for school teams coming from out of town. The City would be able to make enough money to pay for the ballfield by eliminating the field in the Rec Park and creating more campsites.</p>	sue@canoelit.com	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Mountain bike trails	To include winter fat biking and all season camping	Joe Sacco IROCMTB fatbike advocate sacchoe1967@yahoo.com	-90.35	47.76
Recreation Idea	Recreational mountain bike trail system.	A year around mountain bike center with all levels of trails including downhill trails, flow trails, skills park, rustic bike camping sites, etc. and built to International Mountain Bike Association sustainable trail design standards. These trails should be connected to the community center, school and Pincushion Mountain.		-90.35	47.77
Recreation Idea	Dog friendly/walking/skijoring on trails	Few dog-OK winter trails exist in Cook County, and no formal system trails within walking distance of most people (Grand Marais). Would connect well with existing horse ring/dog park. Now that I mentioned horses, see if the horse riding community wants horse trail access.		-90.34	47.76

Recreation Idea	Multi use winter trails	I would like multi use winter trails open to skijoring and dogsledding, in addition to typical non-motorized winter recreation.	Joshua Capps cappszilla@hotmail.com	-90.36	47.77
Recreation Idea	disc golf course	disc golf is a fast-growing recreational activity, and a public course in grand marais would be a great resource for residents while also drawing tourists. the sawtooth property could support a beautiful, modest course for a minimal up-front investment with very low yearly maintenance, and in time the property could evolve into a world-class disc golfing destination. the sport is attractive to all ages and skill levels, a great way to be active in the outdoors without significant investment in gear or equipment, and a fantastic way to showcase the beauty of our north shore. i would be happy to contribute my time and abilities to realize this goal for our community!	adammella@gmail.com	-90.35	47.76
Recreation Idea	A Disc Golf Course	<p>Disc Golf is one of the fastest growing recreational activities in the world. Currently our county only has one private 9 hole course at Lutsen Resort. The Cook County Disc Golf Club currently has over 50 active members who play every weekend in Lutsen, many driving from as far east as Hovland, and we are actively pursuing a public course more centrally located to Grand Marais.</p> <p>Disc golf is enjoyed by all ages and experience levels and a proper course would only use 10-20 acres of land. It could be situated in any kind of terrain and would involve minimal changes to the existing property. Disc golf is an uniquely environment-friendly sport. It provides the challenges of a structured sport while utilizing, but not altering, the natural landscape. Unlike traditional golf, a disc golf course does not require that fairways be mowed and watered, plants uprooted or non-native species planted nor chemicals sprayed. Rather, the course fits into the existing flora of the park. Cost of a disc golf course is very minimal as well. An 18 hole Course could cost as little as \$10,000.</p> <p>Our local club is so passionate about having a course in Grand Marais that we would help in aspects of designing, installation, fundraising if need be, and care taking/maintenance of the course after it's completion.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>		-90.35	47.77

Recreation Idea	Dog park, possibly the dog pound, hiking and biking trails.	This is an ideal place to build a 5-10 acre fenced park where community members can hike with their dogs safe from traffic, traps and predators. The space would encourage a healthy active lifestyle for dogs and their owners. This resource would be highly beneficial both for local residents as well as those visiting Cook County. The local non-profit Go Dog North Shore could provide support for the development and maintenance of the park.	Cathy Quinn, Go Dog North Shore, quinn@boreal.org	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Disc Golf course	I would like a disc golf course in the Sawtooth Bluff area.	Joshua Capps cappszilla@hotmail.com	-90.35	47.77
Recreation Idea	Rock climbing	I'm curious if the cliffs seem from below are in the proposed area and if they could be developed as a rock climbing area.		-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	An official running/walking hill trail for hill repeats up the powerline	This is already a very popular activity in the running community!	Casey Fitchett, casey.fitchett@gmail.com	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Disc golf course	Disc golf has a growing popularity. It is a great community sport and would be a nice addition to any city park plan. Up keep would be minimal. It would be something both locals and tourists alike could enjoy together.		-90.35	47.77
Recreation Idea	Multi-use hiking trails that include a fenced in, off-leash dog area.	The need for an off-leash dog park would be a good fit for that area. There could be a large, wooded area for dogs and owners to safely socialize and play without worrying about traffic or predators. We've out-grown the current "dog park," which is a shared space for horse owners. The use of that small, shared space is high, and because Grand Marais is marketed as a place for visitors with dogs, offering a beautiful, wooded space will keep those visitors coming to the area. Solar lights around the parking and fenced in area would be a nice touch, and also an environmentally friendly way to keep the space well-lit at night and safe for the users of the park.		-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Disc golf course	Disc golf is a great sport for all ages. It is an inclusive sport and a great way for friends and families to enjoy the beautiful landscape of the North shore. A Disc golf course has a minimal environmental impact and would be the perfect way to utilize the land for public good. The local disc golf club would love to be the ambassadors of the project and lead the charge to make the project happen by adding supplemental "sweat" equity and other local outreach.	Andrew Beavers , Lutsen Town supervisor, active disc golfer.	-90.34	47.76

Recreation Idea	A nature center of sorts.	Combine recreation and education for all levels of ability. To have a nice structure to house 50-75 in a simple way to allow for educational forums, to get out of the elements and to host small gatherings.	Grandmaraisian@gmail.com, Sarah Hallberg, Java Moose	-90.33	47.75
Recreation Idea	9 hole disc golf course	The topography and access to the property could make it a destination disc golf course		-90.35	47.77
Recreation Idea	A fenced, off leash dog park with trails	The current dog park is too small and provides no exercise for humans. It is shared with the Horse trainers and occasionally times conflict. Sawtooth Bluff would provide much more exercise, nature, and fun for local and visiting dogs and humans. It would be a real plus for the many tourists with dogs who love Grand Marais.	Michael Monroe, board member of GO DOG NORTH SHORE and ARROWHEAD ANIMAL RESCUE. muemon@gmail.com	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Large (10-20 acres) fenced off-leash dog park with both trails and an open play area.	A place where both humans and canines can exercise. Larger dog parks are a popular design which provide flexible use and minimize conflict due to overcrowding and long-term maintenance due to overuse. Great for both locals and visitors	Barb Heideman, Go Dog North Shore	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Horseback riding trails, picnic area, possible campsites	The County is actively working toward developing multi-use trails throughout Cook County in its Comprehensive Trails Plan. The Sawtooth Bluff Park plan ties in perfectly with this multi-use trails plan. The Sawtooth Mountain Riders' Saddle Club has been active since January, 2000. There is a large horseback riding contingent in Cook County that currently uses snowmobile trails, logging roads, county roads and ski trails for riding. The Gunflint Horse Park is already inside the Sawtooth Bluff boundary, and the North Shore Snowmobile Trail is already a state designated Horseback Riding Trail; this activity ties perfectly with a Sawtooth Bluff trail system.  I do not believe this area should be used for residential development! This area should be open and available to the residents of Cook County as a year-round recreation destination. The vistas from the top of the bluff should be enjoyed by all. Let's not pass up this opportunity to create an outstanding recreation area for all to use and enjoy!	Gerilynne Heston, Sawtooth Mountain Riders Saddle Club Secretary; gerilynneheston@gmail.com,	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	disc golf course			-90.34	47.76

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Recreation Idea	Horseback riding trails. And/or the trail system to be multi use and horse friendly.	This trail should connect to the North Shore State Trail aka "snowmobile trail" which is already a state designated horse trail for which users pay for a trail pass. Did you know the horse community has to pay for the right to use the North Shore State Trail just like snowmobiles?  How in the world are you going to fund this?????????????	Vlittfin@boreal.org	-90.34	47.77
Recreation Idea	Horseback riding trails	Multi-use trails could easily be tied in to the existing horse park for use by equestrians. These trails could also easily be tied in to the C.J. Ramstad State Trail which is already a designated horse trail.	Heather Fox, Sawtooth Mountain Riders Saddle Club Vice President, hmfox77@gmail.com	-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Quality ballfield(s)	I know numerous, past planning efforts have always arrived at a consensus/agreement to create quality, ballfields in this location that can serve as a hub for regional play. So true what others have said about running kids around between two locations being an issue. Def. compliments the city's plans for re-development of the existing lakeside, recpark space that currently hosts a sub-standard sized ballfield.		-90.34	47.76
Recreation Idea	Shooting range / gun club	I think I read somewhere that Cook County has one of the highest, per-capita counts of concealed carry gun permits in the state. Perhaps all these gun owners in the county would really appreciate a space to practice shooting. Archery is also a fun sport that needs a safe space.		-90.34	47.77
Recreation Idea	The county stepping up and actually budgeting for and maintaining existing rec. facilities in this space	Hello County - you already have hockey, tennis, skate park, playground and ball field here, yet no budget and obviously no maintenance plan. User groups are left in the wind and/or the city picks up the tab. Take care of and fix what you already have before you get too excited about adding more.		-90.34	47.76

<p>Recreation Idea</p>	<p>See below</p>	<p>Pincushion Mountain Overlook is already a very good and well used trail hub. It provides access to ski trails, mountain bike trails, hiking, and the Superior Hiking Trail. It could be tied into trails to Grand Marais and the schools with better defined trails down the hill from Pincushion to town connected to the Superior Hiking Trail.</p> <p>Think a better location for a hub, if one were to be built, would be the north east portion of the Cedar Grove Business Park. It is close to Pincushion Mountain Trail Head; road, water and electrical services already exist; many lots currently available; and it is close to the schools. Access would cross from town to the business park across a less busy section of the Gunflint Trail than along the curve above the hospital.</p> <p>Keep snowmobile trail hubs away from town. There is better snow cover farther inland to accommodate snowmobiles. The area near the old airport is an excellent location for snowmobiles to congregate and keeps them off city streets.</p>	<p>lissa5310@gmail.com</p>	<p>-90.33</p>	<p>47.76</p>
<p>Recreation Idea</p>	<p>No development</p>	<p>New trail development needs to include planing for extreme events such as blowdown and heavy snow damage. These events occur on an irregular but recurring basis and extra equipment and personnel for trail clearing are usually needed for a quick response. How would the county provide chainsaws, snowmobiles, ATVs, and personnel to clear trails?</p> <p>As a city/county project I would like to see the city trail at Sweetheart Bluff worked on instead of building more trails. It needs erosion control, a defined location in some areas, and signage. It is well used and in need of much work. The county could also work with the Forest Service to improve the trail through the wooded portion of Artist Point, which is heavily used by city and county visitors.</p> <p>Non-native invasive plant species are an increasing problem and need to be monitored and treated on Cook County roads and trails. Any new trails or trail heads should have a plan for management and finances to carry it out. As users come from different parts of the country and bring non-native species into the area on cars and equipment, invasive species will continue to be an important ecological issue that needs to be addressed.</p>		<p>-90.34</p>	<p>47.76</p>

<p>Recreation Idea</p>	<p>No development</p>	<p>It would be helpful for the ARDC Comprehensive Trail Plan and the Sawtooth Bluffs proposal to be better linked within and between the ARDC and Cook County web sites. The Trail Plan is integral to understanding the Sawtooth Bluffs proposal.</p> <p>Was the economic estimate of the trail systems in Cook County completed and if so what were the results?</p> <p>There are only meeting notes for this project on the ARDC site for October 6th. Were there other meetings and if so, please make those notes available.</p>		<p>-90.35</p>	<p>47.77</p>
<p>Recreation Idea</p>	<p>I wonder if the Superior Hiking Trail Assn might consider redeveloping their abandoned trail in this area or a new spur trail?</p>	<p>There is a trail on the north end of the Bluff area just below the fen that could be a part of a SHT spur.</p> <p>Could be a place for another SHT campsite or just a beautiful bluff spur trail.</p> <p>Might take SHT and partners to develop because of costs to make the cliff areas safe.</p>		<p>-90.35</p>	<p>47.77</p>