Community Assistantship Program

Cotton Park Master Plan
Cotton Park Master Plan

Prepared in partnership with
Cotton Park Restoration Committee

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PROJECT SCOPE

The Cotton Park masterplan was the result of a process that involved obtaining community feedback through forums and meetings, meeting with persons from Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources, and research.

From this, the following criteria were established to guide the design process and produce a masterplan:

- Draw people into the site.
- Improve existing boat landing facilities.
- Provide gathering spaces to accommodate a range of users and group sizes.
- Provide the community with an ecological and aesthetically pleasing lakeshore.
- Link Cotton Park to Coleraine and Bovey businesses, as well as Longyear Park, schools, and the Mesabi Trail.
- Provide a masterplan that can be implemented over time in phases.
- Provide a masterplan that references the local history and culture.
HISTORIC CONNECTIONS

Cotton Park, located in Coleraine, has historically been used as a community gathering place for relaxing and retreat.

At one time, Cotton Park was home to a large boathouse that held dances that were attended by people throughout the range. Even when there was not a dance going on at the boathouse, there was boating and swimming that occurred on Trout Lake.

Coleraine was designed as a community for the mining companies, and because of this the community had amenities that included a Carnegie library and a large formal park, known as Longyear Park. Many of these buildings and amenities are still intact in Coleraine, and the other reminders of the mining history of the area can still be seen throughout the landscape.
REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

Cotton Park is located in Coleraine, but is centrally located between the downtowns of both Coleraine and Bovey. With the construction of Highway 169 occurring in the near future, it will be increasingly important to create a green connection between Bovey and Coleraine. Cotton Park in Coleraine and land in Bovey could potentially be used to better connect the community.

In addition to linking Bovey and Coleraine, there is a need to connect Coleraine and Bovey to the region. One of the ways that this can be done is through the Mesabi Trail, which brings hundreds of people through the area via bicycles and motorized vehicles. While the trail goes around the two business areas, a loop could be used to connect downtown Coleraine, Longyear Park, Cotton Park, and downtown Bovey.

Cotton Park is also ecologically connected to the region through waterways. The open channel that runs through the east side of the park is the primary outlet for the Canisteo pit, which is of interest to the area because of its history, recreation uses, and ecological significance.
Opportunities

- Central location between downtown Coleraine and Bovey.
- Lakeshore.
- Primary boat landing access to Trout Lake.
- Public beach with lifeguard.
- Historic use of Cotton Park.
- Connection to Longyear Park.
- Connection to Mesabi Trail.
- Open channel coming through site draining the Canisteo pit.

Constraints

- Highway 169 construction and further disconnection between downtown areas.
- Slopes.
- Canisteo pit drainage.
DESIGN CONCEPT 1

- Based on the geometry and formal, curvilinear design of Longyear Park.
- Maintain all structures in the park as they are.
- Increase the size of the beach.
- Improve existing boat landing and parking.
- Improve drainage by treating water in rain gardens before it enters the lake.
- Wider trails throughout park to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.
- Smaller gathering spaces that include picnic areas and benches.
- Provide a sheltered picnic area for larger gatherings.
- Revegetate shoreline and channel.
- Increase parking.
- Provide a playground area that is visible from the beach.
DESIGN CONCEPT 2

- Create an outdoor amphitheater that can be used for large gatherings or as seating for the beach.
- Increase the size of the beach.
- Restore the shoreline.
- Improve the boat landing and parking.
- Treat run-off through rain gardens and retention swales.
- Increase the number of trails going through the park.
- Improve signage so that visitors are aware of the amenities and recreation that are available in the area.
- Create a strong entrance from Elizabeth Ave.
- Increase parking.
- Place playground in area that is visible from the beach.
- Decrease the amount of mowed grass in the park.
MASTERPLAN

- Decrease the size of the existing boathouse.
- Create a small amphitheater space adjacent to the beach.
- Place the playground adjacent to the beach.
- Maintain open space between the fire department and the lake.
- Create a visual and green connection between the boat landing and the beach.
- Increase and improve signage to inform visitors about Cotton Park and the amenities of the area.
- Create smaller gathering spaces in the form of picnic tables and benches.
- Put a bridge over the channel to utilize east side of the park.
- Plant trees and native grasses to decrease the amount of mowed area.
- Restore and increase the shoreline vegetation.
- Provide a sheltered picnic area for larger gatherings.
- Increase parking.
Street Trees

*Acer saccharinum*
*Acer saccharum*
*Betula allhgeniensis*
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
*Pinus strobus*
*Quercus macrocarpa*
*Quercus rubra*
Acorus calamus
Brasenia schreberi
Calla palustris
Equisetum fluviatile
Nuphar variegatum
Nymphaea odorata
Sagittaria latifolia
Sagittaria rigida
Scirpus pungens
Sparganium chlorocarpum
Sparganium eucarpum
Water management

- Alisma trivale
- Allium stellatum
- Amorpha fruticosa
- Andropogon gerardii
- Anemone canadensis
- Aronia melanocarpa
- Artemisia ludoviciana
- Aster novae-angliae
- Calamagrostis canadensis
- Chelone glabra

- Cornus sericea
- Eupatorium maculatum
- Gentiana andrewsii
- Helianthus annuus
- Iris versicolor
- Juncus effusus
- Larix laricina
- Liatris pycnostachys
- Physostegia virginiana
- Sagittaria latifolia

- Salix nigra
- Scripus acutus
- Scripus validus
- Spartina pectinata
- Tradescantia ohiensis
- Verbena hastata
- Veronicastrum virginicum
Upland

Allium stellatum
Andropogon gerardii
Aquilegia canadensis
Arisaema triphyllum
Aster macropylus
Aster umbellatus
Betula papyrifera
Cornus alternifolia
Cornus sericea
Corylus americana
Elymus virginicus
Eupatorium maculatum
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Helianthus giganteus
Larix laricina
Ostrya virginiana
Parthenocissus vitacea
Pinus strobus
Populus balsamifera
Populus grandidentata
Populus tremuloides
Quercus rubra
Salix humilis
Solidago canadensis
Use the same seed mix in these areas that is used by the Department of Transportation to do the medians and roadbeds. This could also be used in other areas in Colma and Brewery to visually link the entire community.