Designing for all Seasons
Bemidji, MN

“Can a landscape design enhance a small-scale Midwestern city’s outdoor activity and tourism potential during the winter season?”

**Site Location**
- Sanford Center
- Paul and Babe Mississippi River
- Lake Bemidji
- Paul Bunyan Dr.

**Primary Traffic Roads**
- Angled On-Street Parking
- Parallel On-Street Parking
- Public Parking Lots
- Bike Trail

**Secondary Traffic Roads**
- Little to no Traffic Roads
- Alleyways

**Physical Conditions**
- One main road runs through the site parallel to the shore of Lake Bemidji
- There is on-street parking on every street and four public parking lots
- Missing bike trail connection through the site after the Mississippi River
- Good existing lighting through the site

Image based off information from Google Earth (Image 2)

Image 4: Physical Conditions Inventory Map
Image 5: Paul Bunyan Dr.
Image 6: 5th St.
Image 7: Paul Bunyan Bike Trail
Image 8: On-street parking
Image 9: Public Parking Lot
Image 10: Existing Lighting
Lake Bemidji

Paul Bunyan Dr.

Winds are from the N-NW in the Winter months.

Average Mean Annual Temperature: 37.2°F
Average Annual Humidity: 47%
Average Annual Rainfall: 23.8"
Average Annual Snowfall: 41.1"

December Shadows

Inventory Map

Image 19: Hours of Sunlight Graph

Image 20: June Shadows Map

Sanford Center

Paul and Babe

Mississippi River

Lake Bemidji

Paul Bunyan Dr.

Gathering Areas

Pedestrian Crossing

Special Events Locations

Sculpture Walk

Cultural Conditions

Inventory Map

Intersections are marked only by painted stripes on the ground.

There are various special events locations within the site throughout the year. Paul and Babe are the main gathering point along the waterfront.

Sculpture walk goes through downtown.

Image 11: Cultural Connections Inventory Map

Image 12: Paul Bunyan Dr Crossing

Image 13: Downtown Street Crossing

Image 14: Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox

Image 15: Sculpture walk

Image 16: Dragonboat Festival

Image 17: Art in the Park
Winter Activities

Inventory Map

Winter activities on site include: sledding, ice fishing, ice skating, hockey, broomball, and cross-country skiing.

Shoreline has been overturned by Ice Heaves.

There are six winter events including Brrrrmidji Polar Daze and Night We Light.

Winter Activities Inventory Map

Image 21: Winter Activities Inventory Map

Image 22: Polar Daze, Polar Plunge

Image 23: Night We Light Parade

Image 24: Shoreline Ice Heave

Image 25: Sledding Hill

Image 26: Driving on the Ice

Image 27: Ice Fishing Communities

Image 28: Analysis Map
Shoreline Stabilization

Special Events

Special Interest Buildings

Key Intersections

Connection to the Lake and River

Continuation of Paul Bunyan Bike Trail

Use in Every Season

Winter Event Lake Use

Sanford Center

Paul and Babe

Mississippi River

Lake Bemidji

Paul Bunyan Dr.

Concept Plan

Example One

Image 29: Concept Plan 1

Image 30: Concept 1 Library Park

Image 31: Concept 1 Pamida

Image 32: Concept 1 South Shore

Concept Plan

Example Two

Image 33: Concept Plan 2

Image 34: Concept 2 Library Park

Image 35: Concept 2 Pamida

Image 36: Concept 2 South Shore

Lake Bemidji
Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox

Mississippi River

Lake Bemidji

Paul Bunyan Dr.

Final Master Plan

Winter Event Lake Use

Hockey Rink, Curling Rink, Hockey Rink, Broomball Rink, Ice Fishing Communities

Shoreline Stabilization

Large Boulders

Shrub, Grasses, and Large Boulders

Key Intersections

“Lumberjack Plaid” at Intersections

Pavers Crosswalks

Use in Every Season

Shaded Picnic area/Event Overflow

Use in Every Season

New “Lumberjack Plaid” Courtyard

Special Events

New Pavilion/Stage

Special Events/Use in Every Season

Paul and Babe Waterfront Park

Special Events

“Ice House” Food Booths

Connection to Lake and River

New Dock

Special Interest Buildings

Carnegie Library

Special Interest Buildings

Science Center (Pamida)

Connection to Lake and River

Mississippi River Fishing Pier

Use in Every Season

Mississippi River

Bridge Underpass

Use in Every Season

“Snowball Park”

Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox

Continuation of Bike Trail

Raised bike trail at intersections

Lake Bemidji

Mississippi River

Bridge Underpass

Mississippi River Boardwalk

To provide a connection to the Mississippi River a boardwalk has been added along the west shoreline in front of the new Science Center. Connecting the boardwalk to the lakeside of the site is an underpass below the Mississippi River Bridge.

On the west side of the new science center a multi-seasonal use park has been proposed. The winter use is a snowball park where trees, paths and berms create obstacles that snowball fights can happen around.
To improve the safety while crossing Paul Bunyan Dr. at the main pedestrian entry to the waterfront area, a planted median was added to the middle of the road. In addition, the crosswalks will be created with pavers to give more definition to the pedestrian walkway.
To provide all of Bemidji's Special Events with a more permanent area than what exists currently, 12 "Ice House" Food Booths have been added to the waterfront park. Festivals: Night We Light, Brrrrmidji's Polar Daze, Season-long Broomball Tournament, Mini-Finlandia, Take a Kid Ice Fishing, Snow Sculpture Garden.

In addition to the Paul and Babe Waterfront Park being used for winter activities the lake directly out from the park can have temporary hockey, boot hockey, broomball, and curling rinks through the winter season. Festivals: Lumberjack Days, Wild Game Feed, "Deer Camp," Back-to-School Bar-b-que.

The fall season provides an opportunity for festivals and informal gatherings of people to celebrate the north woods culture. Festivals: Art in the Park, 4th of July Carnival, Downtown Days, Dragon Boat Races, Rubber Ducks Race, Take a Kid Fishing, Auto Club Car Show.

In the summer months one or two of the food booths could be run by groups such as the boy scouts and sell food even when there isn't a special event happening. Festivals: Ice Out!, 1st Day of May, Boat Show, Plant Bemidji Beautiful, Beltrami Humane Society Dog walk, Fishing Opener Countdown, Earth Day.

By keeping a portion of the Paul and Babe Waterfront Park open, people have the opportunity to create their own activities such as having a picnic or a frisbee or soccer game.
Within the site there have been two new dock sections that serve to connect people to the lake. The benches for resting and viewing the water also tie into the other benches on site that will have local artists create the backrest in a “north woods theme”. These benches will become the “Bench Walk”, a practical continuation of the downtown sculpture walk.
Shoreline Stabilization Section

Mix of shrubs and large boulders for shoreline stabilization.

Potential Plants

Where space allows a mix of native shrubs and grasses will be added to the large boulders being used throughout the site for shoreline stabilization.

Information Sign

Common Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana)

Tussock Sedge (Carex stricta)
**Landmarks in Bemidji**

- **Sanford Center**
- **Paul and Babe**
- **Mississippi River**
- **Lake Bemidji**
- **Paul Bunyan Dr.**

**Areas of Interest**

- **Pamida**
  - Built on an Indian and Settlers Burial Ground
  - Exact Location of original trading post
  - Controversy over building over the grounds being disrespectful
  - Science Center wants to use and create a path under the bridge to connect to the lake

- **Carnegie Library**
  - Built in 1909
  - Has no setback from sidewalk, city has recently decided this is dangerous
  - Study in progress to determine possibilities of moving or demolishing
  - Potential plans include moving to end of library park or changing Paul Bunyan Dr.

**Different Races in Bemidji**

**Different Ages in Bemidji**

- Median Resident Age: 27.6 yrs

**Red Lake**

- 34.6mi NW 42min.

**Bemidji State University**

- 1.2 mi N 5min.

**Cass Lake**

- 16.1mi E 25min.

**Leech Lake**

- 53.6mi SE 1hr. 10min.

**Connection to College**

- Community supports the College
- BSU Winter Parking
- Additional Parking on the Lake

**Supporting the College with Signs**

- Dual language signs in Ojibwe to celebrate the culture and support a dying language

**Biological Map**

- Steep Sloped Area
- Standing Water
- Natural Shoreline Plants
- Existing Vegetation
- Soils- Urban Land/Greycalm Complex: 1-6% slope
- Soils- Murkey Muck
- Soils- Urban Land/Greycalm Complex: 6-12% slope
- Topography Lines

**Inventory Map**

**Proximity Map**

- Connection to Native Culture
  - Dual language signs in Ojibwe to celebrate the culture and support a dying language

**Proximity**

- **Open Baakakosin**
  - Written in English and Ojibwe
Lake Bemidji
Paul Bunyan Dr.
Paul and Babe
Sanford Center
Mississippi River
Speed Boats
Trucks/Cars
Pontoon Boats
Canoes/Kayaks
Snowmobiles
Sailboats

Lake Uses
Inventory Map

287.63 Acres

- Impervious Spaces (286.83 Acres)
- Empty/Industrial Space (4.23 Acres)
- Park Space (8.80 Acres)
- Shoreline (17.67 Acres)

4.84 Miles of Road
2.34 Miles of Trails
1.90 Miles of Lakeshore

Appendix References

Image A1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 14: Created by Megann Long Voelkner. Based off of maps and experiences
Image A2: Based off information from the City of Bemidji
Image A4, 6, 10, 11: Photographs by Megann Long Voelkner
Image A7: Based off of Google Maps