

## WELCOME

### Take a Walk on Washburn's Beautiful Trail

One of the great assets of the city, Washburn's lakefront walking trail is a non-motorized, packed limestone path hugging 1.5 miles of shoreline on Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay. The trail links Washburn's waterfront parks and campgrounds at Thompson's West End and Memorial Park.

Unwind in the serenity of this outdoor space within the city limits with stunning views in all directions. Watch for informational signage to learn about area history. Listen for the sounds of songbirds, gulls, ducks and geese and water splashing against the shore. On a lucky day, spot an otter or beaver. Meander past the pollinator garden or relax in the shade of an old willow tree. Smell the apple blossoms from the wild apple trees in the spring or stop and pick an apple in the autumn. Follow monarch butterflies collecting pollen from wildflowers and milkweed.

Looking for some cross training? Stop at the outdoor exercise area by the trailhead at the west end trailhead, run the trail and then go for a dip in the cool waters at a beach along the way. Closer to the east end of the trail is the city marina, a Wisconsin Clean Marina, where you will find the largest boat lift on Lake Superior. Nearby the historic coal dock still handles marine commerce, and is also a favorite fishing spot for locals.

## TRAIL HISTORY

The towering white pines on Washburn's waterfront were clear-cut in the latter part of the nineteenth century to make way for sawmills, railroads and a huge, bustling harbor. Washburn's deep bay provided clearance for ships transporting goods. No doubt, some sort of trail along the waterfront has been in existence since then, traversed by workers, fishermen, walkers and swimmers.

In 1976, visionary Washburn residents Bud Robinson, Jan Norlin and Harold Moe asked the city to formalize and develop the trail along the waterfront. At that time, many volunteers helped improve the trail which is now owned and maintained by the city and preserved for public access.

Signs identify numerous historical points of interest along the trail such as the city dock where steamboat ferries picked up passengers headed to Ashland and the site of the Hines Lumber Company which details the lumbering industry. The little islands in the bay near the trailhead at West End Park are remnants of Washburn's old sawmill days.

Residents and tourists alike value this trail and heed the advice posted by Bud Robinson at one of the trailheads: "Treasure and cherish our pathway to the lake. Be gentle to it, for it is probably more fragile than we."

## TRAIL TODAY



# WASHBURN'S HISTORIC LAKEWALK



The Washburn Lakeshore Walking Trail has been designated as part of the Wisconsin Maritime Trail System by the Wisconsin Historical Society and has been designated as a Historical Site by the Washburn Historic Preservation Commission.

# MAP OF LAKEWALK



Mill & Yards of the Edward Hines Lumber Co.



Sprague/South Shore Mill



Thompson Lumber Company



A.A. Biglow, Mills-Hines Floating Logs



Mill Docks



Grain hopper at commercial dock



Old Commercial Dock



Ashland-Washburn Ferry



Coal Dock



Unloading coal at Coal Dock



Pump House