



Parks and Recreation Department

Submitted by Marcia Larson, Parks and Recreation Director

The Great Book Swap at the Historic Carnegie Library

The Recreation Department would like to Thank the Community and all our partners for filling the Historic Library with books! The book swap was a fun filled week for both Parks and Recreation Staff (yes – all staff, Tourist Information Staff, Parks Maintenance, Recreation Staff and the Director), and book enthusiasts. The donated books surpassed all expectations and gave the opportunity for many many community members to visit the Carnegie Library, browse a large selection of books and leave with bags and boxloads! Additionally, remaining books were donated to the Red Door and community organizations and will stock little free libraries.



Parks – Springtime in Action

The Parks continues to get ready for the summer fun! Docks have been installed in the boat landings and this week the new dock at Paul Bunyan Park was installed with assistance from Mike (no pictures, please) in the Street Department. This dock serves the community and many of the community fishing programs well. We are happy to have the support of the Council and the additional funding from ARPA beyond the Parks capital improvement budget to replace the old dock. The Fishing Pier replaced with assistance from the DNR in 2022 was also installed this week! The newest fishing pier acquired through DNR grants will be installed in Diamond Point prior to June as it has not yet arrived.

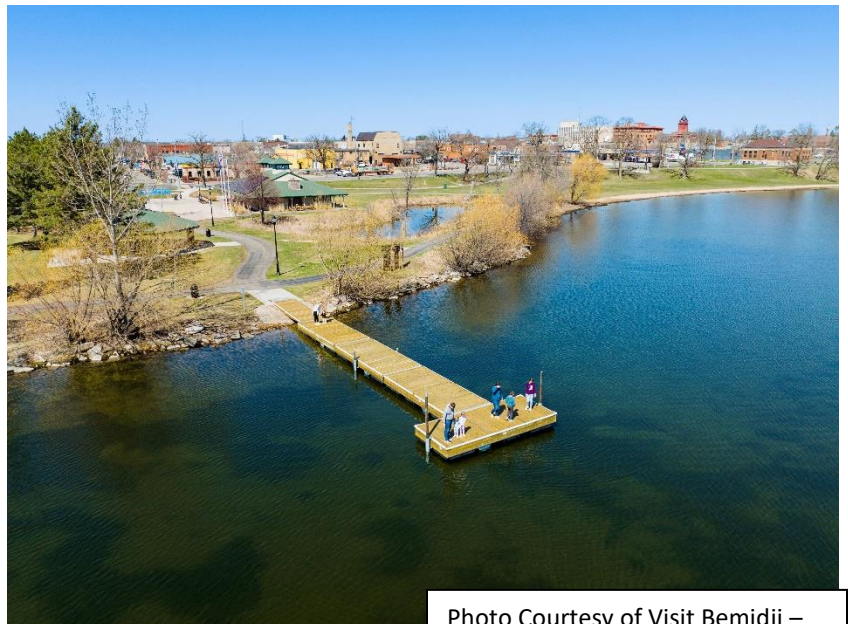


Photo Courtesy of Visit Bemidji – Thank you Brady!



Slow the Mow....

The Birds, Bees, Butterflies-Bemidji will be implementing a sustainable initiative this spring called, “Slow the Mow.” This program will allow City residents to register their yard and be given the opportunity to not mow their lawn during the month of May and into June to promote pollinators. Although registration would be required, this is a free program.

The month of May/June is an important period for many pollinators in our region. This is when they emerge from dormancy or migrate back to this area and begin searching for flowering plants. Early-blooming flowers like violets and dandelions provide food for hungry pollinators. Available nectar and pollen sources are dramatically reduced with early spring grass-mowing. In addition, by allowing the grass to grow out, the grass can develop a stronger root system, which improves water retention and drought resiliency.

Slow the Mow requires the suspension of the enforcement of City Code Section 14-32 and the voluntary delay of homeowner lawn-care practices until June to allow pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbes to grow and bloom. Registration is free and available online at www.ci.bemidji.mn.us or in person at the Tourist Information Center at Paul Bunyan Park. The program will begin on May 1st and end on June 7th. Yard signs will also be available for pick-up at the Tourist Information Center. These will help explain to neighbors what the initiative is all about and to identify their yard as participating in the program.

Birds, Bees, & Butterflies-Bemidji is a grassroots group including-The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Mayor Monarch Pledge committee and several other local organizations and businesses who have joined together in a campaign to promote the planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in our community to benefit birds and pollinators. More information about the initiative- <https://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees.html>

For more information visit www.ci.bemidji.mn.us or call 218-333-1862