

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1085

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Gaylord City Park  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Veterans Drive and Park Street  not for publication  
city or town Gaylord  vicinity  
state MN code MN county Sibley code 123<sup>43</sup> zip code 55334

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ X local  
Britta L. Bloomberg 12/14/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Minnesota Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature] 2/6/12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1            | 4               | buildings    |
|              |                 | district     |
| 1            |                 | site         |
| 2            |                 | structure    |
| 1            | 3               | object       |
| 5            | 7               | <b>Total</b> |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/ park

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/ park

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE; STONE

walls: WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

Gaylord City Park is located on the north side of the City of Gaylord, Minnesota, on the south shore of Lake Titloe. The park is bounded by the lakeshore on the north and Park Avenue and Veterans Drive on the south. The centerpiece of the park grounds is the Pavilion, a 1916 dance hall built by the Gaylord Cornet Band. Other features include picnic shelters, civic monuments, a WPA era bridge and culvert, and a 1940 bandshell.

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**Narrative Description**

See attached continuation sheet.

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Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Gaylord City Park is located in Gaylord, Minnesota, a city of approximately 2,300 in central Minnesota's Sibley County. The park is situated on the northern edge of the city limits, four blocks from the Sibley County Courthouse (listed on the National Register in 1988). The south shore of Lake Titlow, a beautiful 827-acre lake, forms the northern border of park and provides its visual anchor. The lake is on a tributary of North Branch of the Rush River in Sibley County, Minnesota. The southern edge of the district is bounded by Park Drive and Veterans Drive.

The site encompasses the northern portion of the current Gaylord City Park, a portion that retains its integrity and resources, evoking the "grove" that Gaylord residents began using for recreation even before the city acquired the land. The combination of quiet, open woods and a sweeping view of Lake Titlow has drawn local citizens to this spot for more than one hundred years. For nearly as long, this natural setting was enhanced by a bridge over a rivulet as it enters the lake. This has taken several forms, with the current bridge dating from 1940. The site's other primary resources — the pavilion, the bandshell, the bridge, and the stone fireplace — took advantage of the lake's cooling breezes to offer a comfortable spot for summer recreation.

Park Street divides the grounds into two distinct areas — the traditional park next to the lake, and the southern half of the park, which is open grassy lawn with developed recreational facilities, including a wide grassy lawn, a baseball complex built in 2002, swimming pool, and playground area.

To the east, Oak Terrace Health Care, a retirement complex, provides housing and medical care. St. John's Lutheran Cemetery is located to the west of the park. The four blocks between the courthouse and the park are primarily residential.

**Gaylord City Park**

**Built: 1897**

**Resource Count: one contributing site**

The first resource is the park itself, categorized as a site for this nomination. The historic area consists of the northern portion of the current park, which retains substantial integrity of setting, location, and feeling.

The terrain is relatively flat until reaching the shoreline, where it slopes gently down to Lake Titlow. Open woods of native deciduous trees, with mown turf grass beneath them, dominate the vegetation. Shrubs and herbaceous plants are generally absent, except for the western portion on the property. Mature trees include oak, American linden, and green ash, with only a few spruce trees located near the "rustic" bridge. The result is a comfortable, sheltering, shady environment that is inviting to walk through.

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There is one gravel access road that begins on Park Street near the west boundary, curves toward the lake on the north side of the Pavilion and Veterans' Memorial, then returns to Veterans Drive. (Photo 0001) This route of this internal road has changed little since the 1930s, based on an aerial photograph from that period.

**Pavilion**

**Built: 1916**

**Resource Count: one contributing building**

Local contractor Charles Guetschoff built the pavilion in 1916. It is the most substantial building within the district. In addition to housing dances, concerts, and other large gatherings at the park, the pavilion served as a concession stand. At present, it is used primarily for roller-skating and is open only occasionally. It is located fifty feet north of Park Street.

The Pavilion is a one-story wood frame building with clapboard siding (Photos 0003, 0004, 0005). The plan is nearly square, measuring eighty by eighty feet, with its main entrance to the east and a secondary, single door entrance on the west. The west entrance has a wood ramp with metal pipe rails. The main entrance, with double entry doors, is located under a hipped porch. Its hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has wide, open eaves, and exposed rafter ends. The window openings are multiple screened horizontal openings with interior shutters that swing upward. The wood frame rests on raised concrete piers.

There is a two-story section over the central portion of the pavilion, used primarily for storage. This has a hipped roof as well, with two sets of 1/1 windows on each elevation.

The interior is a large open space, dominated by the dance floor of sixty by eighty feet, with masonite now sheathing the original wood floor, and exposed trusses above the floor. There is a small counter for ticket sales near the east entrance. On the south side, there is a concession stand with a wood counter and shelves, off the main floor, used for rental of skates and sale of refreshments.

The Pavilion is largely unchanged from its original construction.

**Bridge**

**Built: 1940**

**Resource Count: one contributing structure**

The Works Progress Administration constructed a bridge, built over a culvert that drains into the lake, in 1940. There have been three bridges at this location, suggesting that it was recognized for its scenic beauty from the first days of the park.

The bridge spans a natural culvert, roughly ten feet below the level of the park grounds and twenty feet wide. It is lined with stones with a dry bed (in most seasons) running under the bridge itself. At the lake,

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the terrain flattens into a small grassy point that originally held a concrete boat dock (removed in 1970). The land portion of that concrete dock is still in place.

Running roughly east-west, the bridge is constructed with concrete abutments, with steel undersupport and a concrete bed over the span (Photo 0002). The bridge includes metal pipe railings, painted red, that are original to its construction in 1940. On either side, there are sets of steps down to the lake.

**Bandshell**

**Built: 1940**

**Resource Count: one contributing structure**

The Gaylord Cornet Band erected the bandshell in 1940, replacing an earlier structure constructed in 1921. Used for open-air concerts, the bandshell is located approximately eighty feet to the east of the Pavilion and measures roughly twenty by fourteen feet. The foundation is rusticated stone with two sets of concrete steps (south and west elevations) leading up to the concrete bandshell floor (Photos 0006, 0007). The roof is bellcast with metal and composition sheathing. The lower portion is sided in clapboard, with a height of thirty inches, with the upper three-quarters supported by square wood posts terminating in scrollwork capitals.

**Fireplace**

**Built: 1945**

**Resource Count: one contributing object, one noncontributing object**

The Gaylord Cornet Band erected a massive fieldstone fireplace in 1945. Situated on the rise of the low bluff up from the lakeshore, it is roughly eight feet in width set on a concrete slab. A marble inset stone reads: "1945. Gaylord Cornet Band." Built to thank returning World War II veterans for their service, the rustic stonework is enhanced by a raised panel with stones outlining the shape of a rifle. (Photo 0009)

There is a second fireplace unit, built of brick, of uncertain date, but postdating the period of significance. It is roughly six by three feet with a five-foot tall chimney with two arched openings for the fire and cooking. It rests on a concrete slab.

**Fountain**

**Built: 1940, 1994**

**Resource Count: one noncontributing object**

A fountain was built in 1940, with a pool that is octagonal in form with low yellow brick sides and a concrete cast fountain in the center, decorated with a swan motif. This was substantially altered in 1994, converted into a flowerbed, and considered noncontributing because of its loss of integrity. (Photo 0011)

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**Picnic Shelters**

**Built: 1970, 1978**

**Resource Count: two noncontributing buildings**

The park has two picnic shelters, built in the 1970s under the sponsorship of local civic organizations. The oldest shelter, built by the Gaylord Fire Department in 1970, is located just south of the Pavilion. It has a hipped roof, partially enclosed sides, and concrete floor. The lower sides, three feet in height, are constructed with concrete block. The exposed roof framing is wood truss (Photo 0008).

A second shelter was erected in 1978. It has a shallow hipped roof, wood truss roof framing, and open sides, supported by wood posts. It rests on a concrete slab (Photo 0008).

**Public Restrooms**

**Built: 1970 circa**

**Resource Count: noncontributing building**

The restroom building is of uncertain date, but appears to have been built in the early 1970s, contemporaneous with the construction of a picnic shelter. It has a simple, rectangular plan with a flat composition roof. It is constructed of concrete block, with single entry doors to the east and west.

**Veterans Memorial**

**Built: 2000**

**Resource Count: one noncontributing object**

The Veterans Memorial was erected in 2000 with the financial support of American Legion Post 433 and several local civic organizations. C. J. Schmidtke of Bloedel Monument, New Ulm, Minnesota, designed the memorial. The dark granite marker is engraved with the text: "Lest we forget. In honor of all our Gaylord Area veterans. Some gave all, all gave some." The surrounding area is landscaped with yellow brick pavers and three wood benches. A secondary marker provides the names of donors and committee members. (Photo 0012) The Memorial includes a metal flag pole.

**Park Maintenance Building**

**Built: 2000 circa**

**Resource Count: one noncontributing building**

The park maintenance building, a fairly recent addition to the park, is located fifty feet north of Park Street and west of the interior gravel road. The one-story building is rectangular in plan, roughly twenty by fifteen feet, oriented north-south in length, with metal siding and a large rollup garage-type door on the southern façade.

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The park retains the integrity of its original location, with its setting along the shores of Lake Titlow, and its feeling, with its open woods with views to the water. The pavilion, the bandstand, the bridge, and the stone fireplace date from different eras, but retain their original plan and materials. Although the southern half of the park has been developed, a park road (Park Street), following a historic route, demarcates the portion near the lake.

**Resources**

| Name                 | Date       |                          |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Gaylord City Park    | 1897       | Contributing Site        |
| Pavilion             | 1916       | Contributing Building    |
| Fountain             | 1940, 1994 | Noncontributing Object   |
| Bridge and Culvert   | 1940       | Contributing Structure   |
| Bandshell            | 1940       | Contributing Structure   |
| Stone Fireplace      | 1945       | Contributing Object      |
| Picnic Shelter #1    | 1970       | Noncontributing Building |
| Picnic Shelter #2    | 1978       | Noncontributing Building |
| Brick Fireplace      | 1970s      | Noncontributing Object   |
| Veterans Memorial    | 2000       | Noncontributing Object   |
| Public Restrooms     | ca. 1970   | Noncontributing Building |
| Maintenance Building | 2000 circa | Noncontributing Building |



**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1897-1945

**Significant Dates**

1916, 1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Guetschoff, Charles (contractor, Pavilion)

Kuehner, J. A. (contractor, Bandstand)

Works Progress Administration (bridge, culvert)

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with acquisition of the land by the city, and ends with the construction of a stone fireplace honoring veterans in 1945. Following 1945, the park shifted toward the open fields on the southern half of the property, rather than the lakefront. This reflects a shift in management philosophy that emphasized construction of facilities.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Gaylord City Park is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, significance to the broad patterns of our history, in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. Established in 1897, the park is significant for the prominent role it played in the social history of the city. Here, the community gathered for community celebrations, family picnics, sporting competitions, and nature walks. More than that, it became a source of civic pride. Local writer Win Working expressed it best when he wrote, "Few prairie villages may boast such an attractive and pleasing natural arrangement."  
The property has a period of significance from the city acquisition of the park in 1897 through 1945.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

See attached continuation sheet.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See attached continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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**8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Gaylord City Park is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, locally significant to the broad patterns of our history in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. Established in 1897, the park has been a community gathering place over the years, offering common, publicly-owned space for celebrations, family picnics, sporting events, and relaxation. It became, in a way, Gaylord's "front lawn." During major events, such as the annual Fourth of July celebration or Harvest Festival, local citizens might come to the park hear speeches from congressmen, governors, businessmen, ministers, and other civic leaders. On a warm summer day, they might bring the family to a see a traveling circus, Chautauqua program, a band concert, or a hotly contested baseball game.

The property has a period of significance from the city acquisition of the park in 1897 through 1945.

**The City of Gaylord**

Although Euro-American settlers first came to central Sibley County following the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux in 1851, the founding of the city of Gaylord had to wait until 1881. In that year, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad extended its line through the county. The railroad acquired land for a right-of-way and a townsite from William and Mina Maass, and soon, company engineer N. B. Evarts was surveying and platting the property. The town was named after Edward Gaylord, an executive of the Minneapolis & St. Louis.<sup>1</sup>

Within a few months, the prairie became a village. In the spring of 1882, the Glencoe newspaper reported:

Gaylord is having a building boom. Where yesterday was nothing, today is a house. You can hear the sound of the carpenter's hammer in every direction. There is at present some twenty to thirty buildings in course of erection. Among other prominent [ones] is a new hotel building.<sup>2</sup>

The following year, Gaylord incorporated as a village. Almost from the beginning, Gaylord residents pressed to move the county seat from Henderson, fifteen miles to the east, to their city. The town became "the Hub of Sibley County" — a name first used by their local newspaper in 1886. The battle was finally won in 1916, when county residents approved a referendum.

<sup>1</sup> Gaylord History Committee, *Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County* (Gaylord, Minn., 1982), 71-73. Edward Gaylord never resided here.

<sup>2</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, May 10, 17, 1882.

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To understand the community during the years when Lake Titlow began to serve as a *defacto* city park, we can turn to the recollections of several early settlers.

Vina Rohrer, wife of longtime probate judge C. A. Rohrer, recalled:

Gaylord was very small then. I remember when they called the part of the village near the lake 'Frogtown' and when Main Street really was the main street. Although there were few stores and little more than a handful of dwellings, the fact that the town had just been started, that the railroad had come through and other towns along the line had sprung into existence at the same time, seemed to give them all the more importance than their size really warranted. But that was because the people of this section had been so far removed from trading centers that the new towns meant a great deal to them.<sup>3</sup>

Louise Dretchko echoed the sentiment that a town brought a better life, saying:

Conditions weren't pleasant, of course, but the women then were accustomed to frontier life and didn't mind it. We made the best of it and looked forward to the time when settlement and improvement would make life easier.<sup>4</sup>

The anticipated civic improvements would be many: better roads, more stores, electricity, and telephones, but they also include a beautiful city park along the south shore of Lake Titlow.

### Gaylord Park

In the midst of the prairie, later surrounded by farmland, Lake Titlow (often spelled Titloe) has drawn the people who live in the region to its shores since the earliest habitations. One of the earliest newspaper references to the lake came in 1856, when Edward Price advertised, "Lake House is now prepared to accommodate Travelers in good style and upon reasonable terms at the Titlow Lake, fifteen miles west of Henderson. Good shooting and fishing in the vicinity, and parties desirous of a few days good hunting and fishing will not go away disappointed, either with the sport, or the accommodations at the Lake House."<sup>5</sup>

The lake continued to draw tourists after the Civil War. Laura Niles Stegge, a nineteen-year-old carpenter's wife from Henderson, wrote a visit in 1872. In a long letter describing the trip, Laura wrote:

We knew the Hamilton family at Lake Titlow and they were very glad to see us, as visitors were not very numerous then. There were other families along the lakeshore and there was a beautiful grove in

<sup>3</sup> "Former Resident Recalls Pioneer Days in Gaylord," *Gaylord Hub*, December 5, 1930.

<sup>4</sup> "William Dretchko Recalls Good Old Days in Gaylord," *Gaylord Hub*, February 19, 1926.

<sup>5</sup> *Henderson Democrat*, April 3, 1856.

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which we rested before supper. Afterward we went down to the lakeshore and although the water was cold, we found a secluded spot and took off our shoes and stockings and went wading. Fortunately, none of us felt any ill effects. The lake was really worth the trip, with its borders of rushes and its quiet, silvery waters.<sup>6</sup>

Gaylord's citizens began using this spot of land for picnics and recreation as early as 1886 and there were numerous references during the 1890s to the "picnic grounds" at the lake.<sup>7</sup> The property was owned by John and Dorothea (Gruenhagen) Mueller, German immigrants who were among the earliest settlers of Sibley County. Although the couple was generous in permitting access, finally, in November 1897, the city purchased the land.

Concerned about lowering water levels, in February 1898, the village council approved an ordinance to "raise, maintain, and preserve the height of the water on Lake Titlow." Soon after, a dam was built at the east outlet. Even this was not enough. In 1900, the *Hub* declared:

In years to come, with a little work done, we will have one of the handsomest summer resorts in this section. Something should be done for the improvement and preservation of the lake which is . . . gradually dying out. Lake Titlow is large enough for the accommodation of small vapor launches and sailboats if the lake is cleaned out and kept at a certain height. Let the citizens of Gaylord do something for the improvement of our lake.<sup>8</sup>

Water levels would fluctuate over the years — the lake was almost dry in the 1930s — and became the subject to several court battles as property owners fought over water rights.<sup>9</sup>

The new city park became a source of civic pride, as the local newspaper boasted: "No finer place can be found in the state."<sup>10</sup> It became the site of important community events and host to gatherings of organizations ranging from churches to agricultural associations. Of course, it was constantly in use during the warm weather months. Leona Hanson remembered: "It got to the point where the school kids were living at the lake. Mr. Gray, the superintendent of Gaylord Schools at the time, came before the assembly and reminded the students about getting their homework done before rushing to the lake every night."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, March 30, 1930.

<sup>7</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, May 22, June 26, 1897.

<sup>8</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 1, 1900.

<sup>9</sup> Gaylord History Committee, *Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County*, 365-357.

<sup>10</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 27, 1917.

<sup>11</sup> Gaylord History Committee, *Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County*, 360.

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Improvements began soon after the purchase.<sup>12</sup> The land was graded in 1900, and the following spring, the *Hub* editor cajoled the city council,

Last fall the park grounds were plowed and made ready for grading, etc. But as frost set in, the work was suspended. . . . The sooner the park is graded and grass sowed, the sooner will we have accomplished something, and something which we will always pride ourselves upon.<sup>13</sup>

The city completed the work and the first baseball game was held here in April 1901. At the same time, a channel for a boat landing was constructed. The land was relatively open and trees were planted throughout the park in the early years. A rustic bridge — with unfinished wood rails — was erected across the ravine at the head of the bluff in 1900. Although it has seen three replacements, it remains a popular spot to stand and enjoy views of the lake. The first bridge was torn down in 1905. In 1907, following a well-attended picnic on the grounds, the Gaylord Creamery Association voted to donate its surplus for improvements, leading to the construction of new bridge.<sup>14</sup>

### Civic Events at the Park

In many ways, the park became the city's front lawn and no event was more important than the Fourth of July picnic, first celebrated "in the grove" in 1895. It included the usual mix of speeches, athletic events, fireworks, and dancing. The big draw, however, was a hot air balloon that ascended at six in the evening.

Fall events often marked the close of the park season, marking, in this agricultural community, the end of the harvest. In 1901, the park hosted the Harvest Festival, held "not only because this community has had good crops, but because we are all prone to the desires of human nature to let vent to our festal nature and such merriment when opportunity arises." This event continued sporadically into the 1930s. Between 1938 and 1941, the season was observed with a corn festival, during which the Pavilion was transformed into a corn palace. The festival also encouraged participation from local 4-H clubs, who staffed more than 200 informational booths.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 27, September 28, 1900.

<sup>13</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, March 22, April 21, 26, 1901.

<sup>14</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 29, 1906; June 21, 1907.

<sup>15</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, September 16, 30, 1938; September 20, 1940; Gaylord History Committee, *Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County*, 370-71.

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As the best open public space in town, at times, the park played host to the traveling circus, with a big top erected on the baseball field and with entertainment featuring the usual array of trapeze artists, animals, clowns, and sideshow draws, such as the "Australian Knife Throwers" who appeared in 1945.<sup>16</sup>

Events were not always festive in nature. Public discourse was often heard at the city park. Soon after the Pavilion opened, for example, a "Monster Picnic" featured Ferdinand A. Teigen, a spokesman for the Non-Partisan League. The League was a political organization founded in 1915 by former Socialist Party activist A. C. Townley of North Dakota. The Nonpartisan League advocated state control of mills, grain elevators, banks and other farm-related industries in order to reduce the power of corporate political interests from the Twin Cities.<sup>17</sup>

After Minnesota Governor James Burnquist blocked the planned convention of the National People's Council of America in Minneapolis in 1917, due to its anti-war sentiments, two speakers instead traveled to Gaylord. They were met by the Cornet Band, which then paraded to the park, where the crowd heard speeches. The main speaker was Max Eastman, the nationally known editor of the socialist periodical *The Masses*. The event, noted the *Hub*, "was peaceable and orderly."<sup>18</sup>

In 1918, the city gathered for its annual Fourth of July celebration, but, in the audience, there was at least one undercover federal agent. The main address was given by Albert Pfaender of New Ulm, who had been removed from the office of city attorney by order of Governor Burnquist. In July 1917, Pfaender had participated in a rally in New Ulm that had strong anti-war sentiments, and subsequently spoke at several nearby towns in the succeeding month. Now, threatened with disbarment by the state bar association, Pfaender offered to make a pro-government speech in Gaylord, a community with a substantial German American population. Although there were strong objections to the speech in some quarters, Pfaender received the approval of the state public safety commission to speak in Gaylord. His address was a mea culpa for the previous year's speeches and a rousing endorsement of the American war effort.<sup>19</sup>

To further aid the war effort, the Pavilion also hosted a benefit dance for the newly organized local chapter of the Red Cross.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 20, 1945.

<sup>17</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, August 10, 1917.

<sup>18</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, August 31, 1917.

<sup>19</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 12, 1918. In the years before American entry into World War I, the *Hub* ran a regular column entitled, "Happenings in the Fatherland." Additional information garnered from an interview with Marion Pfaender Downs, Albert Pfaender's daughter, June 11, 2006.

<sup>20</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, September 27, 1918.

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Through the years, the fiery rhetoric waned, but park gatherings still featured speeches by statewide candidates. They were often joined by representatives of state and federal agricultural commissions and farmer organizations, who hosted events along the lake.<sup>21</sup> One notable event took place in 1930, when the Manthey-Asmus American Legion Post, joined by its Women's Legion Auxiliary, dedicated a monument to Sibley County Pioneers. Held in conjunction with a Third District American Legion Convention, Governor Theodore Christianson was the featured speaker. For those seeking more than speeches, there was a carnival, athletic competition, and a concert.

There were also educational programs in the park. In the late 1910s and early 1920s, the park was also home to an annual Chautauqua. The Chautauqua movement has its roots in post-Civil War culture. In 1874, businessman Lewis Miller and Methodist bishop John Heyl Vincent began a summer school for Sunday School teachers on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in western New York State.<sup>22</sup> Each summer, the institution offered a blend of educational programs, moral exhortations, musical performances, and literary and dramatic performances. Just as central to the "spirit of Chautauqua" was its location in a natural setting, away from urban areas in pastoral settings that encouraged healthful physical recreation.

Beginning with the general principles enunciated by Vincent and Miller, civic leaders across the country began to organize their own Chautauquas.<sup>23</sup> Various administrative arrangements were employed, ranging from private syndicates to city commissions. More often than not, the impulse was found in local boosterism, driven by merchants who wished to make their town into a vacation destination. At its peak in 1924, more than 440 independent assemblies had organized, although some opened for only a summer or two.<sup>24</sup>

By the time Chautauqua reached Gaylord, the movement had shifted from quiet permanent retreats to traveling shows, organized by competing companies who fought for the rights to well-known speakers like William Jennings Bryan. The city's committee employed the Midland Chautauqua Circuit to book its acts. The Gaylord meetings featured a common mix of music, novelty acts, travelogues, self-improvement lecturers, and travelogues. The 1917 program included a performance by the "Hiawatha Ojibway Indian

<sup>21</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 24, 1921; August 13, 1926. A review of the news each summer reveals that large events were common, ranging from church denomination picnics to annual school field day outings.

<sup>22</sup> Andrew Reiser, *The Chautauqua Moment: Protestants, Progressives, and the Culture of Modern Liberalism* (New York: N.Y., Columbia University Press, 2003), 101-103; John Heyl Vincent, *The Chautauqua Movement* (Boston: The Chautauqua Press, 1886), 114.

<sup>23</sup> Andrew Reiser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 51-52.

<sup>24</sup> The Chautauqua Institution Archives, Harry McClarran Collection, "The Chautauqua Movement: Independent Chautauqua Assemblies" (Chautauqua, N.Y.: Chautauqua Institution, 2004).



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Players” with “Indians from the original tribe” acting out Longfellow’s epic poem. By the mid-1920s, the Chautauqua movement was dying across the country, and Gaylord ended these annual gatherings.<sup>25</sup>

### Entertainment

In 1916, the Gaylord Cornet Band built a pavilion in the park. The band was an important part of the life of the community, especially in one with a large percentage of first and second generation Germans.<sup>26</sup> Organized in 1882, the band was a regular part of the city’s public events, featured in parades, dances, and concerts. As the *Gaylord Hub* (edited by band member Charles Wallin) said, “A good up-to-date band is one of the most useful things a town can . . . possess. It is one of the best advertisements a town can have. . . . A good band will make all roads leading into town a beaten path.”<sup>27</sup> Their first bandstand was constructed in 1888 and located just off Main Street. By 1916, however, they decided that a permanent home in the park would be more suitable and acquired a lease from the city and built a dancing pavilion.<sup>28</sup>

During the years between 1910 and 1930, an important transition in popular entertainment was taking place, as public dancing grew in popularity. While the reasons are not easy to distill into a simple explanation, popular culture had new media for sharing music, with the introduction of the phonograph and radio. The automobile provided a means of transportation that expanded the social networks of small town America, opening the door for audiences — especially young people — to attend dances in nearby towns. According to one historian, by the 1920s, dancing was nation's second most popular form of recreation — surpassed only by baseball.<sup>29</sup>

Reflecting this trend and adding to its appeal, dance pavilions sprang up across the country during the early decades of the twentieth century, often situated in rural communities. As historian Geronimo Trevino III wrote, “The dance hall became a focal meeting place for their favorite pastime of dancing and listening to singing groups. It provided the medicine they needed from the rigors of the farm.”<sup>30</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 22, 29, 1917; June 21, 1918.

<sup>26</sup> See Martin Stokes, “Ethnicity, Identity, and Music,” in *Ethnicity, Identity, and Music: The Musical Construction of Place*. Martin Stokes, ed. (Oxford: Berg Publishers, 1994), 5.

<sup>27</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 21, 1916; July 6, 1917.

<sup>28</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, August 11, 18, 1916.

<sup>29</sup> Russel B. Nye, “Saturday Night at the Paradise Ballroom: Dance Halls in the Twenties,” *Journal of Popular Culture*, 7 (Summer, 1973), 14-22.

<sup>30</sup> Geronimo Trevino III, *Dance Halls and Last Calls: A History of Texas Country Music*. (Plano, Texas: Republic of Texas Press, 2002), 1; Gail Folkins, “Texas Dance Halls: History, Culture, and Community,” *Journal of Texas Music History* 6: (2006), 3-5.

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The Gaylord Pavilion was typical of the period. First, it was located next to a lake — a common phenomenon in the days before air-conditioning. These pavilions were often simple wooden buildings with truss roofs, modestly sized dance floors, and small stages. Typically built without window glass, heating, or air conditioning, they generally had large screened windows that allowed lake breezes to flow through and cool the dancers. Pavilion ballrooms were often successful because of their locations. Big city residents would drive long distances to escape the heat and dance at a lakeshore, and local residents often swelled the crowd. In Gaylord, road improvements spurred travel to the park after 1919, when work began on the road that became State Hwy. 22, cutting along the south and west of the city park.

Pavilions in small Minnesota towns like Gaylord and Glencoe could often attract nationally known musical talent because many dance bands relied on small town bookings, scheduled en route between big-city ballrooms, as an important source of revenue.<sup>31</sup>

Local contractor Charles Guetschoff built the new hall. The Pavilion featured a sixty-by-eighty foot dance floor, checkroom, and refreshment stand — although liquor was not allowed on the grounds. At its dedication, the local newspaper stated, “The location in our pretty park is one of the finest in the state. . . . It is the only pavilion in Sibley County and outings at Lake Titlow’s shores will be made popular next season and in the years to come. The building will also make a convenient place for large public gatherings.”<sup>32</sup>

Over the years, the season typically opened in early May and ended in early October, with dances featuring popular bands from central Minnesota. These included such well-known “old-time” bands as the Six Fat Dutchmen, Whoopee John’s Band, and the Crescent Orchestra of New Germany, reflecting a regional preference for music with German or Bohemian roots.

A bandstand was erected in 1921, designed by J. H. Kuehner, a local carpenter, and was placed overlooking the ravine and a newly-rebuilt “rustic” bridge. No longer standing, this bandstand was described as “elevated over a wide bridge, crossing the ravine a short distance from the bridge and is substantially built and amply large to accommodate a Band of thirty pieces comfortably.”<sup>33</sup>

Beginning in the 1920s, the Pavilion was also used for roller-skating, with the dance floor covered with masonite panels. The Cornet Band turned the management of this popular pastime over to contracted operators.

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<sup>31</sup> Leon Gault, *Ballroom Echoes*, 78-90.

<sup>32</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, September 22, 1916.

<sup>33</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, May 6, June 10, 1921.

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On most occasions, community picnics featured outdoor concerts, as in 1926, when bands representing Bernadotte, Henderson, Lafayette, Gibbon, and Gaylord entertained — called “the finest and most elaborate program ever staged in southern Minnesota.”<sup>34</sup>

Regular summer concerts continued throughout the period of significance. In 1940, a new bandstand was constructed and used by the Gaylord Cornet Band.<sup>35</sup>

### Recreation

The park was also the place for local residents to enjoy times of recreation. Although water levels of Lake Titlow often fluctuated — almost drying up in the mid-1930s — boating was a popular summer recreation. Best suited for rowboats, canoes, and sailboats, two motorboats were brought to the lake in 1909-10. It was typical for major picnic events to include boat races on the schedule. In 1926, a concrete dock was erected.<sup>36</sup> After it was damaged by ice, a new dock was constructed using WPA funds in 1940.

Baseball was a constant source of enjoyment over the years, Citizens have been playing ball at Gaylord City Park since at least 1897, and the sport still plays an important role shaping community identity. Writing about the role of baseball, Historian Ross Bernstein said, “In small town America, being on a team was like being royalty. It gave communities a sense of pride and helped them to form a sense of identity. Summers were planned around the teams' schedules, and their games were front page news.” Because the field was part of the city park, picnics and other events invariably included a game on the schedule.<sup>37</sup>

The very first issue of the *Hub*, published in 1886, referred to the organization of a local team. Gaylord baseball teams often played to overflow crowds, followed by newspaper stories reporting the results in great detail with a profuse use of adjectives about exploits of the local team. This park's first baseball game took place in April 1901 after local volunteers graded the field and built a backstop. The opponents were two local teams, dubbed the “Fats and the Leans.” A grandstand, financed by local contributions, was built in 1905.

<sup>34</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, May 4, 1917; July 16, 30, 1926.

<sup>35</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 12, September 13, 1940. Unfortunately, newspaper accounts are sparse as to any details about the construction of this bandstand.

<sup>36</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 10, 1921.

<sup>37</sup> Ross Bernstein, *Batter Up! Celebrating a Century of Minnesota Baseball* (New Brighton, Minn.: Printing Enterprises, 2003), 74.

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It took until 1928 to organize a strong regional league. The Tomahawk League included teams from Gaylord, Fairfax, Gibbon, Winthrop, Arlington, Green Isle, Henderson, and Glencoe.<sup>38</sup> Based on the crowds attracted by the league games, in 1934, a new grandstand was erected with the aid of the Civil Works Administration, a federal relief program. That same year, night baseball was introduced, if only briefly, by the visiting Detroit Night Hawks. This itinerant team's market ploy included a traveling set of twenty floodlights.

### The New Deal

The Great Depression had a major impact on Gaylord's park, as it did on public parks throughout the country. Families had little money for commercial recreation and travel, and instead patronized the public park. New Deal work relief agencies like the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) collaborated with local governments to build new sports fields, grandstands, tennis and basketball courts, skating rinks, swimming pools, beaches, parks, and playgrounds. In many cases, towns acquired facilities they would not otherwise have been able to obtain. With federal money, cities hired playground supervisors and recreation directors. About ten percent of WPA projects were devoted to parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, and other outdoor recreation facilities. Federal spending on local recreation during the New Deal was surpassed only by local road and street construction.<sup>39</sup>

Early in the New Deal, the Gaylord City Park benefited from several New Deal era government programs. In 1934, workers from the Civil Works Administration (CWA) planted around 400 trees in the park. Its workers built a new baseball grandstand — thirty feet in length with ten rows of seats.<sup>40</sup> Emergency relief funds also helped to build an outdoor ice skating rink, measuring 300 by 150 feet. "Gaylord," said the *Hub*, "has long felt the need of a skating rink for winter recreation. . . .the only cost to the local residents will be the flooding and the expense connected with the warming house."<sup>41</sup>

In 1940, the WPA assisted with construction of a new concrete boat dock plus replacement of the bridge over the ravine. In addition, the city hired a park recreational director with federal funds.<sup>42</sup> The

<sup>38</sup> Gaylord History Committee, *Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County*, 387-390.

<sup>39</sup> Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1985), 9-11; Ellis Armstrong, *The History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976* (American Public Works Administration, 1976), 563

<sup>40</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, March 23, 1934. The baseball field has been replaced, but many of the trees planted by CWA workers remain.

<sup>41</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, September 28, December 14, 1934. The rink has been replaced several times over the years.

<sup>42</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, February 9, 1940. The boat dock badly deteriorated in the 1960s and was removed in 1970.

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city's summary report on federal relief praised the programs, stating: "Directly or indirectly, all of the projects . . . have been of public value to the municipality and its citizens. This is true from the stand points of additional services and conveniences given the community, the helpfulness they have given the unemployed, and the economic improvement in the municipality's finances."<sup>43</sup>

The following year saw the shift away New Deal work programs as the shadow of war loomed over the nation. Some of the more glorious park celebrations took place during the World War II years. In 1942, for example, the Fourth of July event was capped with fireworks in the shape of General Douglas MacArthur, while the 1943 picnic had a grand re-enactment of the battle of Guadalcanal on the schedule, complete with an amphibious assault on Braasch Island. Unfortunately this was canceled at the last minute.<sup>44</sup> As the war drew to a close, the Gaylord Cornet Band donated money for a new rustic stone fireplace in 1945, intended as a welcome home present for returning soldiers and sailors.

### The Postwar Period

The public was in the mood to support community activities after World War II. Across the country, expenditures on recreation climbed to five percent of American consumer spending — up from three percent in 1909 — fueling a park construction boom.<sup>45</sup>

Several significant changes took place in the years immediately following the war. The Pavilion no longer tried to schedule regular dances, although they might be booked during special events such as the annual Fourth of July celebrations. Instead, roller-skating became the building's primary function, typically open during the warm months on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, as well as Sunday afternoons.<sup>46</sup>

Many American cities, like Gaylord, experienced another period of park investment. During the war, service personnel for the first time had experienced an opportunity to enjoy extensive recreation facilities and diversified programs provided by the military. After the war ended, returning servicemen expected good recreational facilities at home, too. In 1953, the city drafted a plan for development of the park, with a tree-lined boulevard connecting the county courthouse. This, however, was never implemented.

Infrastructure investments over the next two decades included incremental upgrades to the baseball field. The Community Club purchased playground equipment for the park in 1945, often upgraded and

<sup>43</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, April 8, 1938.

<sup>44</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, July 1, 1921; March 26, June 25, July 2, 1943.

<sup>45</sup> Armstrong, *History of Public Works*, 566; Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Boston: 1989), 114-116, 119.

<sup>46</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 15, 1945; July 19, 1946.

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replaced over the years through the support of various community associations. Two tennis courts were opened on the southwest corner of the park in 1960. Although many surrounding towns had a public swimming pool, Gaylord's pool did not open until 1965. Given the vagaries of water levels, the lake's use for recreation diminished after construction of the pool. When the WPA boat dock deteriorated in 1970, it was removed and not replaced.

After World War II, an American Legion baseball team was formed, with the local men playing in a seven-team league made up of teams from surrounding towns. Intense rivalries formed, as teams tried to prove the merits of their respective cities. In 1947, Gaylord held a referendum and overwhelmingly approved the installation of lights at Titlow Field. When the work was completed, the inaugural game was called by Halsey Hall, the popular WCCO radio personality. For several years, the high school also played their football games under the lights in the park.<sup>47</sup>

The current grandstand, named for Bill Walsh, a longtime volunteer, was built in 2002. In 2009, it hosted the state Class B and C tournaments.

One other important change altered the surrounding neighborhood. In 1945, the city approved a referendum to build a community hospital, selecting a site just to the east of the park. A primary argument in support of the location was "because of the advantages of nearby Titlow Park for patients and visitors, because it is within easy walking distance from the heart of Gaylord and also because of the quietness which prevails there on all but a few days each year." Because of political and economic issues, however, the hospital was not constructed until 1951.<sup>48</sup>

## Conclusion

Gaylord City Park, established in 1897, has been a vital part of community life almost since the city's first settlement. As Win Working, a local writer, said in 1930: "Few prairie villages may boast such an attractive and pleasing natural arrangement . . . Crowds sauntered through the grounds and the glint of the sun on the cool waters greatly enhanced the charm of the scene, and many visitors paused to admire the view."<sup>49</sup> It also became a source of civic pride — evidence that the town had come of age since its founding in 1881, worthy of wresting the county seat away from Henderson to the east.

<sup>47</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, August 15, 22, September 5, 12, 19, 1947. These lights were replaced in 1970. *Gaylord Hub*, June 11, 1970.

<sup>48</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, August 10, 17, 24, 1945.

<sup>49</sup> *Gaylord Hub*, June 27, 1930.

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Since its founding, it has been the city's main park, drawing townspeople and visitors for picnicking, swimming, dancing, concerts, baseball games, social gatherings, reunions, and festivals. Generations of residents and tourists have enjoyed the park's natural assets and manmade buildings and structures.

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SECTION 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Newspapers

*Gaylord Hub*. The Minnesota Historical Society does not have the following issues: November 29, 1891-March 11, 1892; February 8, 1908-September 9, 1915; September 11, 1915-June 19, 1930; June 20, 1930-1941. Bound copies of these years are available through the courtesy of the *Gaylord Hub*.



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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 6.93 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |         |          |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 15   | 402422  | 4934973  | 3 | 15   | 403166  | 4934784  |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 15   | 402878  | 4934916  | 4 | 15   | 403097  | 4934730  |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See attached continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See attached continuation sheet.

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**SECTION 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

That part of Government Lot Number 4 of Section 29, Township 113, Range 28, City of Gaylord, Sibley County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of Lot 12 of Block 10 of the plat of POEHLER'S ADDITION to the City of Gaylord, said plat being of record and on file at the Sibley County Recorder's Office; thence on an assumed bearing of South 89 degrees 55 minutes 57 seconds West along the South line of said Block 10 a distance of 210.00 feet; thence North 10 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 65.00 feet; thence North 20 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 85.00 feet; thence North 32 degrees 17 minutes 28 seconds West 178.60 feet; thence North 41 degrees 33 minutes 38 seconds East 30.40 feet; thence easterly along a tangential curve that is concave to the south, said curve having a central angle of 68 degrees 14 minutes 44 seconds, a radius length of 52.23 feet, an arc length of 62.21 feet; thence North 19 degrees 48 minutes 22 seconds East, not tangent to last described curve, 13.79 feet; thence North 24 degrees 44 minutes 35 seconds West 120.00 feet; thence South 65 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds West 124.00 feet; thence North 30 degrees 15 minutes 43 seconds West 93.00 feet to the point of beginning of the tract to be described; thence North 52 degrees 26 minutes 37 seconds West 202.44 feet; thence North 61 degrees 24 minutes 13 seconds West 342.59 feet; thence North 38 degrees 07 minutes 55 seconds West 43.17 feet; thence North 30 degrees 50 minutes 26 seconds East 70.00 feet; thence North 43 degrees 29 minutes 21 seconds West 157.44 feet; thence North 42 degrees 41 minutes 55 seconds West 97.35 feet; thence North 62 degrees 31 minutes 32 seconds West 172.42 feet; thence North 11 degrees 49 minutes 16 seconds West 122.24 feet; thence North 36 degrees 03 minutes 59 seconds East 173 feet, more or less, to the southerly shoreline of Lake Titloe; thence southeasterly along said shoreline 1218 feet, more or less, to the intersection with a line that bears North 59 degrees 44 minutes 17 seconds East from the point of beginning; thence South 59 degrees 44 minutes 17 seconds West along said line 287 feet, more or less to the point of beginning. This tract contains 6.93 acres of land, more or less, and is subject to any and all easements of record.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is comprised 6.93 acres and includes the northern portion of the park boundaries, retaining its integrity of location, setting, and feeling. Excluded from the boundary are portions of the original grounds that have been substantially changed due to construction of new buildings and structures. These contemporary elements have changed this portion of the park's appearance such that it no longer evokes the original character of the southern section of the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Daniel J. Hoisington  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date Summer 2011  
street & number P. O. Box 13790 telephone 651-415-1034  
city or town Roseville state MN zip code 55113  
e-mail preservation@edinborough.com

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
  - **Continuation Sheets**
  - **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
- 

**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See attached continuation sheet.

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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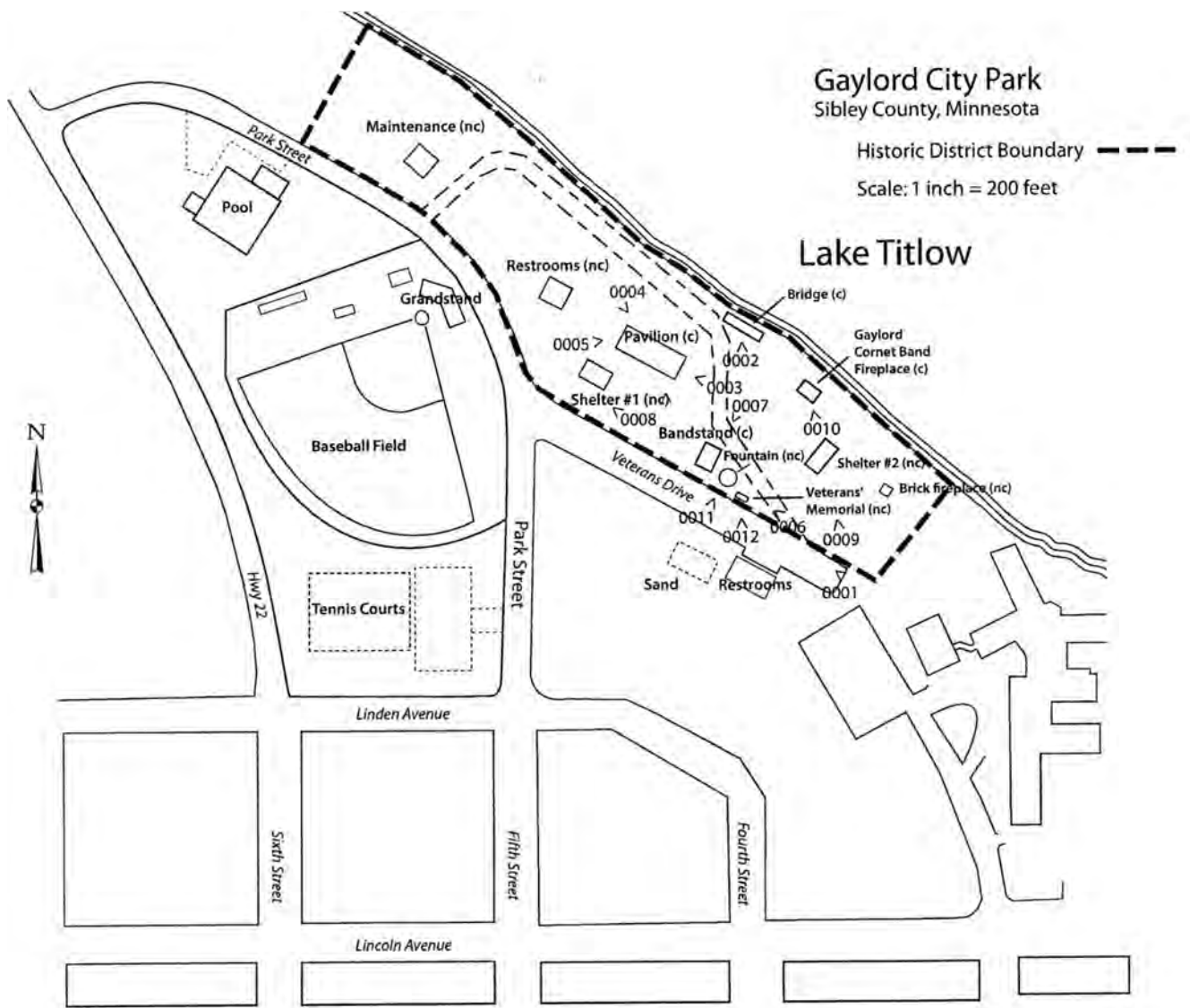
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County and State: Sibley County, MN

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 1

Figure 1: SITE MAP



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property: Gaylord City Park

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County and State: Sibley County, MN

---

Section number: Photographs page: 1

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

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**PHOTO LOG:**

Name of Property: Gaylord City Park

City or Vicinity: Gaylord

County: Sibley County

State: MN

Name of Photographer: Daniel J. Hoisington

Date of Photographs: May 2010

Location of Original Digital Files: 122 Demont Avenue E, Little Canada, MN

Photo #1 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0001)

Overview. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #2 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0002)

Bridge. Camera facing north.

Photo #3 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0003)

Pavilion. West elevation, camera facing west.

Photo #4 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0004)

Pavilion. North façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

Photo #5 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0005)

Pavilion. West façade (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

Photo #6 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0006)

Bandshell. East elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #7 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0007)

Bandshell. North elevation (left), camera facing southeast.

Photo #8 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0008)

Picnic Shelter #1. South facade (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #9 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0009)

Picnic shelter #2. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #10 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0010)

Stone fireplace. Camera facing northeast.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property: Gaylord City Park

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County and State: Sibley County, MN

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Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

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Section number: Photographs page: 2

Photo #11 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0011)  
Fountain. West elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo #12 (MN\_SibleyCounty\_GaylordCityPark\_0012)  
Veterans Memorial. Camera facing northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gaylord City Park  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Sibley

DATE RECEIVED: 12/23/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/19/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/03/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/07/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001085

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER 

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 2/6/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MN Sibley County Gaylord City Park 0001





MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0002



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0003



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0004



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0005



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0006



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0007



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0008



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0009





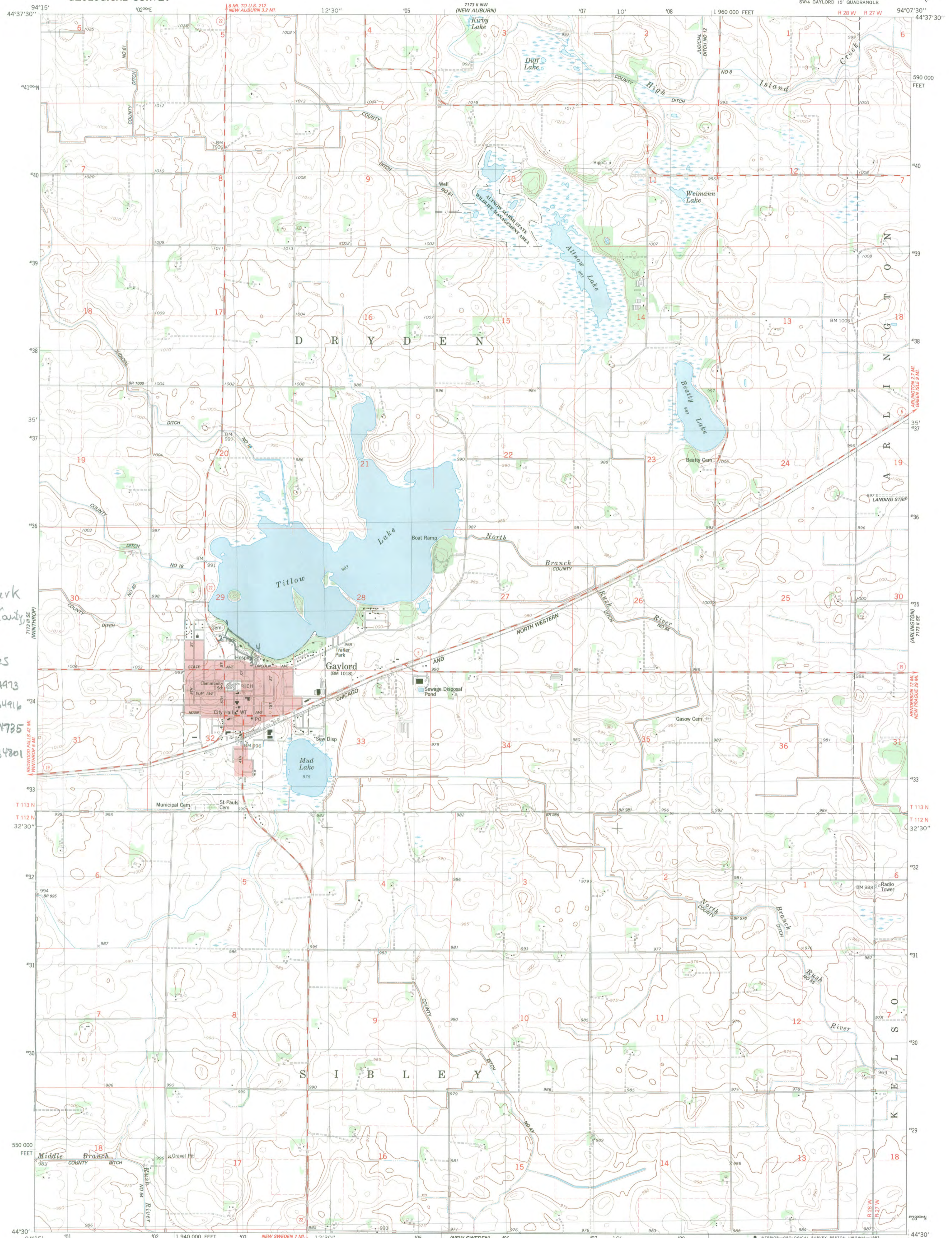
MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0010



MN SIBLEY COUNTY GAYLORD CITY PARK 0011



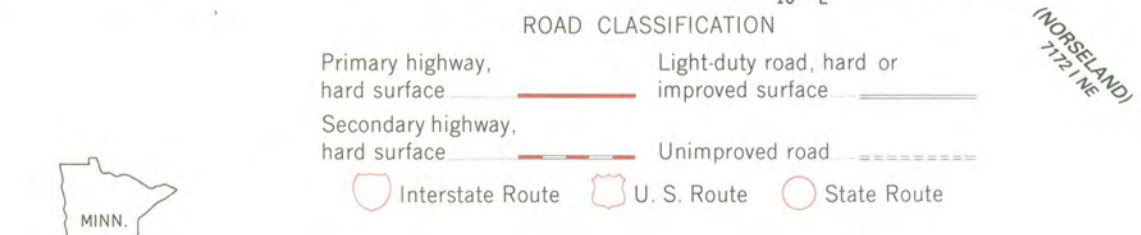
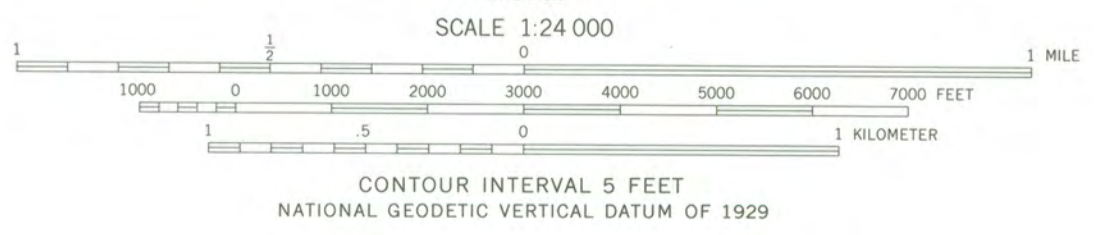
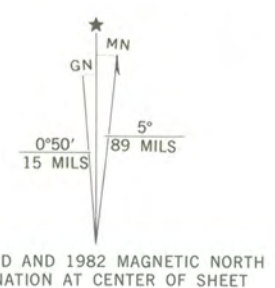
MN - Sibley County - Gaylord City Park\_001Z



Gaylord City Park  
Gaylord, Sibley County,  
Minnesota  
UTM References

- 1-15 402924 4934973
- 2-15 402878 4934916
- 3-15 403098 4934785
- 4-15 403144 4934801

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Minnesota Highway Department  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1975. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Minnesota coordinate  
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 6 meters north and  
20 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

GAYLORD, MINN.  
SW4 GAYLORD 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4430-W9407.5/7.5  
1982  
DMA 7173 II SW-SERIES V872

**CITY OF GAYLORD**

332 Main Ave., P.O. Box 987  
Gaylord, Minnesota 55334



**Administrator's Office**

Phone (507) 237-2338  
Fax (507) 237-5121

September 27, 2011

Merlin Peterson, Secretary, State Review Board  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Re: Letter of Support for inclusion of the Gaylord City Park to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for including the City of Gaylord City Park for consideration to the National Register of Historic Places. As the City Administrator, I am supportive of the City of Gaylord's desire to place the northern portion of the Gaylord City Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Park has been a tremendous asset to the City of Gaylord and the people within the area over the years. The park is a family centered location for year-round recreation for people of all ages. Inclusion of the park area to the National Register of Historic Places will help to create widespread recognition to the park and the significance for others to learn about the history of Gaylord. Inclusion to the National Register will also have an economic impact because visitors to the park will go to the restaurants, gas stations and convenient stores, and stores along the way to visit the park.

Once again, I would like thank you for taking the time to consider the City of Gaylord's City Park for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns related to this matter; please contact me at (507) 237-2338.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCann  
City Administrator

City of Gaylord Citizens  
P.O. Box 822  
Gaylord MN 55334

October 15, 2011

Merlin Peterson, Secretary, State Review Board  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Peterson,

We are writing to Thank You for considering our Gaylord City Park for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. We are convinced that our Park and its structures are of historical significance to the surrounding area. We also feel it is important to preserve and maintain the park and its structures and pass on its meaningful history to future generations.

Potential development could mean giving up our historic pavilion, the band stand, other structures and this splendid natural setting.

This attractive site has drawn visitors from a wide territory and continues to expand. It fulfills the cultural and recreational needs of many of our citizens and visitors.

We hope that you will judge favorably for this nomination.

Sincerely,

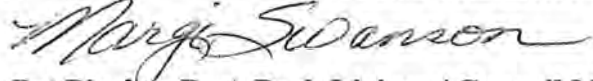
Dale Johnson, Parks & Recreation Chair



Gloria Sinell, Gaylord Historian



Margi Swanson, Gaylord Trail Committee Chair



Pat Pinske, Past Park Liaison / Council Member



Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651/259-3451



**TO:** Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Denis P. Gardner

**DATE:** December 15, 2011

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Gaylord City Park

**COUNTY AND STATE:** Sibley County, Minnesota

**SUBJECT:** National Register:  
 Nomination  
 Multiple Property Documentation Form  
 Request for determination of eligibility  
 Request for removal (Reference No. )  
 Nomination resubmission  
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No. )  
 Additional documentation (Reference No. )

**DOCUMENTATION:**

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- Original USGS Map
- Sketch map(s)
- Correspondence
  - Owner Objection
    - The enclosed owner objections
    - Do  Do not  constitute a majority of property owners

**STAFF COMMENTS:**