

*Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy*  
*Apostle Islands Cruises*  
*Apostle Islands Marina*  
*City of Ashland*  
*Ashland Historical Society and Museum*  
*Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau*  
*Bayfield County Tourism*  
*Bayfield Heritage Association*  
*Bayfield Marina*  
*Bayfield Maritime Museum*  
*The Bayfield Regional Conservancy*  
*City of Bayfield Common Council*  
*Belanger Settlement Historical Society*  
*Coalition to Protect America's National Parks*  
*Cornucopia Business Association*  
*The Cultural Landscape Foundation*  
*The ECHO -- A Newspaper Featuring Wisconsin's Past*  
*Good Earth Outfitters LLC*  
*Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association*  
*Hess Roise, Historical Consultants*

*Keeper Of The Light*  
*Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce*  
*Madeline Island Historic Preservation Association*  
*Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve*  
*National Trust for Historic Preservation*  
*Town of Bayview*  
*Town of Bell*  
*Town of LaPointe*  
*Township of Bayfield*  
*Trek and Trail*  
*Siskiwit Bay Marina*  
*Spirit Point Association*  
*Superior Charters*  
*Washburn Area Chamber of Commerce*  
*Washburn City Council*  
*Washburn Cultural Center*  
*Washburn Heritage Association*  
*Washburn Historical Society*  
*The Washburn Marina*  
*Wilderness Inquiry*

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
United States House of Representatives  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Johnson and Baldwin and Congressman Duffy:

We are writing to you as a broad cross-section of interest groups, businesses, and governmental bodies to seek your help for a critical problem confronting the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. We are grateful to you for the outstanding service you have given our region in Congress, and would like to call your attention to the need for repair and restoration work at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in response to the severe October 27-30, 2017 storm that caused significant damage.

The Lakeshore is a vital part of the environment and economy of northern Wisconsin. The local community has contributed in many ways to help the National Park Service carry out its mission and make the Lakeshore a success, but the magnitude of the impacts from the recent storm will greatly exceed the budget available to the Lakeshore and add to the already large maintenance backlog in the park.

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
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The October storm had far-reaching impact throughout the region. Perhaps the hardest hit location was the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore which, due the location of the Islands, absorbs the brunt of harsh storms from the Northeast. The impact of the storm on the Lakeshore was severe. Due to the winter season, it is difficult to get a full report of the damages, but the list of damaged docks, buildings, shoreline access points, and bluffs and cliffs that house important buildings and infrastructure is long and very significant to the operations of the Lakeshore and use by the general public.

The damaged areas include docks on Devils, Sand, Outer, and Rocky Islands and the mainland unit, historic structures in all of those locations, the Chequamegon Point light tower on Long Island, and beaches and shorelines throughout the park. Photographs and articles that depict some of the damaged properties and describe the severity of the storm are attached to this letter.

We respectfully request to meet with your office as soon as possible to share our first-hand perspective of the impact of this storm, as well as the importance of these historic resources and other park features. We would like to discuss possible opportunities for addressing the much-needed assistance necessary to repair the damage, and in particular, any assistance you might provide for appropriated funds for this purpose.

Without additional funds, it is likely that important facilities, historic structures, and public access points in the Lakeshore will be unavailable or lost to the public for years, if not forever. We look forward to a dialogue with you over the next few weeks about possible solutions.

Thank you for your support and leadership.

Sincerely,

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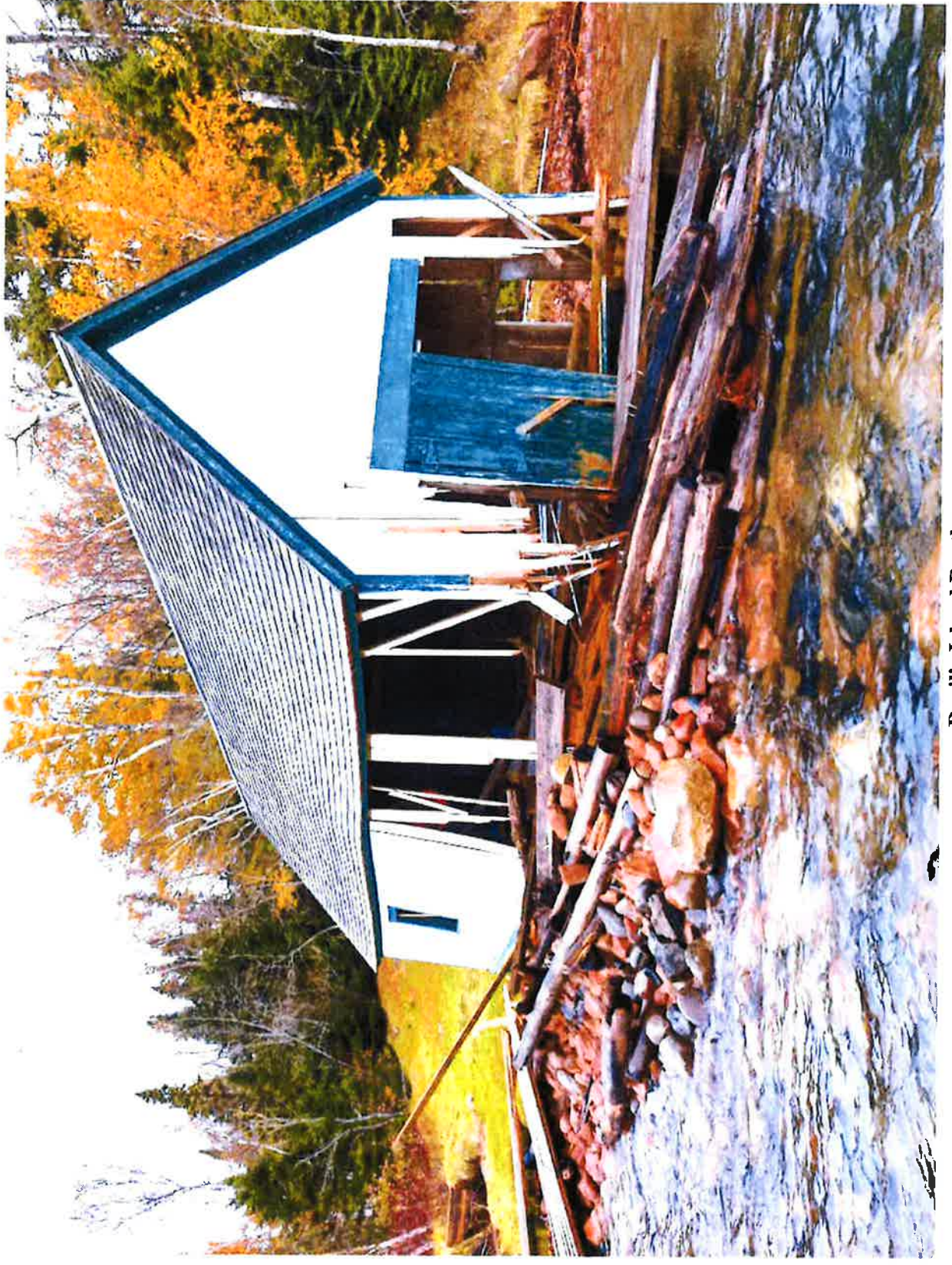
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**Hokenson Fishing Dock - Little Sand Bay**

138209991.1





Devil's Island Boathouse

138209954.1





**Devil's Island Boathouse - Before and After**

138210032.1



**Hadland Cabin - Rocky Island Historic District**

138209889.1





**Benson Dock - Rocky Island Historic District**



# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

## Furious Winds and Snow- The October 27th-28th Storm

[Weather.gov](#) > [Duluth, MN](#) > Furious Winds and Snow- The October 27th-28th Storm

**Duluth, MN**  
Weather Forecast Office

[Current Hazards](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#) [Forecasts](#) [Rivers and Lakes](#) [Climate and Past Weather](#) [Local Programs](#)

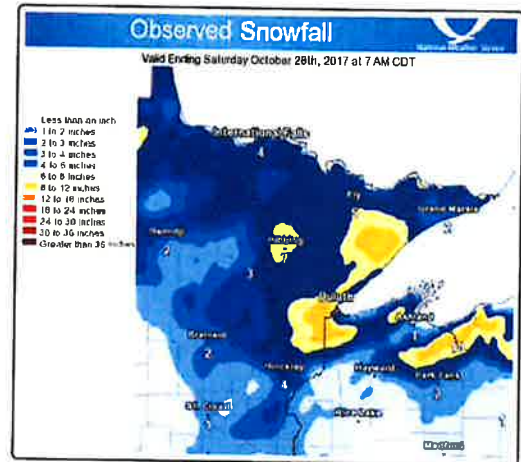
### Overview

Winter came early for much of the Northland in late October; the 27th. Some areas received upwards of a foot of snow while other areas received very little. The Lake Superior shoreline was heavily damaged by relentless waves caused by strong off lakes winds that gusted over 50 mph for many hours.

The Devil's Island lighthouse at the Apostle Islands recorded a wind gust of 68 mph around 11 am, but wind had been building and gusting over 40 mph since late the previous evening. The UMD buoy on the western lip of Lake Superior recorded a peak wind gust of 43 mph with steady winds of 35 to 40 mph overnight and most of the following day, Friday, October 27th. The buoy recorded waves of 10 to 16 feet. The weather monitoring equipment at the McQuade safe harbor recorded a peak wind of 45 mph.

The winds and subsequent waves and high surf caused portions of the lake walk in Duluth to get torn up and strewn with rocks and debris. Damage also occurred along both the north shore and south shore of Lake Superior. More information on this damage will be added.

Click on each photo for a larger view:



Snowfall in inches



Waves at Black Beach in Silver Bay, MN  
Photo by Dennis Fawver



Lake Superior waves at Two Harbors, MN  
Photo by Theresa Kocka



Duluth, MN, Stony Point  
Photo by Greg Johnson



High waves and surf flooded parts of Canal Park in Duluth  
Photo by Dawn Karlon



Crashing waves tore up portions of the lakewalk in Duluth  
Photo by Karie McWherter Simpson



These rocks were deposited on the bench by huge waves  
Photo by Andy Paasch





Erosion from the waves along Duluth's lake walk  
Photo by Ken Slatten



Duluth's Canal Park strewn with debris  
Photo by Ken Slatten



Damage to Duluth's lake walk  
Photo by Greg Johnson



High waves and surf flooded parts of Grand Marais, MN  
Photo by Sarah Holt Stover



Erosion of road along Lake Superior in Herbster, WI  
Photo by Dennis Fawver



Near McQuade Harbor; North Shore  
Photo by Justin Peck



U. S. Hwy 2, Ashland, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson



Ashland, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson



Ashland, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson



Bayfield, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson



Bayfield, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson



Bayfield, WI  
Photo by Gary Jackson

[Snow/Ice](#)   [Photos & Video](#)   [Radar](#)   [Storm Reports](#)   [Environment](#)

### Snow/Ice

The highest snowfall amounts were a few miles inland from Lake Superior, while areas close to the lake had very little snow. The highest amounts were in the Hermantown, MN area and eastward into northwest Wisconsin south of Superior in the Pattison State Park areas. Additional Lake effect snow brought totals even higher in the snowbelt area of northern Wisconsin where weather reporters in Gile and Mellen each reported around 14 inches of snow. The heavy wet snow brought down trees and branches that fell on power lines, creating pockets of power outages.

### Photos & Video:



*Media use of NWS Web News Stories is encouraged!  
Please acknowledge the NWS as the source of any news information accessed from this site.*





LOCAL

# Duluth cleans up after storm waves batter shore

Lake Superior's high level made damage more severe

By Pam Louwagie (<http://www.startribune.com/pam-louwagie/10645326/>) Star Tribune

NOVEMBER 4, 2017 — 6:40PM

The paved portion of Duluth's famed Lakewalk in Canal Park is clear and open again after Lake Superior storm waves buried it with dirt, rock and debris in late October.

A hulking chunk of sidewalk that washed out near the Great Lakes Aquarium has been leveled and paved, clearing the route for people to walk to Bayfront Park for the upcoming Bentleyville holiday light display.

Farther up the shore, officials expect to open a road at Brighton Beach soon, after patching it with temporary pavement.

The whopping waves that battered Duluth and much of Lake Superior's North Shore on Oct. 27 left municipal workers, business leaders and homeowners busy last week assessing damage and making repairs.

The waves ate away at sand dunes along Park Point and shifted riprap along Canal Park and other points. They raised already-high water levels even higher, flooding parking lots and basements.

"The wind pushes the water to a higher elevation, so the groundwater ... table does move up and down with the lake pretty quickly," said Jim Benning, the city's director of Public Works and Utilities.

Although the paved portion of the Lakewalk is open in tourist-popular Canal Park, a wooden boardwalk next to it will need to be repaired after sections of it were washed off their base. Workers collected the wood so it can be reinstalled.

The threshold for state emergency aid to government entities is just over \$368,000, Benning said. With a damage estimate on Friday coming in at about \$2.5 million, that threshold should be met easily.

But even if state aid isn't granted, Benning said the city will make repairs.

"We have to restore the Lakewalk (<http://www.startribune.com/ready-set-snow-commuters-treated-to-slush-and-light-snow-friday/453602743/>)," Benning said. "It's what people come to Duluth for."

The city may put in temporary protection when replacing riprap or other water protective barriers, he said, "because we still have the gales of November coming in and then whatever else might happen in the spring before we can get to full restoration next summer."

Lake Superior was just 2 inches short of its record high-water level in September and had already been eroding shorelines and seeping into basements. Residents and business owners along the shore worried about November, a month known to bring strong winds and storms. They had hoped the water levels would recede before then, as they traditionally do.

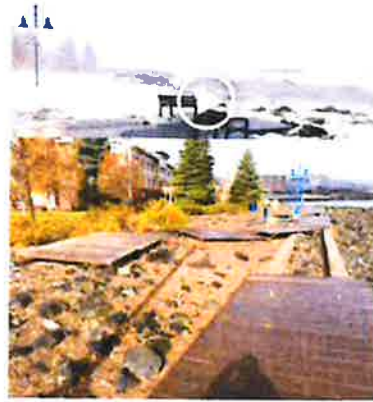
Instead, waves of historic proportions came in October.

Grandma's Saloon & Grill near the historic lift bridge closed for a day. With up to 18 inches of water in the old building's stone basement, managers worried about problems with electricity and other utilities.

Closing on a Friday took a big bite out of business; it is typically the second busiest day of the week and makes up about 25 percent of revenue, said Brian Daugherty, president of Grandma's Restaurant Co.

Daugherty said it was a storm unlike any he's seen in more than 40 years of working on Canal Park.

"It's an amazing demonstration of power," he said, describing giant waves crashing over the top of the pier to the lighthouse, submerging the walkway more often than not. "I quite frankly had never seen the waves that high before."



([http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows\\_150982682-](http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows_150982682-)  
CITY OF DULUTH PHOTO

The Oct. 27 storm damaged Duluth's Lakewalk in Canal Park, with dislodged boardwalk and debris covering the asphalt path running parall...

Up the shore, the historic Glensheen mansion turned to crowdfunding (<https://crowdfund.umn.edu/GlensheenStorm>) to raise \$5,000 to rebuild a temporary barrier wall that was protecting the inside of its boathouse. Large chunks of its shoreline are now missing, too. Some chunks are resting 20 feet from the shoreline. The long-term fix — rebuilding a missing pier to break the waves — is projected to cost just over \$4 million.

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