

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 18 [Thursday, July 25, 1889], page 1, column 4

## City Should Buy It.

We understand that the two forties west of the city limits, on one of which the new base ball [*sic – baseball*] park is located, can be purchased at a very reasonable figure and on very easy terms. If the city should acquire this property a portion of it would furnish an excellent site for a cemetery, which is one of the urgent needs of the present time. A splendid half mile trotting course could also be laid out, picnic grounds cleared up, and a park established for the various uses that such places may be put to. Take a walk about this city and it is surprising to see how rapidly it is stretching [*sic – stretching*] out and the vacant lots being filled up. No person who stops to consider for a moment can think that this growth is going to cease for a generation to come. Iron Mountain has the elements of growth in it, and ten years hence will have double the population it has to-day [*sic – today*]. As the population increases the necessity for a public park and a cemetery becomes more urgent. As matters are at present our people must forego horse trotting altogether; a mass meeting cannot be held for any purpose because there is no place in the city where a large number can assemble; no suitable picnic grounds are anywhere about the city, where children and older people can enjoy a day of recreation; and as to a cemetery, the need of it is too apparent to require any argument. The urgent necessity for these things will be felt more and more as our population increases, and the opportunity to provide for these needs will soon pass away.

## TOURISM AND TOURIST PARKS

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 11 [Thursday, July 29, 1920], page 1, column 3

## Many Tourists.

Hundreds of tourists are now sight-seeing in the upper peninsula and Iron Mountain is the hub around which the tours revolve. During the week many cars from eastern states – Maine, New York and Massachusetts – have passed through the city while cars from Wisconsin, Illinois and Lower Michigan can be seen at any hour of the day. One car passed through enroute [*sic – en route*] from Montreal to Vancouver, British Columbia. All the tourists speak enthusiastically of the Dickinson county roads.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 45 [Wednesday, June 3, 1925], page 2, column 3

## TOURIST INFLUX WELL UNDER WAY

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### Free Camp Sites in County Being Given Considerable Use

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With the arrival of warm weather, tourists in large numbers are beginning to invade Dickinson county and are taking advantage of the free camp sites. Cars arrive here daily from practically every section of the United States.

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The Quinnesec camp site [Fumee Falls], because of its natural beauty and conveniences, continues to be the most popular one in the county. The Lions' club site at Keel Ridge is also being used extensively.

Dickinson county, it is believed, has as many free camp sites in proportion to its population as any county in the upper peninsula. The city of Norway will soon have a site near the fair grounds while another is being put into first class condition at Hamilton Lakes. The management of the Nightingale dance hall is also contemplating providing a place for tourists.

## **CRYSTAL LAKE BEACH**

**Crystal Lake Boulevard  
Iron Mountain**

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 67 [Thursday, June 28, 1923], page 6, column 1

## **CRYSTAL LAKE BEACH POPULAR**

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**New Bathhouse, However,  
Would Be Big Attraction,  
Says Guard**

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About 250 people are using the Crystal lake bathing beach daily, according to George F. Clash, life guard [sic – lifeguard], but a modern bath house with individual lockers and lights so that the bathers could change their clothing without inconvenience would be a big drawing card. The present bath house is in very bad condition and too small to accommodate the bathers who are coming to the beach, he declares.

The lake water is very clear and there is a hard sandy bottom that permits children to wade out about 40 feet before the depth is too great for them. Clash is endeavoring to have a platform, slide and a diving board built, which he thinks will draw more swimmers to the beach. The platform, if erected[,] will be about 75 feet from the shore and will not interfere with children and beginners who stay in more shallow water.

A first aid outfit is also needed, he declares[,] as there is nothing at present to help those who may need it.

## **FORD ADDITION PARK**

**600 Block of Woodward Avenue and  
Cass Avenue  
Kingsford**

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 5 [Thursday, April 16, 1925], page 3, columns 1-2

## **WORK AT FORD PARK STARTED**

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**Crew of Men Begins Task  
of Beautifying Land  
On Woodward**

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Work on beautifying the park between Woodward and Hamilton avenues has been started by the Ford company in the village of Kingsford, a crew of men starting this morning.

The park was donated by the Ford company and will be one of the beauty spots of the village when work has been completed.

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Shade trees are also being planted on Hamilton avenue by the company while many of the residents are also busy with their own property, making necessary changes and planting lawns, shrubs and flowers.

## FUMEE FALLS ROADSIDE PARK East of Quinnesec

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Wednesday, July 5, 1922], page 3, column 3

## QUINNESEC CAMP SITE NOW READY

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### Park Provides Accommodations For Tourists and Picnicers

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The Dickinson County road men have fixed up a park east of Quinnesec for the use of picnickers [*sic – picnickers*] and tourists.

Two large concrete fireplaces have been built so the traveler can start a fire and have a hot meal. Several large tables have also been provided, the brush has been cut away and even two large piles of fireroad [*sic – firewood*] have been prepared. Other improvements such as swings for children and grownups and a shelter in case of rain are planned for the park. A clear, cool brook and a 20-foot water fall are the attractions which nature has contributed towards the camp site.

The park is especially for the use of tourists, providing them with a good camping ground. Many Quinnesec people will also undoubtedly take advantage of the

accommodations, for the park is well adapted to picnics.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Saturday, July 22, 1922], page 1, column 5

## CAMP GROUNDS PROVE POPULAR

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The camping grounds for tourists at Fumee falls, near Quinnesec, has become very popular and visitors are numerous [*sic – are numerous*]. It is now provided with all camping conveniences including stores and a supply of firewood. It is proposed to add shower baths, to be installed almost directly under the falls. The site was donated by Edward [*sic – Edward*] B. McKenna and the conveniences were provided by the county road commissioner. The question of establishing a second camp at Twin Falls and a third near Sawyer Lake is now under consideration.

## IRON MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PARK

Present Iron Mountain High School  
Stadium  
Iron Mountain

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 4 [Wednesday, April 15, 1925], page 3, column 1

## EISELE HEADS PARK OWNERS

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Consider Proposal to Sell  
Field to Board Of

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

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## Education

George Eisele, assistant superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining company, was re-elected president of the Iron Mountain Athletic association at the annual meeting held last night in the Knights of Pythias hall.

Other officers named were:

Vice-president – R.T. Miller

Secretary – V.P. Chappel

Treasurer – Frank Milliman

Board of directors – Charles Dillon, Frank Milliman and R.T. Miller.

Members of the board will serve with L.J. Will, V.P. Chappel and R.C. Browning, who were elected last year.

Several changes were made in the list of officers. Mr. Browning has been secretary of the association for a number of years but because of his ill health a successor, Mr. Chappel, formerly vice president[,] was selected. Mr. Browning, however, was retained as a member of the board of directors.

Several of the officers have been affiliated with the association since its organization in 1906, when the Athletic park was built.

Following the election, members entered into a discussion of a proposal to sell the park to the board of education for use as a high school athletic field in addition to a city baseball park.

The board of directors, it was stated, will submit the proposal to school officials. It is probable that the school board will discuss the matter at its next regular meeting. It is understood that school officials have been negotiating for the purchase of the grounds for some time.

It was stated by a member of the board of directors today that the park will be sold with the understanding that the baseball team representing Iron Mountain will be given use of the grounds.

At the meeting last night, the board of directors decided to make repairs in the baseball park for the approaching season. The fence surrounding the park needs fixing and the grandstand will also be improved.

## IRON MOUNTAIN CITY PARK

End of West A Street  
Iron Mountain

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 13, Number 17 [Thursday, September 17, 1908], page 1, column 5

### City Park.

The council has appointed a committee to make a survey of the lands desired for a city park. The lands are located east and south of Pine Grove Park. The lands are owned by Hewitt & Jones, who have thus far refused to accept the offer made by the city of \$20.00 per acre. If the refusal is persisted in, the city will no doubt commence condemnation proceedings.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 13, Number 18 [Thursday, September 24, 1908], page 8, column 4

### Condemn the Land.

The aldermen are fully determined to acquire the Hughitt property south of Pine Grove Park for a city park. The owner having refused to accept the city tender of \$20 per acre, the councilmen, at a meeting held last Monday evening, instructed Attorney O'Hara to commence condemnation proceedings forthwith in Judge Miller's court. The tract contains a fraction over eighty one acres[.] Engineer Goldsworthy, who has mapped the property, reports that the north half is well suited for park and picnic purposes. There

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has been some talk of utilizing the south half for a driving park and athletic grounds, but the report of the engineer is adverse. He estimates that such an improvement would cost not less than \$5,000.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 13, Number 25 [Thursday, November 12, 1908], page 1, column 2

## Proposed Park.

The Hewitt Land & Iron company having declined to accept the tender for the lands desired for a city park, the city authorities have commenced condemnation proceedings in the probate court. Judge Miller has named the 7th day of December as the day for hearing. It is probable that the company will vigorously contest the suit.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 2 [Thursday, June 1, 1911], page 1, column 2

## The City Park.

Dr. Warren H. Manning, of Boston, considered the foremost landscape artist in this country, spent several hours in the city last Saturday, the guest of Mayor Miller. While here Dr. Manning visited the property recently purchased for a city park and will furnish sketches for the improvement of the same. The services of Dr. Manning were secured through the courtesy of Hon. William G. Mather, of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron company, by whom the artist is almost exclusively employed.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 9 [Thursday, July 20, 1911], page 1, column 4

## City Park.

Last Monday evening, the aldermen voted to expend a considerable sum of money in improving the city park on the west side of town in the vicinity of Pine Grove Park. The trees are to be trimmed up and swings and seats will be placed in the grove. It was also voted to purchase seats for the small park bordering on East Brown street.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 12 [Thursday, August 10, 1911], page 1, column 2

## City Park.

The city park fund contains in the neighborhood of \$3,000. The park committee of the council proposes to spend the money in improvements at once. Good! The improvements will include a pavilion about fifty by sixty feet in size, swings, seats, etc. The water mains are also to be extended to the park and the little lake is to be improved. Seven men are now at work at the park engaged in trimming up the trees, underbrushing and cleaning up. It is hoped to have the grounds in shape for opening on Labor Day.

## ST. PAUL PARK

**West of Stephenson Avenue Near the St. Paul Depot  
Iron Mountain**

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 67 [Tuesday, June 28, 1921], page 3, column 4

## DOWNTOWN PARK FOR CITY, MAYOR'S PLAN

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# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## Would Plant Trees and Otherwise Beautify St. Paul Plat

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Completion of arrangements, upon which Mayor Eslick has been working for the past five years, insure that Iron Mountain will have a downtown park. He is now consulting with the members of the council, securing their approval for the project.

Under contract with the city, the open space [*sic* – *space*] east of the St. Paul passenger station can only be used for park purposes as long as the passenger station remains in its present location. No spur tracks can be laid across the ground, nor can it be otherwise utilized.

Mayor Eslick's plan is for the city to take over the upkeep of this plat, install water and lights, lay out pathways, plant trees, place benches, and built a bandstand. The proposal has been agreed to by the St. Paul officials. Under it, the city would be provided with a delightful park almost in the center of the business district, and with a bandstand where concerts could be given or lectures delivered without causing the congestion of traffic which occurs at the present site. In addition, it is pointed out, the present bandstand is too high, [*sic*] for proper carrying of sound.

While no formal action has been taken approval of the plan has been expressed by all those who have heard of it, and it is expected that the project will be undertaken as soon as practicable.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 303 [Tuesday, April 7, 1925], page 2, column 3

## PARK BIDS TO BE

## OPENED TONIGHT

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### One in For Landscape Work, None for Comfort Station

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Bids for the construction of the comfort station, which will be built at the St. Paul park, and also for the beautifying of the St. Paul park grounds will be opened at the postponed meeting of the city council tonight.

City Clerk Lindholm declared today that he has on file only one bid for the landscape work while up until this morning none had been turned in for the comfort station.

Generally, however, bids of contractors are not filed with the clerk until several hours before the council meeting and it was expected that this would be the case this time.

The council meeting was to have been held last night but because yesterday was election day the session was postponed.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 304 [Wednesday, April 8, 1925], page 3, column 2

## AWARD ST. PAUL LANDSCAPE JOB

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### Comfort Station Bids Rejected Because of High Prices

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The Jewel Nursery company, of Lake City, Minn., was awarded the contract for beautifying the grounds at the St. Paul park, [sic] at the council meeting last night. The bid was submitted by A.A. Gordon, landscape expert of the company, who supervised the landscape work on the high school grounds.

The contract price was \$200 as compared with the figure of \$233 submitted by Fred J. Lane, of Iron Mountain. The Lane bid was not considered in view of the fact that the plans and specifications of City Engineer Dalzell were not complied with.

Work will begin either the latter part of May or the first week in June, providing weather conditions are favorable. The city must furnish the top covering of the surface, which will be filled in with six inches of loam.

Three bids submitted for the construction of the comfort station to be built by the city were rejected because the prices were too high. According to figures furnished by an Iron Mountain architect, the structure should not cost more than \$6,000 based on the plans drawn of [sic – by] the city engineer.

Fred DeRoche and sons, Fred and Ray, of Iron Mountain, submitted a bid of \$14,400; Leaf & Abrahamson's price was \$10,604, while the bid of Phelps-Drake Company, Inc., of Minneapolis, which has a branch office here, was \$12,000.

City Clerk Lindholm was instructed to re-advertise for bids which will be opened at the next meeting of the council. Several changes will be made in the plans and specifications in order to make the cost lower.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 307 [Saturday, April 11, 1925], page 3, column 3

## CHANGE PLANS OF COMFORT STATION

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### Building Will Be Smaller Than Was Originally Intended

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Revised plans and specifications for the comfort station which will be built by the city at the St. Paul park grounds may be ready the early part of next week, it was stated today at the city hall.

The original plans called for a building 32x24 feet but the new dimensions will be smaller. The quality of the fixtures, which will involve a large portion of the total cost, will also be reduced.

It is not the plan of the city, however, to build a station that will be discreditable, it was stated. The building will be fire-proof and sufficiently large.

Three bids submitted for the work at the council meeting Tuesday night were rejected because they were too high. It was estimated by an Iron Mountain architect that a first class comfort station could be constructed for not more than \$6,000.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 7 [Saturday, April 18, 1925], page 6, column 1

## CONTRACT FOR 15 BAND CONCERTS

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### Agreement Made With City for Series Of Entertainments

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

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Contract for 15 concerts to be given in Iron Mountain during the summer has been entered into by the city and the Chamber of Commerce band, according to a statement at chamber headquarters this morning.

A definite date has not been set for the first concert but it is thought that the series will be started early in June at the St. Paul park. Although plans for beautification of the park have gone through and work is to start immediately, it is not believed that this will in any way interfere. If such a thing should occur another location will be selected for the Sunday entertainments.

Provision for the parking of automobiles is to be made as soon as work of beautifying the park is started.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 27 [Tuesday, May 12, 1925], page 2, columns 1-2

## ***Comfort Station, Lights and Sidewalk Contracts Awarded***

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### **Council Defers Action On Purchase of New Gasoline Roller.**

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Bids were received and contracts let for the comfort station, ornamental street lighting and approximately 20,000 square feet of cement sidewalk at a special meeting of the city council last evening. Purchase of a gasoline road roller was deferred until May 18, a special committee being appointed to investigate the five proposals given to the council last night.

There were five bids received on the comfort station, the contract being awarded to the Phelps-Drake company of this city for \$8,000. The bid of Arthur W. Wilson, of Niagara, was low at \$7,940 but was disqualified because of a rider on the indemnity clause which provided that the amount collectable by the city on non-completion of the contract was to be limited to \$200.

### **Tussle On Light Bid.**

A real fight developed on the awarding of the contract for installation of the ornamental lighting system. The bid of the Kelly Construction company, Green Bay, was low at \$5220. This bid was on transformers for 600 candlepower lights. However, upon motion by Alderman Sonaglia, which was lost, resubmitted and then passed after Alderman Harvey was asked to cast his vote to decide a tie, the contract was awarded to the Rundle Hardware company of this city for \$5,495. The bid included transformers for 1,000 candlepower lights. The bid of the Phelps-Drake company was for \$8,000 and the Brown Electric company for \$7,000. The Brown Electric company also presented another proposal offering to supervise the installation for 10 per cent of the cost. Lights to be put in are 18 standards on the east side of Stephenson avenue from Flesheim to C street, 12 standards on both sides of Ludington street from Stephenson to Carpenter avenue[,] 10 standards on both sides of Carpenter avenue from Ludington to A street.

### **Eight Sidewalk Bidders.**

There were eight bidders on the sidewalks, the bids averaging about \$4,400 for the 3,722 lineal feet to be constructed. Contracts were awarded to the Iron Range Construction company, a new firm in the city which has been organized by Gene De Bee. His bid was \$3,676.40, or an average of 20 cents a square foot. Sidewalks to be

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built in this contract include the east side of South Stephenson avenue from the office of von Platen-Fox company to the Hydraulic falls road; west side of south Stephenson avenue from Park avenue to Hydraulic falls road and east on East A street for 450 feet.

Aldermen Lloyd, Sonaglia and Harvey were appointed a special committee to give further consideration to the five proposals for a gasoline road roller. The bids all included allowance for the old steam roller and scarifier, three of the proposals being for two cylinder rollers, two for four cylinder rollers and one for a single cylinder roller. The Austin Western road machinery company presented two proposals, one for a single cylinder roller at \$5,450 and a two cylinder roller at \$5,650. An allowance of \$725 was made for old equipment and the new roller was to be shipped f.o.b. factory.

The Buffalo Springfield company was low bidder, the price on the two cylinder roller being \$5,875 with an allowance of \$1,000 for the old equipment and shipment made f.o.b. Iron Mountain. A bid of \$6,100 was made by the J.I. Case company with a discount of \$400 for cash and an allowance of \$600 for old equipment. The Standard Salt and Cement company bid was for \$7,625 on the two cylinder motor and the city was allowed only \$150 for the roller now in use. G.S. Webb of Marquette bid on the Acme four cylinder roller at \$6,500, allowing \$700 for old equipment.

All of the salesmen, representing the above companies, were given an opportunity to address the council on the merits of their machines and the body remained in session until 11:15 before all of the work was completed.

Contracts authorized by the council last evening will be signed within the next few days and work is to start immediately.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,

Number 31 [Saturday, May 16, 1925], page 2, columns 2-3

## COMFORT STATION WORK IS STARTED

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**Hope to Have Construction Completed By July 1**  
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Work on excavation for the new comfort station which is to be erected at the St. Paul park on B street, is under way and according to present plans the building will be completed by July 4.

The contract was awarded to the Phelps-drake company at the special council meeting held last Monday at a price of \$8,000. The building will be a brick structure with the basement floor for the use of men and the ladies' rest room on the ground floor.

The contract for the ornamental street lighting which was awarded to the Rundle Hardware company was signed today and the sidewalk contracts will also be let. It is expected that work on both of these will be started early next week.

## **UNIDENTIFIED PARK**

**Near Dickinson County Fair Grounds  
West of Main Gate  
Norway**

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 306 [Friday, April 10, 1925], page 6, column 3

## **NORWAY NEWS**

## **SELECT SITE OF**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## NEW CAMP SITE

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Number 34 [Wednesday, May 20, 1925],  
page 7, column 1

### Will Propose That Plot Near Fair Grounds Be Purchased

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Norway will have one of the best free camp sites in the district if the present plans of a committee of the Norway Welfare club materializes.

At a meeting yesterday afternoon the committee, headed by Max Vielmetti, merchant, selected the grounds west of the main gate of the fair grounds for a tourists' camp site. The recommendation will be submitted to the club at a meeting which will be called next week, Mr. Vielmetti said.

Indications are that the recommendation will be approved and steps taken for the purchase of the grounds. It is understood that the city will be asked to buy the grounds for the Welfare club which will put them in first class condition. The property is owned by J.C. Knight, attorney.

"The site we have chosen," Mr. Vielmetti said, "will compare favorably with any in the district and with the proper care in putting it in condition Norway will be able to boast of something worth while [*sic – worthwhile*]. We hope that we will be given co-operation."

The grounds offer an excellent place for a camp site and have many heavy foliage trees. A small creek runs through the grounds which are practically level.

The committee consists of Max Vielmetti, chairman, John E. Anderson, Stephen Benzie, U.F. Asselin and G.L. Greenawalt.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain,  
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,

## NORWAY NEWS

### CAMP SITE IS BOUGHT BY CITY

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#### Location Near Fair Grounds Purchased For \$1500

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The desire of the Norway Welfare club to have the city purchase the property west of the fair grounds for a combination tourists' camp site and municipal park has approached fulfillment.

Decision to buy the property for \$1,500 was reached by the city council at its regular meeting Monday night. The grounds are owned by J.C. Knight, attorney.

At the next meeting of the council, it was indicated yesterday, Mayor Murray will appoint a park commission to get the grounds in readiness for the summer season. It is understood, however, that the Welfare club will share part of the expense with the city in putting the grounds in condition.

The property will make an excellent camp site and park as it is almost level and has many shade trees. A small creek runs through the southwest part.

Electric lights will be installed on the grounds and other improvements added.