

## **First annual Walker Bay Days Aug. 11-12 to celebrate Walker, Leech Lake area**

Gail DeBoer, Staff writer

The Pilot-Independent

Last Updated: Tuesday, March 21st, 2006 02:59:47 PM

An exciting new two-day event planned for next August has the potential to become one of the signature events for Walker and the entire Leech Lake area.

The first annual Walker Bay Days, set for Aug. 11 and 12 at Walker City Park, will celebrate the city of Walker and life on and around Leech Lake.

The event is being planned jointly by the Walker Area Partners (WAP) and the Walker Bay Days (WBD) committee.

"Our goal is to have an extremely well-run event that will draw many people to the area to have fun — and to return, year after year," explained committee members Kristin Chitwood and Jeff Holly. "Walker Bay Days also will raise much-needed funds to benefit not only the city but the surrounding area as well."

### Variety of activities

Organizers have compiled a long and varied list of Walker Bay Days activities.

- Opening flag ceremony at city park
- Lighted boat parade at dusk on Walker Bay
- Fireworks display
- Live entertainment
- Variety of food and spirits
- Poker run
- Walker Bay "Olympics"
- Games for kids
- Dogfish (dogfish?) tournament
- Volleyball, basketball and horseshoe tournaments
- Bonfire

Planning continues for these and other activities. More details and a final roster of events will be released when they are finalized.

### Vendors, volunteers needed

Vendors representing area nonprofit organizations are encouraged to participate at Walker Bay Days. Any nonprofit interested in reserving a vendor spot should contact Amy Jones at Heritage Gifts, 547-3501.

WBD organizers also want more area residents to get involved. Anyone who has time, energy or new ideas to offer is invited to attend to the next WAP meeting March 29 at noon at Hope Lutheran Church (lunch will be served). Several groups and subcommittees will work on various facets of the event.

WBD team leaders are Tamara and Mike Pederson, Ben Brovold, Mitch and Mara Loomis, Scott Bruns, Bill Bieloh, Amy Jones, Erica

Frizzell and Steve Bilben.

All proceeds from Walker Bay Days activities will stay within the community to be used for development projects, including several on which WAP task forces are already working.

Logo contest

Event planners also are sponsoring a Walker Bay Days logo contest. The logo will be used on promotional materials and other items connected with the event. For contest details, see the advertisement on this page.

For more information or to offer ideas on the first Walker Bay Days, contact either Jeff Holly at 547-1515 or Kristin Chitwood at 547-2023.