Walker Lake Preserve
Jim Morgan is basically related to Walker Lake by marriage. For four generations, his wife’s family has been either living on the lake, or vacationing there, with some of them doing both. Walker is just one of the one thousand or so lakes in Otter Tail county, but to the Morgan family, it is home, and home away from home. So, when Morgan heard that a big developer was bidding on a chunk of land on the western shoreline, with plans to put units every one hundred and fifty feet along the water, he was upset. Most people in his situation would be. It was easy to envision a company tearing out trees and cranking as many buildings as possible onto the quiet lake. There might be excessive traffic and extra noise. But for Morgan, it was more than just the fact that the quiet natural beauty of the scene would be tainted. A long row of docks, thrusting into the lake every one hundred and fifty feet could cause the loss of key fish-spawning habitat.

So far, the story is a pretty familiar one. Nothing stays the same forever, and as much as we find change uncomfortable, it happens. And the truth is, you can’t really fight development. For one thing, you almost always lose. However, there are positive sides to development as well. It provides jobs, leads to infrastructure improvements and boosts the local economy. Not only that, but lakeshore development allows more people to experience the “up-north” lifestyle and enjoy the natural beauty of the woods and water. It isn’t really fair to argue that once you have it, no one else should.

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