

Raymond  
Beach  
Ideas

## RAYMOND BEACH

### Raymond Beach perception / reputation:

The perception / reputation of Raymond Beach has declined to an abysmally low level particularly in this past year. I have talked with my staff and many people around town, and in other towns, as well as people who just were parking to go for a walk while I was there in the parking lot looking things over. I even spoke with an older couple from New York who had heard about the issues and the closing of Raymond Beach in New York! Their comment was that "It must be a free beach". The general consensus is that people are pigs ( which, by the way is an insult to pigs who by nature are very clean), and while people tend to clump "dirty "people into the lower class, we at Tassel Top have found that is not necessarily always the case. Most everyone that I spoke with feel that Raymond Beach is "gross" and "disgusting", and "a stain on the town". It is adorned with nick names:" syphilis beach, condom cove, hypo hangout, the swamp, degent (degenerate) beach." The behavior of late, has not only tarnished the beach, but the town of Raymond as well.

Every person that I talked to, bar none, thought that the beach should be permanently shut down for swimming. I was actually the only one that even entertained the idea of upgrading it for swimming( for discussion purposes) and was met with disbelief and anger.

Some reasons were:

\*Swimming and boats should not be in such close proximity. Many boats and the drunk people on them pollute the water as much if not more that the swimmers. People that I spoke to have actually seen boaters dumping trash and peeing over the side of the boat into the water right near the boat launch while they were at the beach.

\*Water is too shallow so it stays warm and more prone to bacteria

\* It is in such a shallow cove so close to a swamp and the fact that they actually run into each other would make it more prone to bacteria

\*The caliber of some people that go there and their disrespectful behavior ruin it for everyone

( sex on the beach at dusk, drugs, alcohol, smoking, foul language not to mentions bodily fluids of all sorts everywhere.)

There was more but not appropriate for printing.

The following are two ideas for running the beach, one as a swimming beach which truly does not seem really financially feasible because of limited parking and the fact that you would should have 2 people at a time there monitoring for starters, and second as a rest area and boat launch.

To note: I have had a lot of people feeling that it would be very dangerous for staff to be there working. Some also emphatically expressed fear of someone working there getting stabbed, shot or even killed. I agree about the danger at least initially, but feel that charging a fee and monitoring would seriously deter many of the people who would be prone to this. Also I think if it is legal, a taizer at least, would be a smart thing to have.

## **RAYMOND BEACH AS A SWIMMING BEACH**

It is a pretty area but would need upgrading, fees and monitoring.

\*Add picnic tables and grills perpendicular to the fence on the large straightaway. Have colorful umbrellas to attract attention to the area and for shade

\* Add benches for people to just come and sit and relax. It should look more like a park that just a roadside piece of land that happens to have a beach.

\*Keep left hand section of parking lot just for beach goers. People park there to go walking around town now.

\*Charge the same fees as Tassel Top. This is one of the few beaches on this side of the lake so you will get whatever you charge.

\*Have the same rules as Tassel Top and have a zero tolerance for infractions. Word gets around really fast if you remove / arrest a person or two and people see that you are serious about the rules etc.

\*Have handicapped port-a-potties for use as changing rooms

\*Gate House backed up to the trees directly in front of the entrance gate. You can also monitor the beach from there.

\*Define swim area with swim lines and buoys

\*Allow a hot dog vendor to work under the trees in the corner and the ice cream truck to park a couple times a day. Hot dog carts typically have drinks as well.

\* If things work there maybe in the future there could be electricity and a small snack bar.

\* Rules, fees, and monitoring will help change the clientele base. People go to this beach because it is free and they do what they do because there is no one there to call them on it.

\* Hire College age people and older....no kids (high school) and they should be in pairs for safety. Also no girls should be there with out a guy as part of the pair.

\*Allow entrance only through the one entrance gate and keep the other one locked.

\*Have abbreviated hours, maybe 9-7 during high season , and lock the gate every night. Arrest anyone caught trespassing.

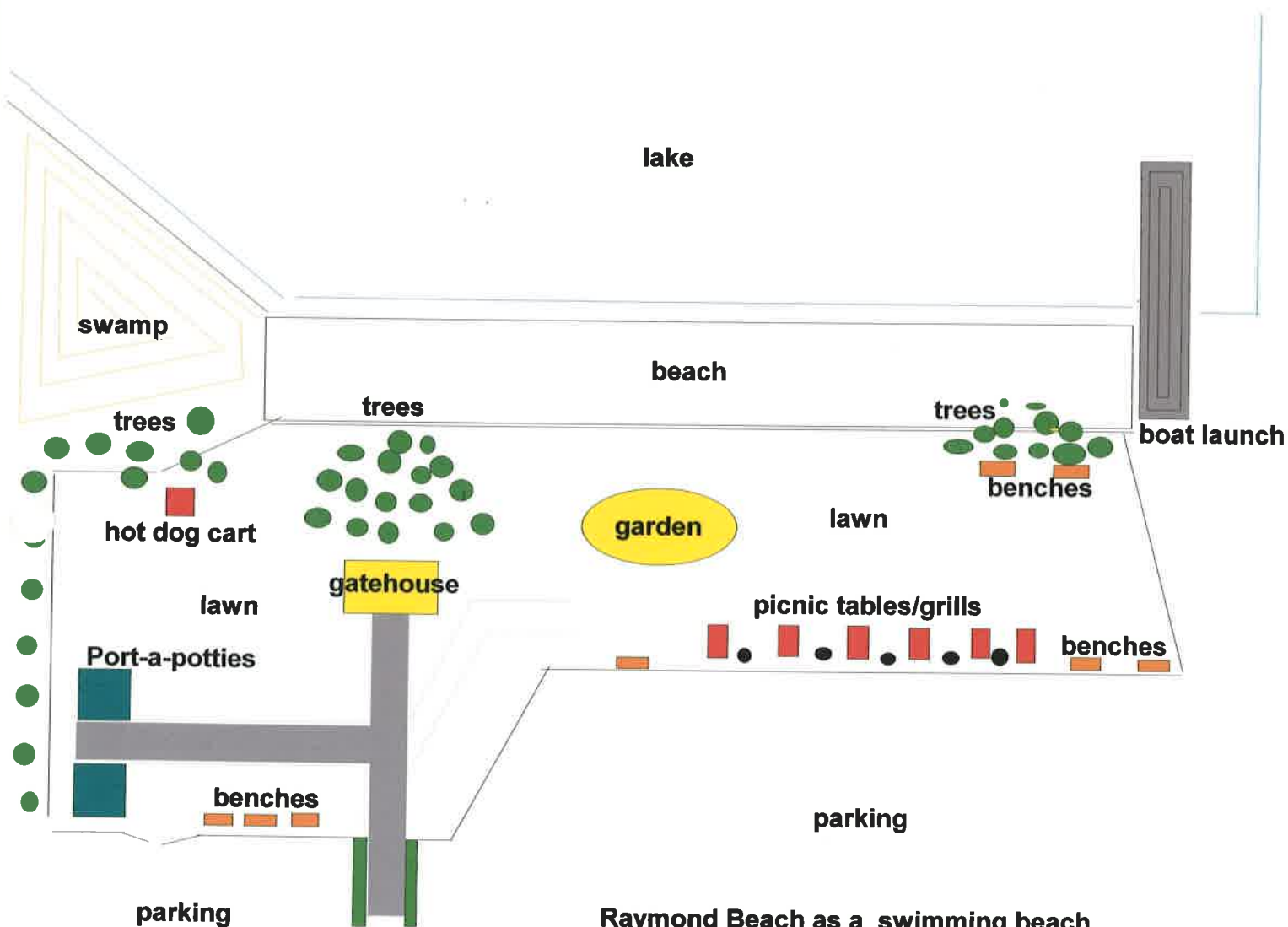
\*Have a cash box, and all the same sign in material and paperwork and tickets as Tassel Top.

\*When the beach parking is full, close the beach to excess people to prevent overcrowding, The picnic tables and benches will also take up more room on the lawn and prevent the "beached whale" effect.

\*DO NOT put out trash cans. This is too close to 302 so you will have "townies" dumping their house trash in, also, and a bigger problem is bees. Once you have 1 soda can in a barrel you will have yellow jackets. Dangerous for workers changing the barrels and for people who are allergic, liability for the town.

\* You may want to think about changing the name of the beach if you reopen it.

Raymond beach has such a disgusting connotation now.



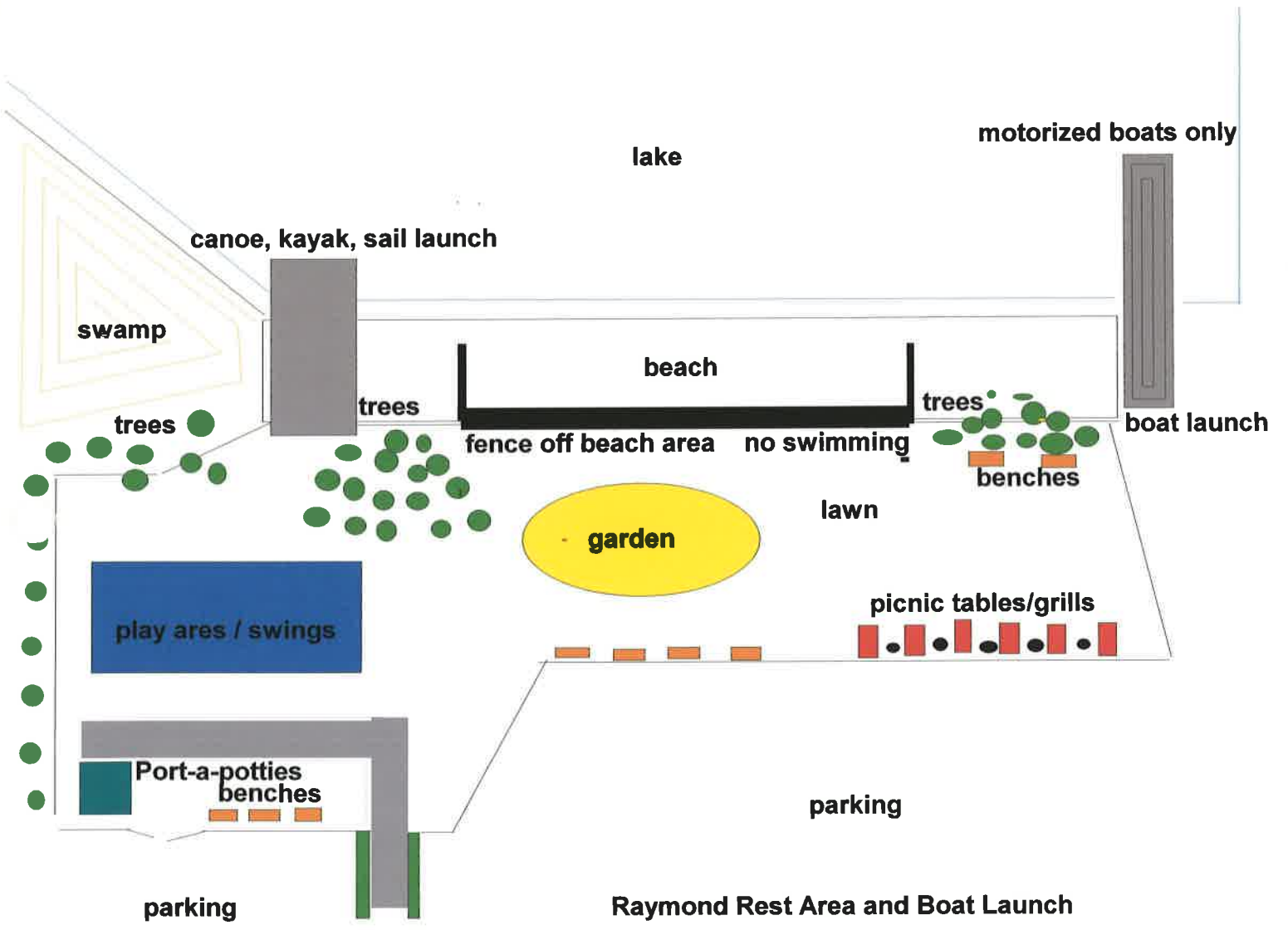
Raymond Beach as a swimming beach

## **RAYMOND REST AREA AND BOAT LAUNCH**

- \*Have only motor boats and large sail boats (trailered boats) at the present boat launch area.
- \*Have an area in the left corner for launching canoes, kayaks, windsurfers, paddle boats, basically any non motorized water craft.
- \*Put benches along the fence and picnic tables with umbrellas and grills near the boat launch end of the grass
- \*Have a handicapped port-a-potty on the pad and upgrade the path to it
- \*Make a play area near the kayak launch with swings so the kids could swing and look out over the lake and maybe a slide. Nothing fancy
- \*Run a chain link fence along the edge of the grass to block off the beach and have ends on the fence that run to the water to really box it off. Post a sign that there is no swimming there and arrest trespassers
- \* Maybe a garden in the open area by the beach.
- \*Close and lock gates at the end of the day. Open 9-6 or 7

I feel, as do others, that this would be the path of least resistance. Financially, it would be much cheaper to do an esthetic upgrade and just have someone deal with the gates. If the place got trashed still, then there would be reason to close the area for good. You would have given them 2 chances to keep it nice.

These are just a few of the thoughts that I have gathered and hope that they may be of some use.



Raymond Rest Area and Boat Launch