

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Algoma Common Council Approves Historic Catwalk Preservation Effort

ALGOMA, WI The City of Algoma Common Council, at the November 3, 2025 council meeting, voted to approve efforts by the **Save the Algoma Catwalk Committee** to preserve the historic steel catwalk on the city's north pier, a beloved landmark that has graced Algoma's harbor for over 125 years.

The approval allows the committee, a subcommittee of Community Improvement of Algoma, a 501(c)(3) organization, to proceed with fundraising and restoration planning as the US Army Corps of Engineers prepares to begin reconstruction of the north pier in late 2025.

"This is a critical moment for Algoma's harbor heritage," said committee member Tom Levy. "The catwalk has been part of our harbor's identity alongside the Algoma Pierhead Light for more than a century. Without community action, this iconic structure will be lost during pier reconstruction."

The Challenge

The US Army Corps of Engineers will begin a two-year reconstruction of Algoma's north pier beginning in late 2025. The Corps has made provisions for preservation of the Algoma Pierhead Light, but no provisions were made for the catwalk. All steel bents (arches) of the catwalk will be removed during demolition.

The Response

The **Save the Algoma Catwalk Committee** will work with contractor Roen Construction of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin to preserve as much of the existing steel structure as possible during demolition. Material that cannot be preserved will be recycled. The committee will then collaborate with fabricators to create replacement bents as needed. The catwalk will be reconstructed following completion of the north pier, where it will maintain the historic character of Algoma's harbor.

Community-Driven Preservation

This grassroots effort continues the commitment of the citizens of the City of Algoma to preserve its maritime heritage. "The citizens of Algoma have a long history of supporting efforts to build, maintain, and enhance our lakeshore," the committee noted in their presentation to the council. "We are carrying on that proud tradition."

The committee is targeting \$500,000 in fundraising through tax-deductible donations, grants, and other community fundraising efforts.

All donations of any amount are welcome and tax-deductible. There is an opportunity for named recognition for premium-level donations of:

\$15,000+

\$10,000+

\$5,000+

\$2,500+

Donations can be made by check payable to **Save the Algoma Catwalk Fund** and mailed to:

Save the Algoma Catwalk Fund

Attn: Nicolet National Bank

205 Clark St.

Algoma, WI 54201

Historic Preservation Goals

Beyond restoring the catwalk, the committee aims to provide long-term protection for the reconstructed catwalk and to use any funds in excess to establish a fund for future historic preservation efforts in Algoma.

Volunteers Needed

The committee is also seeking volunteers with expertise in fundraising, grant writing, graphic design, legal matters, engineering and historic research. Those interested should email SaveTheAlgomaCatwalk@gmail.com.

The committee meets monthly at the Algoma Boat Club. Meeting dates and progress updates can be found on the Save the Algoma Catwalk Facebook page. A dedicated website will launch December 1, 2025.

About the City of Algoma

Established in 1879 as the “Park of Flowers”, Algoma has a rich maritime heritage. The harbor has driven the local economy for over 160 years, from commercial fishing to sport fishing to tourism.

About Community Improvement of Algoma

Community Improvement of Algoma is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Algoma through community projects and historic preservation efforts.