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Bay View Association Facts
<http://www.bayviewassociation.org/>

The Bay View Association is an historic, summer community. You are invited to “Experience Summer with Us” on the shore of Lake Michigan’s Little Traverse Bay in this friendly, open, Christian community. The Bay View summer offerings center around four program areas: performing arts, worship & religious life, education, and recreation. All are welcome to visit, join, and participate in this celebration of summer.

- Founded in 1875 as a summer meeting camp associated with the United Methodist Church, Bay View soon joined the Chautauqua movement (an adult education movement popular in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s) sweeping the U.S.
- The Bay View Association was designated a [National Historic Landmark](#) in 1987. It is considered one of the finest remaining examples of two “uniquely American community forms, the Methodist camp meeting and the independent Chautauqua.”
- 330 acres of land were acquired adjacent to Petoskey, Michigan with approximately one mile of shore line. [Bay View is an Association](#), not a town. The 8-week summer program brings together 903 members, their families, visitors, as well as residents from the Petoskey area together into community.
- 447 historic cottages, most of which were built between 1875 and 1900, are occupied seasonally; lease-holding members may use their cottages from May through October. Cottages are available for [rent or for purchase](#).
- Two historic inns are open year-round on the Bay View Association’s grounds.
- The campus features 31 Victorian-era buildings that are used for lectures, Sunday worship, education classes, and the Bay View Music Festival; They also house the administrative offices, a post office, a small café, a museum, and a library are also found on campus.
- The Bay View Association is a non-gated community. The grounds are open to the public and all are welcome to visit or participate in the summer programs. Indeed, many who attend Sunday worship services, Music Festival performances, classes, and lectures are visitors or local Northern Michigan residents who can participate fully in the life of the Association.
- Hall Auditorium seats 1,200 and is one of the largest performance venues in Northern Michigan.
- All the land, woods, and lake shore are owned by the Association. In fact, cottage owners are referred to as “lease-holding members” as they lease the land on which their cottage sits.

- The Bay View Association is the largest tax payer in Bear Creek Township, Michigan.
- The Bay View Association is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and remains affiliated with the United Methodist Church.
- The Bay View Association's eight-week summer program includes offerings in four areas: **performing arts, education, worship & religious life, and recreation**. June through August is a celebration of summer, with innumerable concerts, tennis, lectures, sailing, swimming, hiking, plays, an opera, a musical, classes, and more. The campus is bustling with cottager families and visitors actively participating in all that this special place offers. Below are the four program areas and exemplars of the events put together by each department:
 - **Performing Arts & The Bay View Music Festival:** Pop and classical concerts, Sunday evening Vesper concerts, a Musical, and an opera performed each summer. Additionally, a Music Conservatory of renowned professionals from across the country perform and teach each summer. Undergraduate and graduate students in music performance study under the Bay View Music Conservatory faculty. [A full performance schedule and ticket information](#) is available online.
 - **Education:** Each summer, the Education program offers a variety of classes, including book study groups, quilting, painting, and craft groups, woods walks, a film series, music classes for small children, lectures, and more. [A list of classes and events](#) is available online.
 - **Worship & Religious Life:** Throughout the summer program, visiting religion thought leaders speak at Sunday morning worship and then lecture throughout the week. Additionally, Bible study groups and communion are offered on campus. [A complete list of speakers](#) is available online.
 - **Recreation:** The Recreation Department offers a youth day camp every morning during the week, as well as afternoon swimming, sailing, and tennis lessons. [More information](#) is available online.
- Bay View Association demonstrates its commitment to **Giving & Doing through Community**. Members and guests often volunteer their time and resources to be involved in one of the programs or area activities. Community and local causes are supported with deeds and in-kind donations.
 - Bay View has a significant economic impact on the local region. A 2014 University of Illinois study estimated Bay View's economic impact of \$18M.
 - Members volunteer or are board members of several area organizations such as: McLaren Hospital; Little Traverse Conservancy; Manna Food Project; Women's Resource Center; and the Top of Michigan Trails Council.
 - The Bay View Music Festival performs free outreach concerts in the surrounding area.
 - The Bay View community has been a leader in the Little Traverse CROP Walk since 2009. \$25,000 was raised during the 2018 walk.
 - [Association members raised \\$57,000](#) for Rev. Faith Fowler and her Cass Community Social Services organizations in response to her 2018 lectures about

homelessness and poverty in Detroit. The funds will build the first family-sized “tiny house” to help a low-income family become homeowners.

- The Bay View Association is an active member of the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce.
- The Bay View Association welcomes all people to “Experience Summer with Us”. We have **open doors** (the Association is open to all), **open programs** (all are welcome to visit or participate in the Summer Program), and **open minds** (Bay View is interested in continual education and learning as a community). All are invited to become Bay View Association members or cottage owners. [For membership information](#), please visit our website.