



Tracks & Trails

Glendalough State Park • Battle Lake, MN • Winter 2019 • #95

Walk 2019 in Full Motion

Dan Malmstrom, February 2019

Mark your calendars to spend a portion of Saturday, April 20th in Glendalough State Park. After dealing with frigid temperatures this winter, the Walk will be a great way to work out the kinks as we get ready for a Minnesota summer!

Whether you walk, hike or bike ride along Glendalough's many trails, or simply experience the heritage of Glendalough over conversation with friends, you can rest assured that celebrating Earth Day in the park never disappoints – no matter the weather!

The event runs from 9am – 1pm. Please register at any time in the historic Lodge. Walk t-shirts will be provided at the registration table for each donation of \$50. Coffee and donuts will be available in the Trail Center during the morning.

Lunch will be served at noon followed by awards, door prizes, and brief updates about exciting park developments; including progress on the new Trail Center and the Sunset Lake Trail segment.



**2019
WALK
for**

Glendalough

If you would like to raise pledges for Walk 2019 and vie for some great prizes, pledge forms will be available at Everts Lumber, Spruce, Lakes Area Community Center, Battle Lake Public School, the Glendalough State Park office, and via email at Glendaloughparkpartners@gmail.com. To encourage conservation stewardship among area youth, we will recognize kids that raise pledges for the Walk.

Walk Story continued on page 2

DNR Considers Glendalough Expansion

Dan Malmstrom, February 2019

A new Glendalough State Park opportunity was recently presented to the Minnesota DNR. It came in the form of 140 acres of land that could be added to the park's existing 1,931 acres through an estate sale.

The land tract is adjacent to the northwest boundary of the park. It is a pristine combination of lakeshore, forest, and prairie on the west side of Blanche Lake. DNR officials informed the local Citizens Advisory Board of the potential land purchase at its November meeting. The tract purchase is a strong possibility and offers many diverse recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Several important considerations and actions are necessary to evaluate the possibility of this land purchase by the DNR. Otter Tail County commissioners were informed about the possible land sale by the Minnesota DNR on December 11th. Reportedly, the County Commissioners expressed support for the park expansion. Likewise, DNR officials met with the Everts Township board to advise them of the possibility and state's process.

District 1 Supervisor Chuck Carpenter told the Citizens Advisory Board the DNR would pursue extending the park boundaries through the Minnesota State Legislature. This is a common and straight-forward process and is a necessary step to support the land acquisition. Subsequently, discussions would proceed with estate representatives regarding the land purchase.

One important financial element that often goes unnoticed by the public is the loss of local property tax revenue when private land transfers to the State. Fortunately, the State of Minnesota recognized the

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President's Remarks

Ok, here's something you've never heard from me before. DO NOT go to Glendalough today! It may be hazardous to your health! As I write this article, we non-snowbirds have endured three straight days of the coldest weather in decades. Many schools and businesses have been closed state-wide, and even mail delivery has been suspended. For those of you who complain that it gets chilly in the evenings where you are, here's something that will put the weather in perspective. It's 50 degrees warmer inside my refrigerator than it is outside in Minnesota today!

Now that I've gotten that off my chest, here's the flip side. We have great snow cover, the best I've seen in years. Not only is it beautiful and white here in lake country, but the snow provides needed insulation for our septic systems, and the lake levels will benefit in the spring.

Except for the past few days, winter activity in the park has been as brisk as the weather. I was over there last Saturday, and I was amazed at the number of cars in the parking lot. The Boy Scouts were using the lodge, lots of people were cross-country skiing on our beautiful trails, and the yurts were rented this and every weekend so far this winter. Thanks to Park Manager Jeff Wiersma for grooming the trails and managing the rental activity. I had a nice conversation with three people from the Brainerd area who had driven over to enjoy our ski trails. They appreciated being able to rent equipment at Glendalough and were very complimentary of the trails and the park's winter beauty.

Plans are underway for our annual Walk for Glendalough. (See related article in this newsletter) Tracy Kortlever and her team met last week and discussed ways to make our most important fund-raising event even better. In addition to finalizing several logistical questions, they decided on the color and design of this year's official t-shirt. You're going to want one! Thank you to the MN Parks & Trails Council. They provide strong advocacy for Glendalough and the Park Partners and are a co-sponsor of this event.

Progress continues on our quest to build a new Trail Center. We are working in conjunction with the DNR and will be meeting on March 1st. Plans for a new Sunset Lake Trail segment and a possible park expansion are also moving forward. Read Dan's articles in this issue for complete updates.

Congratulations to the city of Battle Lake for being named a Bike Friendly Community. It takes a lot of work and commitment to achieve this status and is a testament to the unique relationship that is enjoyed between Battle Lake and Glendalough State Park. We are better together!

Steve Nelson, President
Glendalough Citizens Advisory Board
stevenbrucenelson@gmail.com

Walk Story continued from page 1

If you cannot attend the Walk, you may contribute to the fundraiser by sending your donation to: Glendalough Park Partners, PO Box 901, Battle Lake, MN 56515, and we will send you a T-shirt.

The Walk is a very important part of the Glendalough State Park heritage. In 1996 the first fundraising event promoted by the Citizens Advisory Board, "March for Parks" took place. The event name has since changed to "Walk for Glendalough", and has become an annual fundraising event sponsored by the local Citizens Advisory Board in collaboration with the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.

Nearly \$300,000 has been raised over the years, and the list of projects made possible by your generosity is impressive.

Trail Center Project Team Established

Dan Malmstrom, February 2019

A steady stream of bicycles, school outings, family gatherings, cross country runners, full campground, busy Annie Battle Lake beaches, waiting list for the yurts, Galloping Goose rental activity, growing park visitor counts, bustling Battle Lake activity, and many other things indicate that Glendalough has become a regional magnet for diverse experiences.

DNR District 1 Park Supervisor, Chuck Carpenter recently commented, "It is great to hear reference to all the energy around Glendalough and the City of Battle Lake. It is clear from several interactions I've had around the county that there is a positive vibe regarding the park and Battle Lake! Kudos to the long list of Friends and Park Partners who have worked tirelessly to provide unforgettable Glendalough experiences for the public."

Fortunately, Chuck is just the right guy, at just the right time to serve as the point person on a pivotal new development that is intended to support the activity in Glendalough. The collaborative work between the DNR and the Glendalough Park Partners to plan, design, and successfully acquire nearly \$1,000,000 of private and public funding for a new Trail Center has been well documented. The project has now officially commenced in early 2019 with a DNR project team.

The DNR project team leader for the Glendalough Trail Center is Erik Wrede in the St. Paul office. He will direct the meetings, facilitation of design elements, and guide the documentation. Chuck Carpenter will serve as the liaison to local park management and the Citizens Advisory

Board's long-term planning committee.

The DNR project team has already met three times in their Pre-Design phase. They are gathering and assessing information, including the comprehensive planning work done by the Citizens Advisory Board in 2017. The project



team intends to meet with the Glendalough CAB long-term planning committee in early March to refine the Trail Center design elements, ultimately leading to a clear understanding of the final facility, functions, timelines and costs.

It is likely that more Trail Center information will be presented at the 2019 Walk.

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Expansion Story continued from page 1

tax loss strain this could place on outstate jurisdictions.

In 1933, the legislature created the "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" program to compensate local government units for the loss of tax base when the state acquired land. This PILT aid program was updated in 1979. The legislation sets PILT rates and upward adjustments.

In 2017, the state paid approximately \$32 million in payments from the PILT. The payments are directed to the local counties, townships, and at times even school districts to compensate for tax losses. In 2010, it was reported by the Office of the State Auditor that payments made to local jurisdictions were generally higher than the property tax loss on the private land. In 2013, the legislature adjusted PILT payments upward by 15.5 percent to ensure commensurate payments.

Financial impact, along with a myriad of land owner, recreational, natural and development factors will be considered as part of this exciting expansion opportunity at Glendalough.

Battle Lake Achieves Bike Friendly City

Dan Malmstrom, February 2019

Battle Lake is the newest city to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). Minnesota, the second most bicycle-friendly state in the U.S., now boasts 25 BFCs. The bronze BFC award recognizes Battle Lake's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

"It is great to see that communities throughout the state recognize that good biking and walking are important parts of public health, sustainability and quality of life strategies," said Dave Durenberger, former U.S. Senator. "We simply must make it easy to incorporate a little physical activity into our daily routines. Congratulations to Marshall, Battle Lake, and the 23 other BFC's in Minnesota."

"This recognition confirms all the work that has been done in Battle Lake to provide a welcoming community," said Val Martin, City of Battle Lake. Pursuing the development of the Glendalough Trail was a cornerstone of a very intentional community development plan that began in 2010. As several segments of trail came to fruition, including the Glendalough State Park loop – Battle Lake community leaders extended the attractive trail asset with a Safe Routes to School segment and all the amenities associated with the Complete Streets initiative. This commitment positioned the City to pursue the coveted Bicycle Friendly designation.

"One in five people in Greater Minnesota ride a bicycle at least once a week and communities in every corner of the state are working on plans to attract more residents, businesses, and tourists by becoming more bicycle friendly," said Dorian Grilley, Executive Director of BikeMN. "We're excited to see Battle Lake and Marshall recognized for their efforts!"

Studies have shown that bicycling creates revenue and jobs for our state. It brings tourists (and their pocketbooks) to towns for community rides and scenic adventures. Small infrastructure projects like trails and sidewalks create nearly double the number of jobs per dollar spent than big highway projects.

The Glendalough Park Partners appreciate the collaboration with Battle Lake community leaders and congratulate them on the Bicycle Friendly Community achievement and their ongoing commitment to the Glendalough Trail!

Jeff's Jottings

by Park Manager Jeff Wiersma

Our "throwback" winter continues at Glendalough with cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls. Skiers are getting great conditions this year, if only it is warm enough to go out. Skiers have been coming to Glendalough in record numbers when the weather is good.

Yurts continue to stay busy, no matter the weather.

A wedding was held on the ice on Annie Battle Lake on February 2. The bride told me that the groom "wanted to make sure she was committed".

A "Snowga" class was held at the park on February 2 as well. Participants went skiing and then had a yoga session in the trail center. Additional classes may be held yet this winter.

Park Projects

Office LED lighting – Fluorescent lights in the park office will be replaced with LEDs soon. In addition, an occupancy sensor will be installed in the trail center kitchen.

Tennis Court – A quote was received for the removal of the tennis court in the Old Camp. This will probably be completed this spring.

Electrical Re-route – Park is awaiting a quote on re-routing electrical service to the trail center. Currently, it is spliced at the laundry building, a building slated for demolition. Due to potential archaeology in the area, the line will be direct bored.

Bike Trail Loop Completion – Park is once again applying for an FRTP grant to help fund completion of the Glendalough Trail loop in the park which would move the trail off the park entrance road. Funds from the partial grant received in 2017 are being put to use on the design and engineering for this trail section.

Trailhead Building – This project continues to move slowly, but architect Peter Paulson has been assigned to the project. Peter has been very involved in Glendalough projects in the past, and we look forward to working with him again.

Prairie Hill Trail – The trail signage will be getting a facelift. A new, smaller scenic byway sign will be installed at the park entrance, and the current sign in the parking lot will be changed to interpret only the trail.

Sunset Lake Trail – The Pine to Prairie Birding sign is also getting a facelift. The new sign will be larger, provide some interpretation of Sunset Lake's history, and replace the eagle as the feature bird with the green heron.

From St. Paul

Sarah Strommen was appointed as the new DNR commissioner by new governor Tim Walz. Sarah previously served as an assistant commissioner with responsibility for the Parks and Trail division, so she already has significant experience with Parks and Trails issues. Erika Rivers was reappointed as the Director of MN State Parks and Trails.

A Culture of Conservation

Jeff Wiersma, in memoriam of Johannes Wiersma

More than a year ago, my friend and fellow park manager, Don Del Greco of Maplewood State Park, lost his father. Now that my own dad has recently passed away, I vividly recall our conversation about how our dads had influenced our love of the outdoors, our appreciation of nature, and, ultimately, our career paths. From the day I was born, my dad wove a culture of conservation around me.

I suspect my dad's own appreciation of nature started when he was a child. He was born in the province of Friesland in the Netherlands. It was a land of lakes and canals, perhaps the reason he was attracted here many years later to the "Land of 10,000 Lakes". It was also a land reclaimed from the sea, and, as a result, lacking in indigenous wildlife and plants. Birds, however, flourished in the grasslands and wetlands. They were my dad's first love. He often recalled a Dutch tradition that took place every spring, a contest to find the first "kievit" (Northern Lapwing) egg of the season. When it was found, the tasty morsel would be given to the queen, and the finder would be granted a reward of a hundred guilders. Soon, my dad was hooked on egg collecting and would keep an egg from every species he could find. In later years, I think he regretted this childhood practice, but the birds were plentiful in those days, and his sizable collection eventually made its way to a Dutch museum.

It should come as no surprise then that my own introduction to the natural world also came through bird-watching. My father always kept a pair of binoculars and a small green, well-worn, pocket-sized bird identification book handy, especially on family outings. I remember paging through the book, trying to memorize each bird and its characteristics. After a while, pictures weren't enough as I tried to learn bird calls from a record that was a family Christmas present. All the while, my dad encouraged me. Our first carpentry project together was a birdhouse, and on any weekend without other obligations, our family could be found traipsing through any number of regional parks or

nature centers, always searching for a new discovery. My newfound powers of observation and identification soon expanded to include mammals, trees, wildflowers, rocks, and, yes, even mushrooms.

Summer environmental camps would follow, but more was learned on summer vacations with my dad – camping, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and, of course, birding. At home, my dad talked about environmental issues with us. Our family was the first on our block to recycle, long before it was convenient. Composting not only saved on waste, but helped my father’s gardens. On a larger scale, my father worried about the world’s burgeoning population and changes in agricultural practices that were destroying habitats, both in his native country and his adopted one. He often mourned that one day “there would be no room for wildlife”. At various times, he was a member of the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and Nature Conservancy.

Throughout my childhood, I was always aware of the respect that my dad held for the naturalists that we met on our journeys. For most of my young life, my father worked construction as a cement finisher. It was hard work, and while he took pride in it, it was not what he would have chosen for himself. He envied the naturalists and longed to be more like them, working with things in the natural world. I remember a time when he actually applied for a job in a greenhouse, thinking he at least had enough gardening knowledge to qualify. I saw the disappointment in his face when he got the rejection letter. I don’t know that he ever applied for another job. Instead, he retired early and took up beekeeping which, thankfully, gave him the joy of working with living things in an outdoor setting.

Still, I look back on that day of my dad’s disappointment as the day that I decided that I wanted a career in natural resources. For a long time, I struggled with whether I chose this for myself or whether I chose this to please my dad. I guess it was a little bit of both, but in the end it doesn’t matter. I love what I do, and every day I know that I am living my father’s dream. Somewhere, I know, he’s smiling. “Thanks, Dad!”

Legislators Work to Help State Parks

Historical Article from 2002

Although the 2002 Legislative Session is brimming with debates over the state’s budget predicament, Senator Cal Larson (R- Fergus Falls) and Representative Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) want to make sure that the pride of Minnesota, our state parks, do not get lost in the shuffle.

“Our number one priority this session is to balance the budget,” Nornes said. “However, we must also uphold our responsibility to preserve and maintain other areas that affect Minnesotan’s quality of life.”

The Department of Natural Resources has submitted its State Park Capital Request to the Legislature. The request includes a source of funding for a new contact station at Glendalough State Park in Battle Lake. The proposed building is modeled after a new contact station located at Bear Head Lake State Park in Ely. The new station, which will be located at the entrance of the park, will be approximately 1,500-square feet in size. Among other features, it will include office space for full-time park staff, secure counter space for greeting visitors, and a nature gift shop.

The project budget is estimated at \$275,000. If the Legislature approves the DNR’s request early this year, the DNR should be able to secure the construction contract for the new contact station by Fall 2002. The completion date would then be estimated for Summer 2003.

“Glendalough State Park, and the entire state park system is critical to communities throughout Minnesota,” Larson said.

“Parks provide jobs, wholesome recreation, and are the foundation of Minnesota’s tourism industry. I hope the Legislature joins Representative Nornes and me in recognizing the significance of the DNR’s funding initiative and supports our state parks.”

GSP Advisory Board Minutes

Minutes • Quarterly Meeting • November 15, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Board Member Dan Malmstrom at the Lodge in Glendalough State Park. Member attendance: Dan Malmstrom, Tracy Kortlever, Peter Christianson, John Christensen, Sarah Govig, DNR District Supervisor Chuck Carpenter, Park Manager Jeff Wiersma.

Review/Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.
(Christianson/Anderson)

Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.
(Christianson/Kortlever)

Treasurer's Report

Peter Christianson presented the treasurer's report for time period January through November 15, 2018. Highlights include: General Fund balance of \$50,278.78, Long-term Project Fund balance of \$112,135.57, general contributions of \$2,500, membership income of \$3,766.17, and expenses of \$858.98 for a total net income during the period of \$2,907.19. The report was reviewed and approved. (Christensen/Kortlever)

A discussion was held regarding the creation of a standard letter for tax deductible donations, and the State Attorney General registration requirements for donations. Peter Christianson has completed work on both and will follow up as required.

Park Manager's Report

See November Tracks and Trails newsletter for complete update.

Other DNR Staff Reports

Chuck Carpenter reviewed the status of the Glendalough Trail Center Project. He discussed the Project Log which included information regarding citizen expectations, the DNR's timeline, the design aspects of the project (winterize vs. non-winterize, shower accessibility, versatile classroom space), recognition of the rich cultural and natural resources within the park, the current park budget, concept drawings/ADA accessibility standards. The goal is to off-load traffic from The Lodge area in order to avoid further wear and tear and preserve it for future generations.

Chuck informed the board about a privately-owned parcel of land adjacent to the park that may become available. DNR officials are in communication with the property owner and will update the board on future progress.

Committee Reports

Membership

Discussion regarding various topics including: adding membership renewal to the Walk for Glendalough registration form, adding student designations to membership renewal forms, creating a Park Partners Facebook page, introducing a youth member to the Citizen's Advisory Board and adding a Park Partners lifetime membership option.

Discussion also addressed creating greater Walk for Glendalough exposure such as a "Countdown to the Walk" on

social media and an article for Tracks & Trails that encourages Park Partners gift memberships for grandchildren, etc. Sarah Govig was removed from the Membership Committee. She will assist Tracy Kortlever with membership on an as needed basis.

Projects

Jeff Wiersma indicated that granite has been delivered and spread for the outdoor stage project and paid for from the gift fund. Peter Christianson reported that Joan Vorderbruggen assisted him in choosing the Trail Center counter top. Cabinet selection in progress. No new promotion information about current Trail Center entrance information. Deb Baker was removed from the Projects Committee as she has retired from the Board.

Long-term Planning

Chuck Carpenter and Jeff Wiersma attended a recent Everts township meeting to discuss a possible DNR property purchase adjacent to Glendalough State Park. They are reviewing the regulatory requirements associated with a park statutory boundary change. The property is currently under a conservation easement with the MN Land Trust.

Walk for Glendalough/Special Events

Walk for Glendalough 2019 date set for April 20, 2019.

Old Business

No new updates from Galloping Goose Rentals. A brief discussion regarding new project funding ideas occurred. Ideas included: hosting a hybrid outdoor triathlon, a family adventure course that could coincide with annual events scheduled in Battle Lake, building a public sauna, and an outdoor shower/foot washing station near the Trail Center or Lodge.

New Business

Renewal of MN Parks & Trails Council Membership was discussed. A \$500.00 annual membership renewal motion made and approved. (Christensen/Anderson)

Dan Malmstrom suggested using a mini board retreat to with DNR project staff to discuss various current and long-term projects. Chuck Carpenter will discuss idea with project staff and report back.

The board discussed the benefits of painted crosswalk lines at Highway #16 and whether the crosswalk flashers should continue to be illuminated during the off-season.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. (Malmstrom/Christensen). The next quarterly meeting will be February 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at The Lodge in Glendalough State Park.

Submitted by Sarah Govig, Secretary



Glendalough State Park Advisory Board:

Steve Nelson – President (2019)
Dan Malmstrom – Vice President (2020)
Sarah Govig – Secretary (2021)
Peter Christianson – Treasurer (2021)
Tracy Kortlever (2021)
John Christensen (2019)
Chris Estes (2019)
Jay Anderson (2020)
Joan Vorderbruggen (2020)

DNR:

Gary Hoeft, NW Region Parks and Trails Manager
Melody Webb, NW Region Parks and Trails Manager
Chuck Carpenter, District Recreation Supervisor
Kathy Beaulieu, Region Naturalist
Ben Eckhoff, Area Naturalist
Cindy Lueth, Region Resource Specialist

Glendalough State Park:

24869 Whitetail Lane
Battle Lake, MN 56515-9654
(218) 864-0110

Jeff Wiersma, Park Manager

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the Glendalough Park Partners

Tracy Kortlever • membership

New/Renewing Park Partners

November 1, 2018 – February 1, 2019

Craig Rude, Battle Lake
Wyatt Penke, Fergus Falls
Richard Tamke & Kathleen Ball, Battle Lake
Richard Mudge & Madonna Lennon, Fort Pierce, FL
Baland Family, Battle Lake
Bob & Karen Wasson, Battle Lake
Stephanie & Scott Ahrens, Eagle Lake
Duane & Judy Fraki, Ottertail
Matthew & Melinda Haskins, Potomac, MD
Kay Fawcett, Fergus Falls
Paula Krahn Merkle & Craig Merkle, Baltimore, MD
Rich & Janet Voller, Duluth
John & Bonnie Nordstorm, Frazee
Robert Morgan, Fort Ripley
Dave & Jan Blattner, Rochester
Cheryl & Brock Reade, Windsor, CO
Tom & Stephanie O'Brian, Richville
Staci & Jim Korkowski, Conroe, TX
Keely & Clay Mc Nerney, Great Falls, VA
Marion Araskog, Bonita Springs, FL
Debbi & Dave Olson, Sun City West, AZ
Cyndi & Harvey Pederson, Bonita Spring, FL
Scott & Sheryl Araskog, Maple Grove
Rick & Sherrie Araskog, Bonita Springs, FL
Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Northampton, MA
Kurt & Tanya Maethner, Battle Lake
Casey Love, Battle Lake
Richard & Deborah Johnson, Henning
Bill & Gail Ewald, Kissimmee, FL
Andrew & Jean Callinan, Shoreview
Emil Madsen, Battle Lake

Memorial / Honor

Memorial for Bob Solien from Don & Judy Loe
Memorial for Larry Welte from Don & Judy Loe
In Honor of Kent Olson From Susan Olson & Tedd Olson

Thank you for keeping your memberships current.
Please check the date on the address label of your Tracks
and Trails to check your membership status. Send your
membership correspondence to:

Glendalough Park Partners
PO Box 901
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Next Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, February 28
7:00 p.m.
Glendalough Lodge - Open to Everyone

Thank you, Park Partners!

To Renew or to Become a Glendalough Park Partner:

Choose one of the following levels:

Park Pal (\$10)

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Supporter (\$25)

1 year of Tracks & Trails + magnet

Donor (\$50)

1 year of T & T + Commemorative Walk T-shirt

circle size: S M L XL 2XL

Patron (\$100)

1 year of T & T + Glendalough History DVD

Benefactor (\$500)

1 year of T & T + Glendalough print

No Gift Desired (check box)

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PO Box 901
Battle Lake, MN 56515



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Battle Lake, MN 56515

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