

Appendix C:

Public and Student Input Session Individual Session Results:

June Public Input Individual Session Data

Input from members of all communities within Manistee County is desired through this planning process, but with 21 local units of government within Manistee County the idea of holding 21 separate public input sessions raised concerns. The concerns revolved around the amount of time necessary to plan, setup and effectively capture public input, but also with the potential to have some input sessions lightly attended or without any attendance by the public whatsoever.

It was decided to effectively manage the public input with notification by conducting 6 public input sessions spread throughout the County. The locations were chosen based upon several factors easily identified locations, proximity to higher population centers, and ease of traveling to the location of the session for the public which resided in that region.

The Public Input Sessions were held at the following locations at the provided date and time.

- Marilla Township Hall: June 2nd, 2015
- Stronach Township Hall: June 9th, 2015
- Brethren High School: June 11th, 2015 (*low turnout*)
- Bear Lake United Methodist Church: June 16th, 2015
- Springdale Township Hall: June 23rd, 2015
- Manistee High School: June 30th, 2015

The format of the Public Input Sessions were conducted in a similar fashion to those for the Student Input Sessions. Through following that base format, the resulting information from all input sessions can be compared against each other. As with the student sessions, large maps were utilized to ascertain where and what type of activities in which were participated, within Manistee County. After then a discussion with three main questions was posed to the group. The questions outlined the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of/for recreation within Manistee County. Unlike the student input sessions, the general public input sessions went one step further in order to prioritize opportunities which would help shape objectives for each of the individual municipalities and County as a whole. The prioritized goals for each municipality at the conclusion of all public input sessions could then be reviewed and revised by individual planning commissions and boards/councils with assistance by the leadership team member.

Marilla Township Hall Public Input Session:

With approximately 10 people attending the Marilla Township Hall Public Input Session, it was considered a rather light turnout. The communities of Marilla and Maple Grove Townships as well as the Village of Kaleva were represented. Those who did attend were passionate about recreation in Manistee County and there was no shortage of well-developed ideas. . The results of each segment of the input session are organized within the Wordle, the Activity Table, Strengths and Weaknesses Table and bulleted Visioning Results.

A Wordle is a method of representing information in a manner which utilizes visual information to convey data. The size of the words in the graphic are determined by the number of responses for that particular recreational activity. The larger the word, the more times that activity was mentioned during the input session over other activities.



Figure ?. Marilla Public Input Session Wordle

The following table provides an overview of the location at which the public who attended the Marilla Input Session participated in recreation activities during the summer and winter months.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
City of Manistee	Walking, Summer Music Concerts, Swimming	<i>None Reported</i>
Lemon Lake	Fishing	Ice-Fishing
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Canoeing, Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting, Mushrooming	Hunting, Snowshoeing
Marilla Area	Picnicking, Hunting	Snowshoeing, Snowmobiling
Onekama Area	Swimming	<i>None Reported</i>
Public Trails	Walking, Hiking	Snowshoeing, Snowmobiling
Tippy Pond Area	Canoeing, Hiking	Ice-Fishing
Village of Kaleva	Skeet-Shooting	<i>None Reported</i>

Table ?. Marilla Public Input Session Activity Table

Strengths and Weaknesses pertaining to recreational assets within the County as provided by the Marilla public input session are listed within the following table.

Stronach Township Hall Public Input Session:

The Stronach Township Hall Public Input Session was attended by approximately 25 residents representing

4 different communities (Stronach, Filer and Manistee Townships as well as the City of Manistee. The input session was run exactly as before, and the information received was insightful and very useful to the process. Many recreational activities mirrored those that had been expressed elsewhere, but new ideas also flowed regarding opportunities which should be approached in the future.

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Figure 7. Stronach Township Hall Public Input Session Wordle

The table below displays the results of the Stronach Public Input Session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	<i>None Reported</i>	X-Country Skiing
Bar Lake Area	Swimming, Birding, Biking, Walking	<i>None Reported</i>
Bear Lake	Golf, Swimming, Walking	<i>None Reported</i>
City of Manistee	Walking, Golf, Swimming, Fishing	Walking, Snowshoeing
Little Manistee, Big Manistee & Pine Rivers	Fishing, Kayaking, Canoeing	Fishing
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting	Hunting
Manistee Lake	<i>None Reported</i>	Ice-Fishing
Marilla Area	<i>None Reported</i>	Hunting
Portage Lake Area	Fishing, Swimming, Boating	Ice-Fishing
Public Trails	Hiking, Backpacking, Biking	Snowshoeing, X-Country Skiing, Biking
Stronach Area	Hunting, Fishing, Biking, Kayaking, Canoeing	Sledding, X-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hunting
Tippy Pond Area	Hiking, Backpacking	<i>None Reported</i>

Table 7. Stronach Township Hall Public Input Session Activity Table

Bear Lake United Methodist Public Input Session:

The Bear Lake United Methodist Public Input Session was attended by approximately 15 residents, representing 4 different communities Bear Lake, Pleasanton, Arcadia and Onekama Townships as well as the Village of Bear Lake and Onekama. The input session was run exactly as before; information received pointed towards enjoyment of similar activities as was shared at previous sessions.

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Figure ?. Bear Lake Unitized Methodist Public Input Session Wordle

The table below displays the results of the Bear Lake Unitized Methodist public input session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	Boating, Fishing, Beach, Swimming	Ice-Fishing
Bear Lake Area	Hunting, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Picnic, Biking	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice-Fishing
Copemish Area	<i>None Reported</i>	Snowshoeing
Crystal Mtn.	<i>None Reported</i>	Skiing
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Kayaking, Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Portage Lake Area	Biking	<i>None Reported</i>
Public Trails	Biking	Cross-Country Skiing
Tippy Pond Area	Kayaking, Camping, Hiking	<i>None Reported</i>

Table ?. Bear Lake United Methodist Public Input Session Activity Table

Springdale Twp. Hall Public Input Session:

The Springdale Hall Public Input Session was attended by approximately 10 residents, representing 4 different communities Springdale, Cleon, and Maple Grove Twps. as well as the Village of Kaleva. The input session was run exactly as before; those in attendance provided valuable information on the recreation activities they pursue as well as the locations in which they pursue the activities, and the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for recreation within the County.

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Figure ?. Springdale Twp. Hall Public Input Session Wordle

The table below displays the results of the Bear Lake Unitized Methodist public input session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	Birding	<i>None Reported</i>
Bear Lake Area	<i>None Reported</i>	Hunting
Brethren Area	<i>None Reported</i>	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Hunting
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Kayaking, Canoeing, Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting	<i>None Reported</i>
Manistee Lake Area	Birding, Canoeing	<i>None Reported</i>
Portage Lake Area	Birding	<i>None Reported</i>
Public Trails	Horseback Riding, Hiking	<i>None Reported</i>
Tippy Pond Area	Kayaking, Fishing, Hiking, Canoeing	<i>None Reported</i>

Table ?.

Springdale Twp. Hall Public Input Session Activity Table

Manistee High School Public Input Session:

The Manistee High School Public Input Session was attended by approximately 15 residents, representing 4 different communities; Springdale, Cleon, and Maple Grove Twps. as well as the Village of Kaleva. The input session was run exactly as before; those in attendance provided valuable information on the recreation activities they pursue as well as the locations in which they pursue the activities, and the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for recreation within the County.

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Figure ?. Manistee High School Public Input Session Wordle

The table below displays the results of the Manistee High School public input session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	Fat Bike	<i>None Reported</i>
Bar Lake	Swimming, Paddle Board, Hike	<i>None Reported</i>
Brethren Area	Kayak, Hike	<i>None Reported</i>
City of Manistee	Beach, Walk, Bike	<i>None Reported</i>
Filer Twp.	Beach, Bike, Hike, Swimming	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowmobiling, Hike
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Fishing, Kayaking, Boating	<i>None Reported</i>
Cont.....LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Manistee Lake Area	Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Portage Lake Area	Fat Bike, Beach, Bike, Sailing, Boating, Fishing, Waterski	<i>None Reported</i>
Stronach Area	Bike, Hike	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing

Table ?.
Manistee High School Public Input Session Activity Table

Student Input Individual Session Data:

To gather input from the County's youth, a group traditionally underrepresented in planning, a series of public input sessions were held at 3 area High Schools to solicit input on recreation activities from the youth of Manistee County. The first of the 3 sessions was conducted in February 2015 at Manistee High School. This session hosted youth from Bear Lake High School, Manistee Catholic Central and Manistee High School. The session was facilitated by the MSU Urban and Regional Planning Program Student Practicum Team as a portion of the work they completed for the County's Recreation Plan. The remaining two sessions were conducted in April. One session was held at Onekama High School and the other in Brethren at the KND (Kaleva, Norman, Dickson) High School. Each of these sessions only hosted students from within those schools and was facilitated by the County Planning Director and AES Community Development Director.

Each of the 3 sessions was conducted in the same manner. Large maps of the County, which identified recreation lands, sites, trails, and waterways, were utilized to ascertain where the youth of the County chose to recreate during the summer and winter. The students were given two different color sticky dots and asked to place them on the map and write on or next to the dot, the type of recreation activity they enjoy doing in those locations. Next the students were asked to identify both strengths and weaknesses as it pertained to recreation sites or opportunities within Manistee County. Lastly the students were asked to brainstorm and provide a vision for what they would like to see recreation wise in Manistee County in the future.

Manistee High School Student Input Session:

With approximately 50 High School students the Manistee High School student input session had the largest attendance. Several MSU Students facilitated the input session by guiding groups of students through the process as was described above. The results of each segment of the input session are organized within the Wordle, the Activity Table, Strengths and Weaknesses Table and bulleted Visioning Results.

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Figure 2. Manistee High School Student Input Session Wordle

The following table provides an overview of the location at which students participated in recreation activities during the summer and winter months.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
City of Manistee beach and along Lake Michigan's coast	Swimming, Boating, Fishing Camping	Ice fishing
City of Manistee – downtown	Basketball, Tennis Running, Walking Golf Bowling	Ice skating
Village of Kaleva	<i>None Reported</i>	Snowmobiling
Manistee Lake	<i>None Reported</i>	Ice fishing
Manistee National Forest	Camping Biking ATV riding	Snowshoeing Snowmobiling Hunting
Little Manistee and Manistee River	Tubing Canoeing, Kayaking	Ice fishing
Eastern Manistee County Lakes and Rivers	Hiking Canoeing	<i>None Reported</i>
Arcadia Dune “Old Baldy”	Hiking, Walking Biking	<i>None Reported</i>
Bear Lake	Horseback riding	<i>None Reported</i>

Table ?. Manistee High School Student Input Session Activity Table

Strengths and Weaknesses pertaining to recreational assets within the County as provided by the student input session at Manistee High School are listed within the following table.

Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis	
Strengths (S)	Weaknesses (W)
Clean and nice beaches	Hard to access places / low accessibility
Many places to fish	Not enough bike trails and needs more protection for bicyclists on the road
Movie theatre	Lack of information about trails to students
Lots of places for tubing	Lack of restaurants
Trails	Few shopping stores
Lots of camping places	Not enough ice-skating parks
Hiking	Roads need repair
Ice-skating	
Nice downtown	

Table ?. Manistee High School Student Input Session Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis Table

The visioning exercise conducted during the student input session provided valuable feedback on what is desired by the students for additions or improvements to existing recreational facilities. Input received is listed in the bulleted points below.

- Water activity rental facilities along Lake Michigan, near large incorporated areas with larger lakes, where there may be existing recreation sites. The facilities could rent jet skis, kayaks and canoes, paddleboards, and scuba equipment.
- A paved bike and running trail between Bear Lake and Manistee
- More bike trails
- Adding and improving sports facilities and amenities downtown Manistee and in Bear Lake, including a track, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Numerous additions to downtown Manistee, such as additional parking close to the beach, a splash pad, water park, zoo, and bike lanes or paths for safe biking
- Adding more campgrounds in the County
- A YMCA or indoor recreation center or facility along 31, just north of Manistee
- Adding more restrooms and an indoor shooting range to the Manistee National Forest
- More lakeside attractions
- A location to zipline
- Rock climbing wall or facility

Onekama High School Student Input Session:

The Onekama High School Student Input Session was attended by approximately 35 students from the Onekama School District. The same format was utilized for this student input session, although facilitation was provided by the County Planning Director and the AES Community Development Director. The results of this student input session are provided in the Wordle, the Activity Table, Strengths and Weaknesses Table and bulleted Visioning Results, provided within this section.

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Figure ?. *Onkama High School Student Input Session Wordle*

The table below displays the results of the student input session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	Diving for Golf Balls, Golf, Hiking	Ice-fishing
Chief Lake	Swimming, Fishing	Ice-fishing
City of Manistee	Swimming, Jogging, Golf, Beach, Pier Jumping	Ice-skating
Crystal Mtn.	Swimming, Alpine Slide	Skiing
Lake Michigan	Swimming, Beach Comb-ing, Pier Jumping, Fishing, Jetski, Boating, Waterski	Lake Viewing, Beach Combing, Pier Walk
Libraries	Read	<i>None Reported</i>
Little Manistee, Big Manistee & Pine Rivers	Canoeing, Kayaking, Tubing, Fishing	Fishing
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting	Hunting
Manistee Lake	Fishing	Ice Fishing
Onkama Area	Playground, Golf, Jogging, Tubing, Waterski, Fishing, Swimming	Sledding, ATV Riding, Snowshoeing, Ice-fishing, Ice-skating
Public Trails (Throughout County)	Jogging, Hiking, Biking	Jogging, Snowmobiling
Tippy Pond Area	Camping	<i>None Reported</i>
Village of Kaleva	Horseback Riding	Snowmobiling
Bear Lake Area	Jogging, Hiking, Golf, Tub-ing	<i>None Reported</i>

Table ?. *Onkama High School Student Input Session Activity Table*

Strengths and Weaknesses pertaining to recreational assets within the County as provided by the student input session at Onekama High School are listed within the following table.

Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis	
Strengths (S)	Weaknesses (W)
Fishing Spirit of the Woods	Limited Ice Skating
Hiking Spirit of the Woods	Limited Hokey
Beach, Piers	No Beach @ Arcadia Beach (washed out)
Mudding Backwaters of Tippy Dam	Bathrooms @ Langland Park
Mudding at Twisted Trails	Pavilion @ Langland Park
Running (Glovers Lake Rd.)	Bathrooms @ Village Park (Onekama)
Tubing on Portage Lake	Lack of Snowmobile and Bike Trail Connections
Skiing @ Crystal Mtn.	Poor Sidewalks
Hunting	Lack of indoor recreation center
Alpine Sledding @ Crystal	Bear Lake Baseball Field Conditions
Orchard Beach S.P. Hiking Trails	
Baseball Fields	
Hiking on Old Baldy (Conservancy Lands)	

Table ?. Onekama High School Student Input Session Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis Table

The visioning exercise conducted during the Onekama student input session provided valuable feedback on what is desired by the students for additions or improvements to existing recreational facilities within their communities. Input received is listed in the bulleted points below.

- Recreation Center (Indoor) Placed center of County
- Water Park
- Sky one
- Trails (Biking, Hiking, Jogging)
- PBX
- Enlarge Skate Park (Jumps, move ramps around to change it up, allow painting of the ramps)

KND (Kaleva, Norman, Dickson) High School Student Input Session:

The KND High School Student Input Session was attended by approximately 20 students from the KND School District. The same format was utilized for this student input session, although facilitation was provided by the County Planning Director and the AES Community Development Director. The results of this student input session are provided in the Wordle, the Activity Table, Strengths and Weaknesses Table and bulleted Visioning Results, provided within this section.

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Figure 7. KND High School Student Input Session Wordle

The table below displays the results of the KND student input session questions pertaining to seasonal recreational activities and the location at which the activities are pursued.

LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Arcadia Area	Bowfishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Bar Lake	Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Bear Lake	Fishing	Ice-Fishing
Brethren Area	Jogging, Fishing, Canoeing	Jogging, Sledging, Snowmobiling
Chief Lake	Fishing	Ice-fishing
City of Manistee	Jogging, Fishing, Swimming, Baseball/Baseball	<i>None Reported</i>
Crystal Mtn.	<i>None Reported</i>	Snowboarding, Skiing
Lake Michigan	Swimming, Pier Jumping, Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Lemon Lake	Fishing	<i>None Reported</i>
Little Manistee, Big Manistee & Pine Rivers	Fishing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Camping, Swimming, Rafting	Fishing
Manistee County Public Lands	Biking, Hunting, Mushrooming, Bonfires	Hunting
Cont.....LOCATION	SUMMER ACTIVITIES	WINTER ACTIVITIES
Portage Lake	Swimming, Fishing, Bowfishing	Ice-fishing
Public Trails (Throughout County)	Jogging, Hiking, Biking	Snowshoeing, Cross-country skiing

Tippy Pond Area	Fishing, Swimming, Camping, Mudding	Ice-fishing, Snomobiling
Village of Kaleva	Camping, Jogging, Fishing, Swimming	Jogging, Sledding
Wellston Area	Fishing, Horseback Riding, Basketball	Jogging, Sledding, Snowmobiling

Table 7. KND High School Student Input Session Activity Table

Strengths and Weaknesses pertaining to recreational assets within the County as provided by the student input session at KND High School are listed within the following table.

Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis	
Strengths (S)	Weaknesses (W)
River Systems and Access	Stumps @ Red Bridge tough on propellers
Trails	Bear Creek Launch (ramp condition)
Beaches (Portage Point and 1st Street)	Blacksmith Bayou (ramp condition, lack of parking, plow in winter)
Forest (Public Land Access)	More ATV access in Manistee County
Small and Large Game Hunting	North County Trail Bridge Out (Between High Bridge & Tippy)
	Safer Running Environment (on and off road)
	Trail Connections to denser developed areas
	Open Bear Creek for canoeing

Table 7. KND High School Student Input Session Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis Table

The visioning exercise conducted during the KND student input session provided valuable feedback on what is desired by the students for additions or improvements to existing recreational facilities within their communities. Input received is listed in the bulleted points below.

- Fisheries (re-evaluate stocking plan)
- Old CCC center open back up for environmental studies
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Improve Brethren Courts
- Put up lights around baseball field
- Ice Skating rink
- Trails (connections, variety, leave open longer)
- ATV riding Kaleva
- Campgrounds (updated, nice, bigger, more space)
- Indoor Recreation Center
- Indoor Archer Area