



NORTHSIDE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

City of Portage
Department of Community Development
Plan Commission **PROJECT UPDATE**

May 4, 2015

PUBLIC
WORKSHOP
APRIL 14, 2015

@Pavilion

PORTAGE LAKEFRONT &
RIVERWALK



PORTAGE NORTHSIDE MASTER PLAN was created in 2005. Since then, a number of projects have been built and more are currently underway. The Department of Community Development seeks to update the plan to stay on course with the vision to **CREATE A LIVABLE LAKEFRONT.**

We need YOU to help us move forward! Please join us on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, for a public workshop in the pavilion at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. A meet and greet will start at 6:00 p.m. with workshop activities from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Contact Sonya at (219) 764-5746 with any questions. See you there!

U P D A T E



WHY AN UPDATE?

At this ten year mark, it is time to:

- **CELEBRATE** how far we have come;
- **ASSESS** where we are today; and
- **IDENTIFY** what lies ahead for our great community.

Portage Northside Master Plan



THE VISION: Create a Livable Lakefront

*...the guiding principles of
the original plan...*

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

NEIGHBORHOODS FOCUSED ON RECREATION

HIGH-QUALITY DESIGN

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

6 PROJECTS OF ORIGINAL PLAN

- A new **sixty-acre lakefront park** with public facilities and vehicular access to the adjacent Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore;
- A new **public riverwalk** along Burns Waterway linking the lakefront park to the Portage Marina, a proposed new marina-centered residential development and the existing South Shore station.
- A **long-desired trail linkage** between the east and west units of the National Lakeshore;

6 PROJECTS OF ORIGINAL PLAN

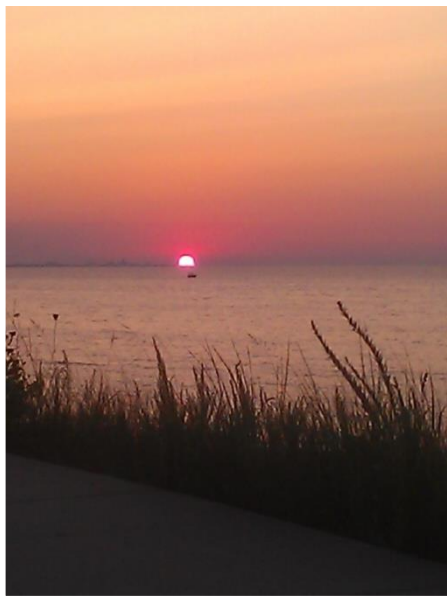
- A model for transit-oriented development and proposed new marina-centered residential development if properly executed;
- Park and public access improvements at Portage Yacht Club with potential water trail links on the Little Calumet River; and
- The long-term opportunity for a canal link between the lakefront properties and downtown Portage.

A needed reminder...

“Sweeping changes will not come overnight. Nor can they be dictated by one person or one governmental body. We in Northwest Indiana must sit together as a unified community and reach a consensus on our future.”

Congressman Pete Visclosky

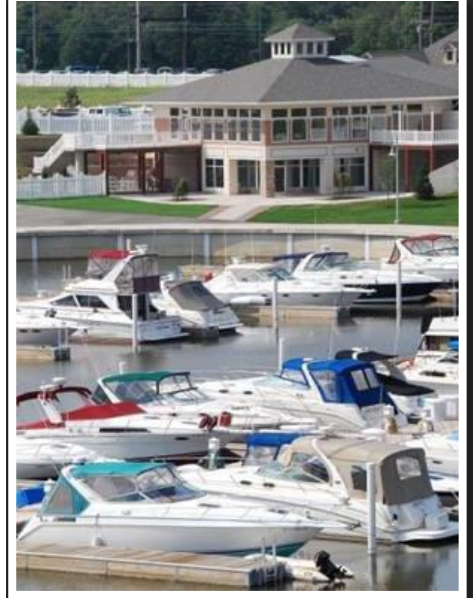
The Marquette Project, 1985



Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk + Future Riverwalk [Connections...](#)



Current and Future East-West Trail + Waterway **Connections...**



Marina and Transit Oriented Development [Connections...](#)

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION.

Question...

*What is the #1 reason you
decided to attend this workshop?*

Reason for being there...

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS

- Looking to implement kayak and canoe access
- To be here longer than sunset
- To learn about the plan
- Bike path suggestions
- Curiosity

Another question...

*Think of the places you **love** to go. What makes them great?*

Favorite places are...

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS

- Comfortable
- Fun
- Unique & different
- Engaging & Informative
- Nature in an urban area
- Indiana Dunes family fun
- Bicycle/Non-motorized connectivity
- Access and “flow” of different amenities/features
- A mix of different terrain & scenery
(Example: Trails over rivers and through woods)

Another question...

*What are the **challenges** to
implementing this plan?*

Challenges...

- Kayak and canoe access
- You cannot carry a bike on the South Shore
- No curfew for adults
- Distance between lake, marina, AmeriPlex
- MONEY
- Young people can walk from parking area to trails; older people need a shuttle!
- RC airfield
- Cooperation with all local towns for connectivity of National Lakeshore to marina district
- Consensus
- Erosion of sand dunes (more winters)
- Access to Lakefront Park (separate industry/park)
- A mix of land ownership

Final question...

*What **one thing** could make
the biggest positive impact to the
Northside?*

Biggest Impact?

- Sand on beach, Fix the beach!
- Indoor water park
- Paddle board rentals, Stock the lake with more fish
- Precoat has to go! Too close a mix of industrial and recreation – diminishes the latter experience.
- Bike paths that connect lakefront to marina to AmeriPlex to Portage
- Different path for bike trail from County Line Road to the waterway
- New sailboat marina and ¼ mi new beach in front of U.S. Steel between Burns Waterway and Port of Indiana
- Nice restaurant on lakeshore
- Wayfinding signage
- Connecting everything (trolley, bus), Water taxi on waterway
- Better South Shore stop and connection to city
- More parking spots, More room for boats to park





LET'S CHAT!

Surprises? Right track? New thoughts?

WHERE WE ARE...

- ✓ Compile and analyze planning documents
- ❑ Ongoing key individual/group interviews
- ❑ Document and analyze input as provided
- ✓ PUBLIC WORKSHOP
- ❑ Develop hand sketch scenarios
- ❑ Identify preferred plan and draft plan document
- ❑ Share draft plan document
- ❑ Conduct public hearing at Plan Commission
- ❑ Revise draft plan document
- ❑ Send recommendation to City Council

SCHEDULE

APRIL 14 – Public Workshop

MAY 04 – Update @ Plan Commission

JULY 06 – Present Draft Plan

AUGUST 03 – Anticipated Public Hearing Date

*Let's keep in touch! Follow
plan development online...*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

www.ci.portage.in.us

Or reach us through Sonya

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THANK YOU!!!

(...for your dedication to this project.)