Indiana’s Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy

The Marquette Plan

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Funded by
The Cities of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Portage & Whiting
and
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Supported by
U.S. Representative Peter J. Visclosky
Consultant Planning Team
JJR, SEH, Huff & Huff, JF New, Trust for Public Land
The Vision “Create a Livable Lakefront”

- Live, Work, Play & Stay
- Environmentally, Economically and Socially Sustainable
- Mixed Uses / New Uses
- Think & Act Strategically : Be Pro-active
**Summary of the Marquette Plan**

1. A comprehensive plan for the Lake Michigan Shoreline, from the Illinois state line to the eastern boundary of Portage

2. Plan for public recreational access to the shoreline

3. Recapture 75% of the shoreline for free public access

4. As a minimum, require a setback from the water of at least 200 feet away for any NEW structures or facilities not associated with open public access

5. A continuous pedestrian/bicycle trail contiguous to the shoreline to the extent possible, consistent with the long-term Economic Development policy for Northwest Indiana

6. NOT a land grab or displacement strategy

7. NOT a strategy to increase taxes or cut jobs
Length of Shoreline: 21 Miles
Project Area: 60 Square Miles
Current Public Access: +/-33%
Total Population: 254,537 (North of Ridge)
Total Population North of US 20: 47,233

- CLARITAS INC.
Other Goals of this Plan...

• Change in perception
• Convince you that the status quo is not an answer
• Recognize and address a changing regional economy
• Capitalize on and leverage opportunities
• Raise the bar
• Immediate action guided by compelling long-term vision
• Create and further develop partnerships
• Plant the seed
Summary of the Planning Process

- Eight month public process
- Nine open public meetings
- Extensive data and field review
- Over 100 stakeholders interviewed
- Review meetings with industry and agencies
- Regular input from Mayors and stakeholders
Summary of Principles:

“Showcase Our Heritage”

“Redefine the Edges”

“Bridge the Gaps”

“Preserve, Protect & Enhance Environmental Systems”

“Protect & Cherish Our Drinking Water”

“Formulate an Effective Management and Funding Strategy”
- New Potential Re-Use Area: 1500 Acres
- Proposed Additional Green Space: 2500 Acres
- Current Publicly Accessible Lakefront: 33%
- Proposed Publicly Accessible Lakefront: 82%
- Proposed Multi-Use Trails: 100 miles
Composite Framework
Short Term Projects

1. Catalytic Projects (#’s)
2. Planning Initiatives (letters)
3. Non-site specific Initiatives

- Study Rail Consolidation possibilities
- Complete proposed multi-Use trails
- Tax Impact study
- Governance / Management Plan

- Extend the Plan to Michigan border
- Update Marquette Plan every 5 yrs.
- Environmental Due Diligence
Opportunity Areas

- Public Access Site
- Warning: Unsafe Waters
- You should not swim in these waters
- You should not eat fish from these waters

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is currently working on a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to restore these waters. For more information, contact IDEM at (812) 265-8770.
Portage Northside Master Plan

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Courtesy: Gary/Chicago Airport
Sub Area Plan – Gary West

Lake Michigan

Jeorse Park

Buffington Harbor

Multi-Use Trail

200 ft. (min.) setback for free public access

New Scenic Byway

Consolidated U.S. Steel

Potential Re-use Area

Expanded Gary/Chicago Airport

Lakefront Ecological Park

Proposed Green Space

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Gary Downtown

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East Chicago..
Sub Area Plan - E. Chicago

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Canalway Opportunities

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Sub Area Plan – Hammond

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Next steps towards implementation

- Gain endorsements of the community including key involved public, private and institutional stakeholders.
- Submit plan for adoption by appropriate entities and update regularly (5 years max.)
- Develop cost estimates for short-term projects to aid appropriation process.
- Begin discussions on activating and funding the Shoreline Development Commission.
- Develop an aggressive marketing and awareness campaign to inspire use and involvement in the lakefront.
- Partner with private, public, and non-profit entities to set realizable standards for sustainable waterfront development.
- Pursue funding from public and private sources to implement improvements.
- Unite forces and resources with other initiatives working toward a common vision.
- Stay involved!