

# Mich-e-ke-wis Park Planning

---

## **Public Input Session Summary & Project Update April 5, 2019**

The City of Alpena has been listening to the needs of their community and is seeking input on Mich-e-ke-wis Park. The City wants to know what could be improved upon at this favorite park. To start this process the City requested assistance from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments to seek input from the public and, with the public's guidance, provide some recommendations for the park.

The first step of the process was a public input session, held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to gather information on what people liked about the park, what they don't like, what they want and what they don't want to see happen at the park. This session was held at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. There were approximately 60 people in attendance at the first public input session.

Questions were posed to facilitate discussion and the responses were noted on the board in the room. The four questions were:

1. What do you like about Mich-e-ke-wis Park now?
2. What is a challenge at the Park right now?
3. What is the best thing that could be done to improve the Park?
4. What should not occur at the Park?

At the end the participants were asked to indicate the one response to each of the 4 questions which they felt was the most important to them. Those responses are documented exactly as they were documented during the public input session and shown on the following pages. Each item shows the number of stars that were drawn by the participants on each item, indicating the general level of importance of each item to the audience. This information is being used to create site drawings of the park representing different potential development scenarios. NEMCOG is working with staff to draft them.

### **Next Steps**

Various Park development scenarios will be provided for review by the public. These will be discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> public input session, which will be announced very soon. At that time we will be asking for input on the various drafts of future Park site plans. This will most likely be scheduled to occur by June.

### **How to Learn More and Keep in Touch**

Information will be updated on the Park planning process at the following web address:

<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/michekewis.asp>

<b>What do you like about Mich-e-ke-wis Park now?</b>	<b># of Stars</b>
Water View	6
Trees	5
Simplicity	4
Farmer's market	3
Sand beach, few rocks	2
Quiet	2
Legacy/history/memories	2
Wildlife	1
Outdoor sports	1
Access to lake (wide open view)	1
Not over-developed (partners/contrasts well with Starlite Beach)	
Open space	
Picnic space	
Sunrise	
Night view	
Volleyball	
Gateway from south	
Continuous use of shore	

<b>What is a challenge at the park right now?</b>	<b># of Stars</b>
Roads, need for pavement	6
Preservation of natural shoreline, challenges	6
Beach maintenance	4
Unfinished bike path	2
Restrooms	1
Different definitions of development	1
Costs (of maintaining and developing park)	1
Racing (of vehicles)	
Universal access	
Safety	
General maintenance	
Lack of parking	
Proper traffic flow	
No traffic? (restrict all traffic)	
Invasive species	
Flooding	

What is the best thing that could be done to improve the park?	# of Stars
Pavillion (esp. for farmer's market, with power, possible ice rink)	8
Boardwalk along beach (ADA compatible)	5
Balance of uses without obstructing views	3
Improved water access: docks/movable structures	3
Historic interpretative displays	3
Natural vegetation	2
Paved parking, well-defined	2
Dark sky lighting	2
Bike parking	1
Healthy youth destination	1
Portable ice rink	1
Define what people want	
Unobstructed use by kiteboarders	
Education/Natural interpretative displays	
City employees involved in improvements	
More volleyball courts	
Remove old willows	
Quiet area	
Outdoor winter use	
Year-round use	
Scenic overlook	
The "oval", flexibility for events	
Worldwide examples of park improvements	
Cover up ditch on Thunder Bay Avenue (for more parking?)	
Ensure driveway access from Thunder Bay Avenue	
Gathering space (food truck, garden, etc.)	
Leave it alone	
Fireplace	
Imrpove safety of playground	
Canoe/kayak storage	
Labyrinth for meditative walk	
Toboggan run	
Pickleball courts	
Curling	

What should not occur at the park?	# of Stars
Duplicate Starlite	8
Over-develop	7
RV park	6
Short sightedness	2
Unintended consequences	1
Community garden	
Flower gardens (unnatural)	

Other Ideas Shared After the Public Input Session and on Posters at the Session
Keep it simple and natural as possible
Keep it open
Leave it alone - as it is!!
Sledding Hill
Basketball court to go along with baseball & volleyball
Yurts
Firepits on the beach
Add room for more volleyball courts if needed (big league in-town
Sledding hill
clean bathrooms
Area near volleyball courts, in front of parking area, for kiteboarders/windsurfer launch area
Beach activities (Sand castles, swim, walk, picnic, various games with balls etc.)
Kite flying
Launching sail boards, kayaks, small watercraft
Family-friendly activities
Shuffleboard
Croquet and other lawn games
Dog park for small dogs
Dog park for large dogs
Handicap walk to the water
Volleyball
Bike Park
Clear view of Lake Huron from US 23
Winter activities
Ice skating rink
Small sledding hill, built so it does not obstruct the view. Could be used for rolling down hill in the summer.
(Could it be built of snow cleared from city property? If a season of little snow, the hill would be small. If a lot of snowfall, a bigger hill.)