

Feldhak Park



Zosel Street Walk-In Park



Portage Street Walkway

THE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT

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The Planning Process

Consideration of 2009 Five-Year Plan Goals, Objectives, and Action Program Begins in 2007



In mid-2007, it became apparent that the 2004 Five-Year Plan would have to be amended by the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee to accommodate a grant application being submitted to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for funds to acquire shoreline property east of Farr Center in the Village of Onekama. At that time—the action program of the 2004 Plan was examined to see what had been accomplished. Items that the Committee determined had not been accomplished and were still desirable were included in the amended 2004 Plan and were considered as potential goals, objectives, and action programs for the 2009 Plan.

In 2007, the instructions for writing the 2009 Five-Year Plan were also read and considered. As the Parks and Recreation Committee does not usually meet from December-March, the secretary of the Committee, who produced the Plan in 2004, included the instructions in the minutes of the April 10, 2008, meeting of the Committee, after discussing them with those present at that meeting. The discussion included the requirements for public input for the Five-Year Plan, which mandate a session before or during the writing of the Plan in addition to the public meeting for the Plan after it is written but while still in draft form. Under the heading of "Public Input" on page 37-38, the public meetings to obtain this input are discussed,

Committee Member Participation

The Parks and Recreation Committee secretary distributed the results of the vision and student sessions discussed on pages 37-38 and the M-DNR instructions as well as the draft goals, objectives, and action program of the Manistee County Recreation Plan: 2008-2013 at the August 7, 2008, Committee meeting, and mailed them with this meeting's minutes to those who were not in attendance. Based on these materials, Parks and Recreation Committee members were then advised to develop the goals, objectives, and action programs for the 2009 Five-Year Plan by the September 4 Committee meeting. The following members of the Committee participated in the planning, each lending his or her own area(s) of expertise in developing the Plan:

Dennis Wickstrom, Chairperson of the Committee—Onekama Township Planning Commission, Retired School Administrator

Tom Gerhardt, Secretary of the Committee—Chairperson of the Onekama Township Zoning Board of Appeals, Assistant Director of the Manistee County Historical Museum, Secretary-Treasurer of the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation

Robert Bennett—Retired Furniture Manufacturing Executive, Marine Surveyor and Consultant, Owner of Property in the Portage Point Resort

Audrey Kline—Centennial Farm Owner, Home Care Specialist

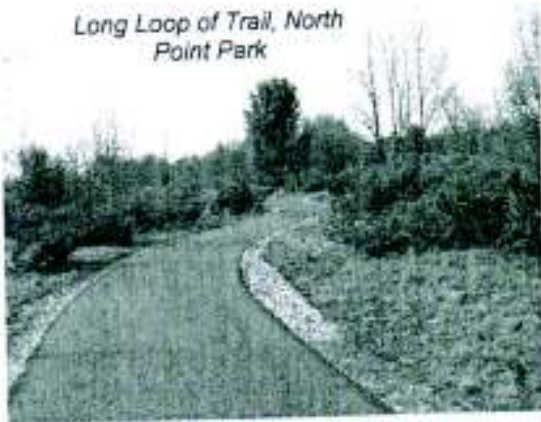
Elaine Bush—County Director, Michigan State University Extension Service

Paul Mueller—Portage Lake Association Past President

*"Music Propeller,"
Onekama Village Park*



Long Loop of Trail, North Point Park



Michael Acton, Project Manager of the Committee—Chairperson of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan, Exercise Instructor, Former Owner of Gravel Supply Business, Occupant of Family-Owned Property Adjoining the South Pier of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel

Mary Lou Millard, Vice Chairperson of the Committee—Onekama Township Office Manager, Retired Newspaper Editor

Jim Mrozinski—Chairperson of the Onekama Township Harbor Commission, Vice Chairperson of the Onekama Township Planning Commission, Marina Owner and Operator

Howard and Pat Hughes—Retired Educators, Property Owners in Windermere Resort

Jon Phillips—Onekama Township Planning Commission and Retired Athletic Program Manager

Mary Reed—Portage Lake Garden Club Representative Specializing in Invasive Plant Species

Tina Hall—Past Portage Lake Garden Club President and Representative, Retired Educator

Susan Osmus—Portage Lake Garden Club Representative and One of the Chairpersons of the Portage Lake Association's Petunia Parade along Onekama's Main Street

Alice Hendricks—Onekama Village Council Parks Committee and Representative

Kim Lagerquist—Onekama Village Council Parks Committee and Representative

Dan Behring—Chairperson of the Onekama Township Planning Commission, Retired Educator and School Administrator, Management Consultant

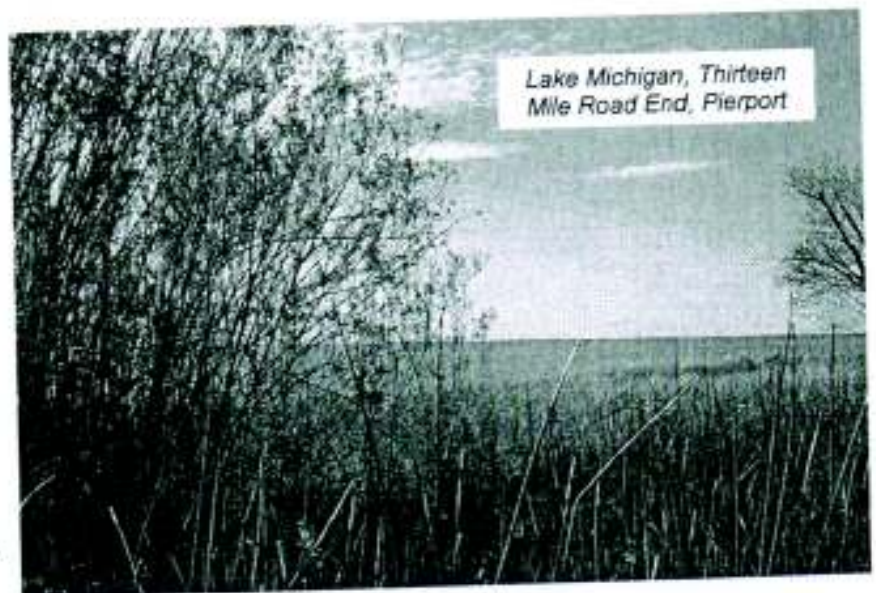
Kevin Hughes—Onekama Consolidated Schools Representative and Superintendent, Charter Fishing Captain

Sally Koon—Onekama Consolidated Schools Board of Education Representative, Part-Owner of Office Supply and Computer Store and Supervisor of Its Job-Printing Department

Thomas Koon—Onekama Consolidated Schools Student Representative

Writing the Plan

Although most of the goals, objectives, and action programs were devised by assessing current parks and recreation needs that were mentioned in the vision and student sessions for the joint master plan (see pages 37-38 and A-43-A-60), Committee members also sought input from the various governmental units and organizations that they represent. Committee members made on-site visits to the parks and public lands as well and recorded what was needed to bring the parks and recreation facilities of the community to the fullest and best use that could be developed. As has been stated previously, the 2004 amended



Plan was also examined to determine how many items in it had been accomplished, and which of the items remaining should be retained and listed in the new plan.

After the September 4, 2008, Committee meeting, the secretary combined and fine-tuned the goals, objectives, and action programs as written by the members. Nine goals were established with the objectives and action programs for each being listed. The rationale was developed using the related social and physical characteristics for the Community, and the related material from the vision and student sessions. In the vision sessions, which were designed for adult participation, items were selected from "The Preferred Future" and collective prioritization, as these were the final processes through which the participants were taken.



The secretary compiled a text draft of the Plan, which was copied and delivered to Committee members a week before the October 2 meeting, at which the members made recommendations for corrections and changes. A draft was then prepared by the secretary before October 17 to be available at the Onekama Branch of the Manistee County Library and the Onekama Township Office for public viewing. This draft was also delivered to Farr Center (headquarters of the Village Council) and the Onekama Consolidated Schools, where it could be viewed as well. Copies were made for the Committee, board, and council members; and the document was placed on the Onekama web site, www.onekama.info/.

Public Input

Addressing Required Public Input with the Joint Master Plan Vision and Student Sessions

At the April 10, 2008, meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee, a tentative date was set for the first public meeting to receive input for the Plan. It was thought that July 16, 2008, would be a good date, since the resorters would be able to come.

On April 15, 2008, the Onekama Township Board and the Onekama Village Council in a joint session each voted to enter into a contractual relationship with Beckett & Raeder, Inc., of Ann Arbor, to prepare a joint master plan between the Township and Village; this action was in accordance with the hope of many people that a joint master plan would be the beginning of joint planning by the two entities, which would eventually lead to joint government for them. The Township and Village decided to ask the firm preparing the joint master plan to hold two public input sessions, one being for people who could attend in May and one for those who could attend in July, when many of the resorters or seasonal residents would be able to participate. At least one student session was also to be held.



At the conclusion of this meeting, the Township Supervisor David Meister asked the secretary of the Parks and Recreation Committee, who also is the secretary of the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation, an organization of around 230 member-families owning property on Portage Point Road or its side streets from M-22 to the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel, if a notice of the joint master plan public input sessions could be placed in the Resort Corporation newsletter. After being informed that the Parks and

Recreation Committee was also planning a public input session for the Five-Year Plan, the Supervisor suggested that the public input sessions be combined for both plans.

At the May 8 meeting of the Committee, the idea of combining the public input sessions was discussed. It was felt by the Parks and Recreation Committee that a public input session for the Five-Year Plan in addition to those for the joint master plan might be repetitious and might dilute the attendance at all sessions. The vice chairperson of the Committee had already informed the Township Board that the option of combining the input sessions for the plans should be explored.



The Committee secretary then contacted Tim Ervin, president of the Manistee County Community Foundation, who had facilitated the creation of the concept of the joint master plan, to seek permission for the raw data to be used from the joint master plan public input sessions for the writing of the goals, objectives, and action programs of the Five-Year Plan. This permission was eventually obtained in writing from Beckett & Raeder's principal, John Iacoangeli (see page A-61).

Initially, the Manistee County Community Foundation provided \$12,500 to fund the joint master plan through an enVision Manistee County grant made possible by funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. This grant was awarded to the Village of Onekama. Additional funding in the amount of \$10,000 also was obtained from the Oleson Foundation in Traverse City. The first vision session was scheduled for May 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Farr Center in Onekama. Iacoangeli was quoted in a May 20 Manistee News Advocate article as saying, "Our initial visioning meeting will gather information to understand what the community aspires to become, what it wants to protect and preserve, and what opportunities it wants to consider." (See page A-37). Posters advising citizens of this session were also placed strategically in the Community (see page A-38).

Approximately eighty residents, business owners, community leaders, and Village and Township officials, all who were interested in voicing their opinions about the Onekama Community, participated in the May 27 vision session. Fifty-eight students also participated in a one-hour session planned for them the following day at the Onekama School. The results of these sessions appear on pages A-43-A-53. The second vision session was scheduled for July 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m., also at Farr Center in Onekama. It was originally scheduled at the Onekama School, but the construction project there was thought to make parking too difficult.

Besides being publicized in the Manistee News Advocate (July 16) once more and through Community posters, a flyer was also included in the June 1, 2008, Grapevine newsletter of the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation (see pages A-39-A-42). The results of this session appear on pages A-54-A-60. A student session was scheduled for earlier that day; but showing that school was truly "on vacation," only two students came to participate! The second student session, therefore, was cancelled. Approximately fifty-eight persons attended the second vision session, many of them indeed being resorters.

Final Public Meeting and Adoption of the Plan

Notice was given in the Manistee News Advocate (October 17 and November 10) of the November 17, 2008, public meeting to be held at 7 p.m. in the Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main Street, Onekama, to receive both written and verbal final comment on the draft Five-Year Plan. At this meeting, comment was noted and appropriate revisions were made in the draft. At a special meeting following, the Committee passed a resolution recommending the adoption of the Plan by the three entities for which it was written (see pages A-62-A-65). During February, 2009, the officials of each of these entities in turn passed individual resolutions adopting the 2009 Five-Year Plan and signed the individual Community Recreation Plan Certification Checklists (see pages A-66-A-75). Copies of the Plan were then sent by March 1 to Grants Management at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for final approval, the Manistee County Planning Department, and the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments with transmittal letters (see pages ix-xiii).