

# Lower Boardman River Unified Plan

Analysis of Input from the Public Kick-off Meeting  
(Held on June 12, 2019)

August 8, 2019

During the public workshop held on June 12, 2019 the public was asked to comment on a range of topics related to the Lower Boardman River. In addition, community focus group meetings were conducted on July 24 and July 25, which allowed additional community members to provide input. One of the common forms of input was to write comments on flip charts and sticky notes. Following the meetings all of the comments were documented. This summary attempts to group comments that have a common theme, and measure the number of times a comment consistent with that theme was

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS						Specific Area of Focus Noted
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26+	
<b>PROJECTS</b>							
<b>Soften shore treatment/restore natural edge</b>						31	200 block, reach 5, Hannah Park, pollinators, concern over rip rap junk
Fix/improve undermining of walls on river	6	6					green wall solutions?
Link to Downtown, TART, Bayfront, neighborhoods, BATA	6	6					Cyclists need N/S route at Pine St
Create additional/improve access and portage for kayaks					24		Union St (North side of dam), follow Water Trail Plan, DNR weir, new forms of canoes, etc.
<b>Add interpretive learning places and opportunities</b>						26	evolution of human use, native encampment, river movements, education, council circle, mural, cultural center
Improve bridges for aesthetics and access		10					Eighth, N. Cass
<b>Add/improve access paths along and across river, promote universal access</b>						35	Cass St, Union St to Fish Pass, cross river at Hannah and Pine St, Hannah to Pine St., add rails at Uptown, Reach 2, makes stairs more manageable, improve what we have
Increase and Improve Open Space on river corridor				16			Pop-up parks on river adjacent parking lots, rotary park, expand Farmer's Market, make alleys into plazas
Remove/Limit parking from river banks			13				
Provide art installations	5						tribal focus, interpretive
Improve access for anglers	4						Reach 1
Concern over river use during FishPass construction	5						If Kayakers portage at Am Legion Park, there's no facilities
Concern about FishPass working as intended, or being too urban, or questions on maintenance		10					
Encourage native fish species/limit invasives; add aquatic habitat				17			e.g. brook trout, sturgeon, create river meander?
Maintain the shoreline and facilities					25		Invasive management, existing and proposed vegetation, education, trash, logs in river, leaf dumping by neighbors, costs and responsibilities, arborist req'd, rangers
<b>POLICY</b>							
Protect the Health of the river			11				Monitor water quality, provide education to boaters and anglers, control erosion
<b>Manage use of river by boats/floating devices</b>						53	Drinking, volume, behavior, hours, no wake, enforcement, limit boats/kayaks on river at one time, no whitewater, limit power boats at south end
Limit new development				18			Potential and need for moratorium?
Add development along river, especially in empty lots and parking areas	4						
Increase setbacks from river					22		for parking and buildings; also, manage lot coverage
Keep river corridor natural and passive				19			Hannah Park, don't need boardwalk everywhere!
Restore Ottaway as name of river			15				
Recognize, Respect, and Protect Native American heritage		9					Education
Prohibit additional shore hardening		6					
Include homeless population into process and policies		7					
<b>BEST PRACTICES</b>							
Understand climate change impacts/flooding and manage development accordingly		9					potential for floating docks?
Promote sustainable building practices		7					Septic fields, green building practices, guidelines for home landscapers
Utilize storm water management practices	5						disconnecting storm and sanitary, limit impervious paving
Incorporate night sky practices/limit lighting	3						
Continue to engage the public		9					social media use, periodic town halls, TART, Native people, alerts before decisions
Concerns over safety and security	5						

## Other notes posted include:

Manage delivery and service to businesses

Concern about urban feel of FishPass

Design for human use, not just otters

Safety and security

Provide space for children

Move waste water treatment plant

Manage deliveries and service to businesses

Access for dogs

Keep boardwalk out of river to improve maximize river use

Waterfront could be more attractive

No portage downstream from Union Street dam

Casual concerts in the park, not full out concerts

Whitewater park at Union dam

More respect for those that work and live on river

Need more space for cars

All of Traverse City is not for guests

Manage people going from public access onto private property

Use zoning to ensure public access

Ensure that investment of public money is a reasonable investment relative to the potential benefit

Engage private kayak/canoe rental vendors in the planning

Not all users at meetings-rive is important to all

Pilot projects and pop-ups could help test ideas

What are positive economic benefits to project?

Consider the potential locations of west parking deck, Farmer's Market, and civic square

Lower Boardman is not rural river, but isn't all urban either- consider a mix of character

Wildlife needs to be considered as well as fish

High water causing issues with getting under bridges

River Terrace property doesn't need a boardwalk

Balance visual access to river with need for plants on banks

Public land improvements need to meet same standards that we set for private land

Concern about bank erosion near Wadsworth

FishPass is an improvement over what we have now

Include Prosperity Plan improvements between Cass, 9th and north shore

Use Restoration, Regeneration, and Regenerative Design in lieu of Sustainability and Preservation

FishPass is a great example of stormwater management

Support Public Pier at river mouth

Use ground penetrating radar when investigating history of site

Has presence/absence of industrial toxins in sediment been assessed?