

Lower Boardman River Unified Plan

Analysis of Input from the On-Line Survey

September 16, 2019

This document summarizes the input from the public on-line survey hosted on the Traverse City DDA website. The survey was opened in June 2019 and ran through early September, 2019.

QUESTION #1: What is your favorite activity related to the Lower Boardman River?

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS							NOTES
	1-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	101-125	126-150	150+	
Walking							159	
Kayaking/Canoeing				95				
Sitting/Picnicking			52					
Watching Wildlife				100				
Fishing		32						
Enjoying Nature					121			
OTHER		43						Bicycling, motor boating, living along the river, drinking coffee at Morsel's, other forms of individual water craft, scuba diving, events

Notables:

1. Interesting to compare to the results from Question #3

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QUESTION #2: Where is your favorite place along the Lower Boardman River?

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS						NOTES
	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51+	
Reach One: Boardman Lake to Cass St.					47		
Reach Two: Union St. Dam			27				
Reach Three: S. Union to Front St.						54	Hannah Park, the river bend at Wadsworth St.
Reach Four: Front to N. Union St.		14					"Warehouse District", pedestrian bridge at Pine St.
Reach Five/Six: Union St. to the Bay						55	"Downtown", boardwalks, combination of natural and urban
Anywhere along corridor			25				

Notable:

1. A well loved river with a dispersed appeal
2. A surprising amount of "love" for the downtown reaches, given the support in other areas of input for reducing hardness of surfaces and walls.

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QUESTION #3: What is your favorite memory of the Lower Boardman River?

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS						NOTES
	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51+	
Social Activity and Quiet Enjoyment				38			
Kayak/Canoe type use					50		
Fishing			27				especially, fishing with parent/grand parent
Wildlife Watching					48		
When there was less development and activity	8						
Programs and Events		16					Antique Boat Show
Walking and Biking		17					
Swimming/Swing/Jumping into river	7						
Other		13					Watching river flow, moving in, helping homeless, boat breakdown, sledding, dog walking, running a business, visit library

Notable:

1. Kayaking and Canoeing rank high among favorite memories, but are also thought of as nuisance generators.

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QUESTION #5: What do you think are the top priorities for improving and protecting the natural environment along the Lower Boardman River? Examples: Habitat improvements, Stormwater management and water quality, Elimination of non-point source pollution, Shoreline stabilization Invasive species removal?

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS								NOTES
	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	
Water Quality, especially related to non-point source pollution								80	
Manage development, parking, and expansion of boardwalks				36					
Habitat protection and creation					41				
Maintenance and removal of invasives					50				
Shoreline stabilization and eliminating hard edges							66		
Managing Stormwater and flooding							70		
Limiting Kayak and boat use		13							
All things noted in question				33					
Other				36					Education, keep things natural, add more boardwalk and access, interconnected nature of improvements, how many tourists do we need?, removing dam, stop releasing steelhead trout, create a swimming hole, keep invasive fish out

Notable:

1. Managing development, parking, boardwalks noted strongly as concerns though they were not provided as examples.
2. Consider "Managing Stormwater and flooding" along with "Water Quality, especially related to non-point source pollution".

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QUESTION #6: What do you think are the top priorities to improve the built environment along the Lower Boardman River? Examples: Be explicit to the commitment to improve, restore and protect the health and integrity of the ecosystem of the lower River, Establish that developments must protect the quality, aesthetics, accessibility and connection between people and the River, Provide for barrier-free/universal access along boardwalks:

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS								NOTES
	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	
Restore natural environment, reduce /eliminate parking and walls		16							
Make the waterfront universally accessible			27						
Maintain riverfront for trash, views, etc.		16							
Manage/restrict new development, insure access along private land							67		Includes those who noted "Establish that developments must protect the quality, aesthetics, accessibility and connection between people and the River"
Provide more/better access, facilities, places, connections					43				
Protect/Enhance natural environment and character, find balance				38					Includes those who noted "Be explicit to the commitment to improve, restore and protect the health and integrity of the ecosystem of the lower River"
All things noted in question	7								
Other		23							Affordable housing, fishing pier, native culture, stormwater management, don't need to access every foot, lighting for safety, water quality, education, over-use by kayaks/boats

Notable:

1. There is a simultaneous desire expressed in these answers for providing better access and making sure that nature is preserved.

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QUESTION #7: What is the most important thing to keep in mind as we develop a Unified Plan for the Lower Boardman River? Examples: That the plan be a reflection of civic engagement, That a process for ongoing civic engagement be preserved, That the plan establishes a clear implementation schedule with responsibilities, timeline and costs, That the plan establishes the values, guidelines and priorities that influence government policies and rules that impact the River.

TOPICS	SUPPORTING COMMENTS								NOTES
	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	
Limit development and influence of economic interests				36					
Provide for maintenance, safety, ongoing funding	6								
Protect and Enhance natural environment, water quality, health						54			
Continue to engage citizens, users, environmental organizations				31					
Implement a realistic plan with transparency, accountability/oversight				36					
Use values based plan to influence government policy			26						
Manage use of river	6								
Provide for access/walkability		12							
All of the items noted in the question		12							
Other		20							think long term, limit cost to taxpayer, provide activities for children, pier, restaurants facing water, protect access, concern for homeless, education, keep plan flexible and adaptable

Notable:

1. A key comment-"Maximize access with minimum impact"