



Save Maumee Grassroots Organization Inc.

Help us to speak for our Rivers...for our Rivers have no voice

February 27, 2020

Dear Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation,

Thank you for bringing my attention to the survey and postal mailing because it shows your inclusiveness! I saw the survey on Facebook and like many things regarding social media, my attention is quickly diverted.

I wanted to respectfully submit comments for facilities, programming and experiences I've had in our beautiful parks. I appreciate your time reading this and for including my comments in your survey.

RE: Q3a - "top improvement priority"

Invasive removal has become an issue that faces every landscape in the United States. It is the plague of our parks and riparian areas. Thank you for your continued service. Trimming trees is important, but identification education should be required for selective invasive removal. I do appreciate our Parks and Rec. and their continued diligence with invasive species. We believe it is important to retain understory and staggered age growth trees. Future plans should NOT include removing healthy native sapling and shrub species, nor the removal of full grown, carbon capturing, stormwater absorbing, shade producing trees.

RE: Q3a. I marked "better maintenance," but I think the parks are well maintained! Riparian area maintenance from waters edge (75 feet wide) should be included in funding budgets and be measurable and effective for invasive species controls. Municipalities are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of navigable waterways which flow through cities. I applaud your current efforts and know that Parks are definitely managing quite a bit of land!

RE: Q4. - Natural outdoor areas are imperative, but an educational center is necessary. Staffing and programming costs money and should provide an educational "love of outdoors" purpose. Flower gardens could be utilized as functional wetlands like Camp Scott, showcasing Fort Wayne as a national model.

RE: Survey Q11 - I wanted to include a few comments to future considerations.

For example, I think we have a great River Greenway sidewalk system now, we do not necessarily have to buy up more land to put in more sidewalks, when it is expensive to maintain the large system already in place.

For example, I think we have enough spaces for baseball and The Plex for sports, but may need to fund young person PROGRAMING to fill any future facilities, or utilize and improve access to the ones currently serving the public.

For example, "Preserving the environment and providing open space" 1-5

“Open spaces” does not necessarily belong in the same category as “environmental preservation.”

The Superior Street Round-A-Bout could have been used for a stormwater catchment that flowed to the river with the elevation of the outlet higher than floodwater height and been able to naturally process the stormwater. If this does not fit within the Parks realm of decision making, perhaps Parks and Rec. should sit at those types of meetings or be included in providing input.

I think that ALL of your work is important and deserves funding. National, state and regional priorities are intentionally preparing for adaption to climate change. Specific tactics and approaches should be included in future management plans and focus on transitional resilience.

The rivers average water hight fluctuates. These flashy conditions can be exacerbated by future development, or could be functional; retaining water on the land and solve flooding issues. Maintenance of flood related clean-ups could soak up a whole itemized budget.

I do intend this to be read as informative and not scolding or critical. Save Maumee’s intentions have always been pure. We want cleaner water and you are able to help achieve our groups purpose. I do hope your work is represented in Allen County’s Comprehensive Plan (All-In Allen).

Thank you for your time and considerations on this most important matter.

Very Sincerely,

Abigail King
Save Maumee Grassroots Organization Inc.
Vice President & Founder