



Concerns

Among the many amenities offered by the Lake, are the spectacular views it affords from the various promontories and other vantage points along the shoreline. However, despite its omnipresence, there are an abundance of physical and visual barriers to the water's edge. Long stretches of shoreline are currently off limits to the public both physically and visually.

Where public access is allowed, a general lack of landscaping and signage makes them difficult to find and/ or visually uninviting. Furthermore the entire network of lakefront parks and public access points suffers from a lack of physical linkages and "active" recreational spaces.

Other concerns include real and perceived environmental problems, continued loss of natural habitat, and obtrusive industrial facilities located in residential and recreational areas.

Primary Goals & Objectives

Because it is arguably the City's most coveted asset a number of general goals

and objectives have been identified which seek to better capitalize on the City's waterfront location. Tourism, habitat conservation, recreation, commerce, historic preservation and residential development are all individual goals of the plan. All are treated as interrelated components in creating an active year-round lakefront.

Implicit in the discussion is the axiom that the lake and its environs should principally be the realm of Muskegon citizens, and that large stretches of lake frontage should never be permanently off-limits to them, physically, visually or economically. Other goals:

***Goal:** *Creation of a critical mass of activities along the lake within walking distance of downtown that will serve as a regional tourist destination and community focal point.*

Objective: Establishment of a downtown accessible staging area for a cross-lake ferry and other forms of water-borne transit (including a permanent destination for the Queen's Cup regatta, and transient boat slips, water taxis).

Objective: Creation of linkages between the lakefront and inland land uses (especially in the downtown and Lakeside commercial districts) that will help spur complementary spin-off development.

Objective: Relocation of existing non-fixed attractions (Siversides, Farmers Market, Milwaukee Clipper) to downtown-waterfront locations to maximize the potential for ancillary development, and maximize the capture of visitor spending (i.e. "synergy").

***Goal:** *Maximize the economic development potential of the lake.*

Objective: Maximize patronage of downtown and Lakeside commercial district by visitors drawn to otherwise single-purpose events such as the Queen's Cup regatta, Summer Celebration, Parties-In-The-Park and events at the Frauenthal Theater and Walker Arena.

Objective: Establishment of a Muskegon Port Authority or similar entity (with bonding and condemnation powers) to effectuate port related infrastructural improvements and promotional activities.

Objective: Expand/ Increase Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) designations on Muskegon Lake.

Objective: Mitigation of the environmental concerns associated with lakefront development, and the various planning issues they pose.

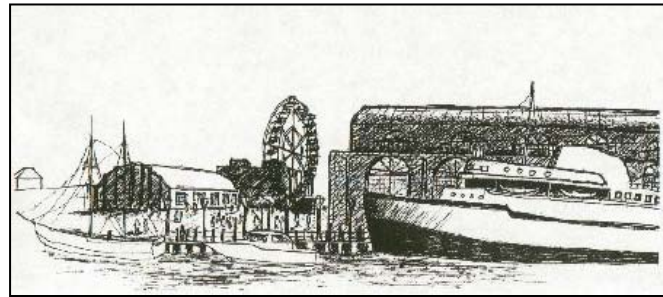
Objective: Increase the mixture of land uses (especially housing) along the lake.

***Goal:** Conservation, protection and enhancement of sensitive waterfront resources.

Objective: Mitigation of the impact of new development on existing viewsheds and natural habitats.

Objective: Relocation and concentration of heavy industrial waterfront uses, and the reduction of the conflicts they pose with less intensive uses (such as residential and recreational).

Objective: Preservation and adaptive reuse of water related historic resources such as the Mart Dock.



Lakefront focal point containing a variety of sites and activities within in walking distance of each other, and downtown.

Objective: Increase awareness of natural features and wildlife habitat, and encourage zoning and design criteria for the protection of same.

Objective: Elimination/ mitigation of existing environmental hazards.

***Goal:** Enhance the attractiveness and accessibility (physical and visual) of the lakefront.

Objective: Accommodation of various forms of passive and active forms of public recreation along the lake.

Objective: Unification of the lakefront through an integrated network of pedestrian/ bicycle pathways, lookouts, public finger piers, and public access easements.

Objective: Application of general design standards for lakefront development which seek to preserve views, insure public access, and promote environmentally sensitive land use.

Objective: Reduction of land use conflicts. Mitigation of land uses that are uncomplimentary or conflicting.

Objective: Buffering lakefront industrial facilities that are the most visually and environmentally obtrusive and/ or “animating” their appearance.