

Huron River Planning
January 31, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: River-Wide Issues

What about the Vision and Scenarios do you like?

- Considering whole river as a green space through the city
- The city should purchase a harvester

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- What will herbicides do to native plants?
- Vision doesn't look at all facets of river. Need more comprehensive plan that looks at water quality and upstream impacts
- What long term monitoring strategies are needed for aquatic vegetation management?
- What will increased recreation at Barton do to traffic volumes in the area?
- If dam creates water quality problems, why were they put in? Need to look at lessons learned from the last time the dam was reconfigured

What other ideas/comments do you have?

- Extend the pedestrian on south side of river (Michcon site)
- If dam removed, must have plan for streambank restoration
- Make river a destination: more commercial development
- What is level of effort needed to maintain shoreline if dam removed?
- Compare cost/level of effort to manage weeds (dam stays) vs. new parkland (dam removed)
- Need traffic study if move any activities to Barton
- Avoid herbicide use
- Better educate on herbicide use
- Need to know if we can get access at Barton before making a decision
- Don't' lost sight of original concerns (aquatic veg and dam repair) as we move forward with plan

Huron River Planning
January 31, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Repaired (Scenario A)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- Maintaining and preserving asset: hydro option down the road
- Least costly option/less risk
- Certainty: costs are known
- Less impact on current environment
- Wide body of water enables more recreational uses
- Convenient location: don't have to drive far for all users
- Keeps natural segregation of uses (Barton – sailing; Argo – rowing, canoeing dispersed)
- Minimizes broader impact to neighbors
- Swimming Beach. It's a good way to connect kids to river
- Rowing safety: equipment/boats have few conflicts
- Keeps rowing at Argo, used 3 seasons
- Civic benefit: positive working relationship between the schools
- Long natural flat water paddle for canoeing and kayaking

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Ensuring adequate access. Need traffic management for all users
- Noise/congestion affecting neighbors?
- Motors/megaphones: how can we deal with issue?
- Water quality for swimming: what is cost to ensure/maintain water quality, geese?
- Railroad crossing
- Ann Arbor Utility?
- What happens with livery and access and impact on natural area?

Other issues/ideas/considerations?

- Need Argo community user form to enable communication and problem solving
- Consider hydro as \$\$ generating option: can we use the plan to solicit external funding sources?
- Add facilities that raise revenue (wedding/meeting space?)
- Include stage 1 of hybrid to improve the millrace
- Improve facilities/boathouse
- What happens to sediment with our without dam? What are downstream ecological impacts?
- Have Argo neighborhoods along Longshore Drive etc. even had a complaint about noise?
- Who pays for the maintenance of area: weeds/trash/other?
- What is the impact of a failure at Barton Dam?

Huron River Planning
January 31, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Removed (Scenario B)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- Revenue from canoeing
- Less noise on Argo stretch
- New asset type created : Waterfront that is walkable and has meeting place provides commercial tax base
- Nap – native species restoration
- More parkland
- Free flowing river
- Pleasant opportunities for hiking, artists
- No weed issues
- Less accumulation of Phosphorous and sediments
- Steepest section improves canoeing, fishing
- Ecological benefits
- Listening to scientists is model for other decisions
- Less heavy handed approach to management i.e. “let the river decide”
- Most economical choice when viewed over long term.
- More edible fish?
- Coldwater fishery: smallmouth, trout?
- New opportunities for economic redevelopment in main corridor
- Scenic
- Whitewater feature?
- Reconnect the entire river – this moves one step forward
- Increase attention on Allen Creek and stormwater

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Timing of decision too early?
- Sustainability of fishery?
- Noise
- Impact of sediment downstream. How managed in removal process?
- Science is complex
- Commercial development: is it viable with a natural system?
- No good options for rowing. Geddes is too short and crowded with other Park use. Barton has wave, wind and access problems
- What alternatives for rowing? Practice vs. competition?
- Rowers could move to Ford Lake but travel time and \$ an issue
- If rowing moves to Geddes the pedestrian bridge needs to be moved.
- If split rowing 2-3 boathouses would be needed for rowers at \$1.8 - \$5.6M each. Could put Huron at Geddes but need safety plan
- Could put UM at Ford Lake
- Could put Skyline and Pioneer at Barton, but there are access issues

- What is balance of activities without dam vs. with?
- Timing: seasons/scholarship transition
- Costs. Need clarity on restoration costs
- What does “natural” mean?
- Splitting rowers causes questions of viability for coaching
- How about Ypsi as an option for kayaking?

Other issues/ideas/considerations

- Should the river be used as an economic tool?
- Put hydro back in dam
- Ability of city to maintain reclaimed land
- How to justify cost of removing a sound structure? There is minimum cost to citizens to leave the dam in...
- User groups and funding
- Access for limited needs (kayaking)?
- Collegiate competition: not other option equal

Huron River Planning
January 31, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Hybrid (Scenario C)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- A+ community process
- Kayakers become interested in rowing
- Millrace is open (no portage)
- Ecosystem restoration
- Low cost option
- Understand option can be considered separate i.e. just do millrace option means less impact
- Treat water as it exits Allen Creek, cleaning it up
- Phase 2 rids dam and maintenance but still have Argo Pond
- Providing whitewater kayaking
- Argo Pond becomes point of destination for multi use recreation
- Preserves current recreation and seems to create others
- Opportunity. Great place to learn whitewater kayaking
- Close to home: could whitewater kayak every week
- Commercial opportunities: could use area to grow businesses
- Safe for small children even in low flow

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Does option a keep Argo at the same level?
- Will quality whitewater kayaking be achieved
- Allen creek water quality
- Would this option make Argo Pond narrower?
- Sediment disturbed
- Contact with river during high water/storm events
- Will high river flow in millrace change the flow/water depth in the pond?
- Access to area at Lakeshore Drive
- How do you get tons of material to construct whitewater
- Rowing community is against this option if it lowers the pond
- Commercial interest seem to dominate
- Bad science

Other issues/ideas/considerations

- The dam was altered in 1972. Did that change put pressure on the embankment?
- What is the demand for whitewater kayaking?
- More information needed on second venue for rowing. Barton is not long enough
- Improve Allen Creek water quality, both upstream and at mouth
- Overlay with a greenway plan that gets people to the river by foot, bike and shuttle

- Purchase/use Amtrak and Michcon property for river access