



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO REVIEW PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE HURON RIVER

Ann Arbor Environmental Commission's Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan Committee public meetings: January 28 (7-10 p.m.); January 31 (9 a.m. - noon); and February 5 (7-10 p.m.) at Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Road, in Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR, Mich., January 12, 2009 — Imagine what the Huron River could be in 20 years... What are the possibilities? How could we be enjoying the river, using the river, managing the river and understanding the river? Think about how what you imagine relates across the key stretches of the river – Barton, Argo, Geddes, and Superior. How do the recreation choices we want affect the management strategies to maintain that recreation? How do the environmental improvements we want affect recreation? What more could we be doing – recreationally, environmentally, economically – to improve river quality and our quality of life?

For the past 18 months, the Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan Committee has met to better understand the challenges facing the Huron River and the interrelationship – both synergistic and competitive - among strategies to manage dams, recreation, and aquatic vegetation in our stretches of the Huron. The Committee developed the following Vision Statement.

“Our vision for the future of the Huron River in Ann Arbor can be summarized as: A healthy Huron River ecosystem that provides a diverse set of ecosystem services. We envision a swimmable, fishable and boatable river, including both free-flowing and impounded segments, which is celebrated as Ann Arbor's most important natural feature and contributes to the vibrancy of life in the city. The river and its publicly-owned shoreline and riparian areas create a blue and green corridor across the city that contains restored natural areas and adequate, well-sited public trails and access. Ample drinking water, effective wastewater removal and a full range of high quality passive and active recreation and education opportunities are provided to the citizens of Ann Arbor. Ongoing public engagement in the river's



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management leads to greater stewardship and reduced conflict among users. Our approach to management creates a model that other communities upstream and downstream emulate."

The Ann Arbor Environmental Commission's Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan Committee is hosting a series of public meetings to review and discuss three 20-year scenarios for the Huron on January 28th (7-10pm); January 31st (9-12 noon); and February 5th (7-10pm); at Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Road, in Ann Arbor.

The public is invited to review and comment on the committee's draft 20-year vision for the Huron River, which includes three scenarios for the Argo impoundment including repairing the dam, removing the dam, and a hybrid option including a whitewater course. A series of background documents has been developed for those interested in better understanding some of the interrelated issues.

A Public Meeting Primer is available online which summarizes key findings and background information developed by the committee and staff. The first section of the primer provides an overview of the Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan Committee, including a vision statement and committee objectives. Key questions to guide the community review of the committee's proposal are set out in the second section of the primer. While funding is an important issue, the committee is primarily seeking public input on preferred management strategies along the river. Funding strategies will be developed as the community preferred strategies are developed.

The third section outlines the key management strategies proposed for the four stretches of the river (Barton, Argo, Geddes, and Superior) and describes three options at Argo dam that attempt to balance the recreational, environmental, and economic interests of the community. The last section of the primer was developed to provide the public with core information used by the committee in their research and discussions. This final chapter contains information on the Huron River, aquatic vegetation, Ann Arbor dams on the Huron, and different recreational activities that occur on the Huron.

Additional information, as well as the Public Meeting Primer, can be found at online at www.a2gov.org/green, or by contacting Matt Naud, Environmental Coordinator, 734.794.6430 extension 43712, or via mnaud@a2gov.org.



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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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