

The Marquette Action Plan

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EMPC COMMITTEE

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What is the Marquette Plan?

Executive Summary

The Marquette Plan : The Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy

January 2005

- Increase public shoreline access from approximately 33% today to over 75% in future and provide generous minimum setbacks for new development to ensure this access;
- Reclaim Indiana's lakefront – from the Indiana / Illinois state line to the Port of Indiana in Portage – as a livable lakefront.
- Change perceptions of the lakefront and the lakefront communities as a destination and a place that attracts new residents and new investment;

Phase I : 2005

The Marquette Action Plan

What is the Marquette Plan?



- Phase II extends the study area to include the additional twenty-six miles of lakefront in Porter and LaPorte County

Phase II :
2008



What is the Marquette Plan?



The Marquette Plan

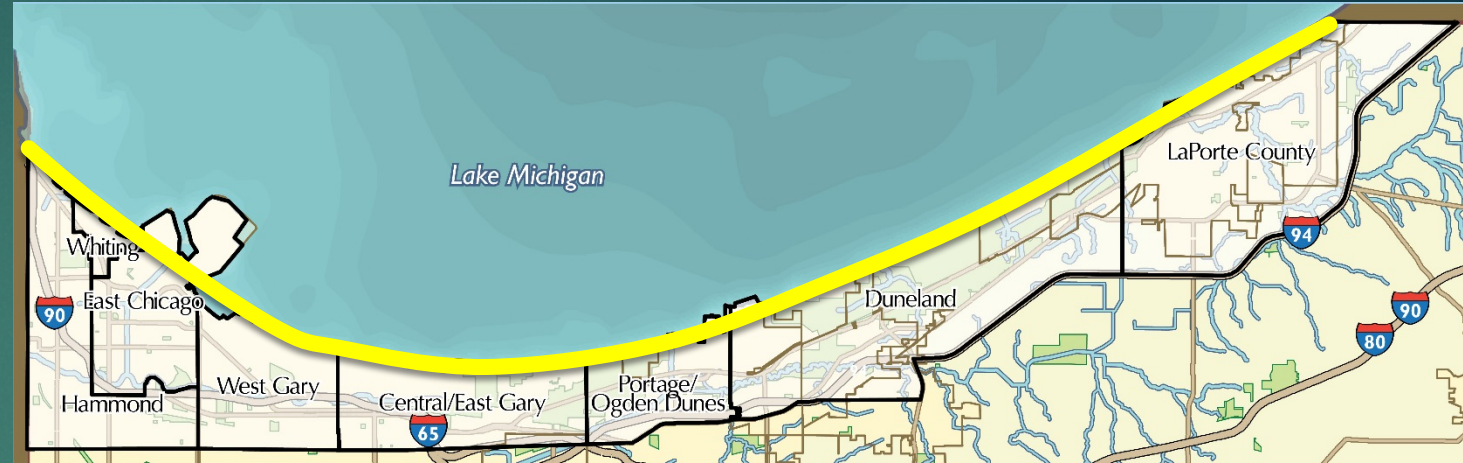


Funding provided by the:
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
Indiana Dept of Natural Resources
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Northwest Indiana
Regional Development Authority

A Plan by the
Northwestern Indiana Regional
Planning Commission
and
Indiana Landmarks
June, 2015

Phase 3 : 2015

“Live, work, play, and stay”



- Integrate the vision and strategies of these two earlier phases across the entire region, by establishing more consistency amongst the plan's priorities and policy frameworks.
- Celebrates successes achieved since the plan's inception, identifies challenges towards implementation, explores new opportunities, and reviews shifts in the economic development, environmental conservation

Need for an **Action** Plan

- Aims to build on plans by identifying specific steps to make the lakefront more accessible.
- Correct recreation and transportation needs in each of the currently open lakefront parks.
- Defines different categories of access across the lakefront and identifies a means for accommodating those different uses on a region-wide level.
- Identify lakeside parcels for conversion to open space.
- **On average, one access point of lakefront every two miles within the 45 miles of NWI shoreline.**

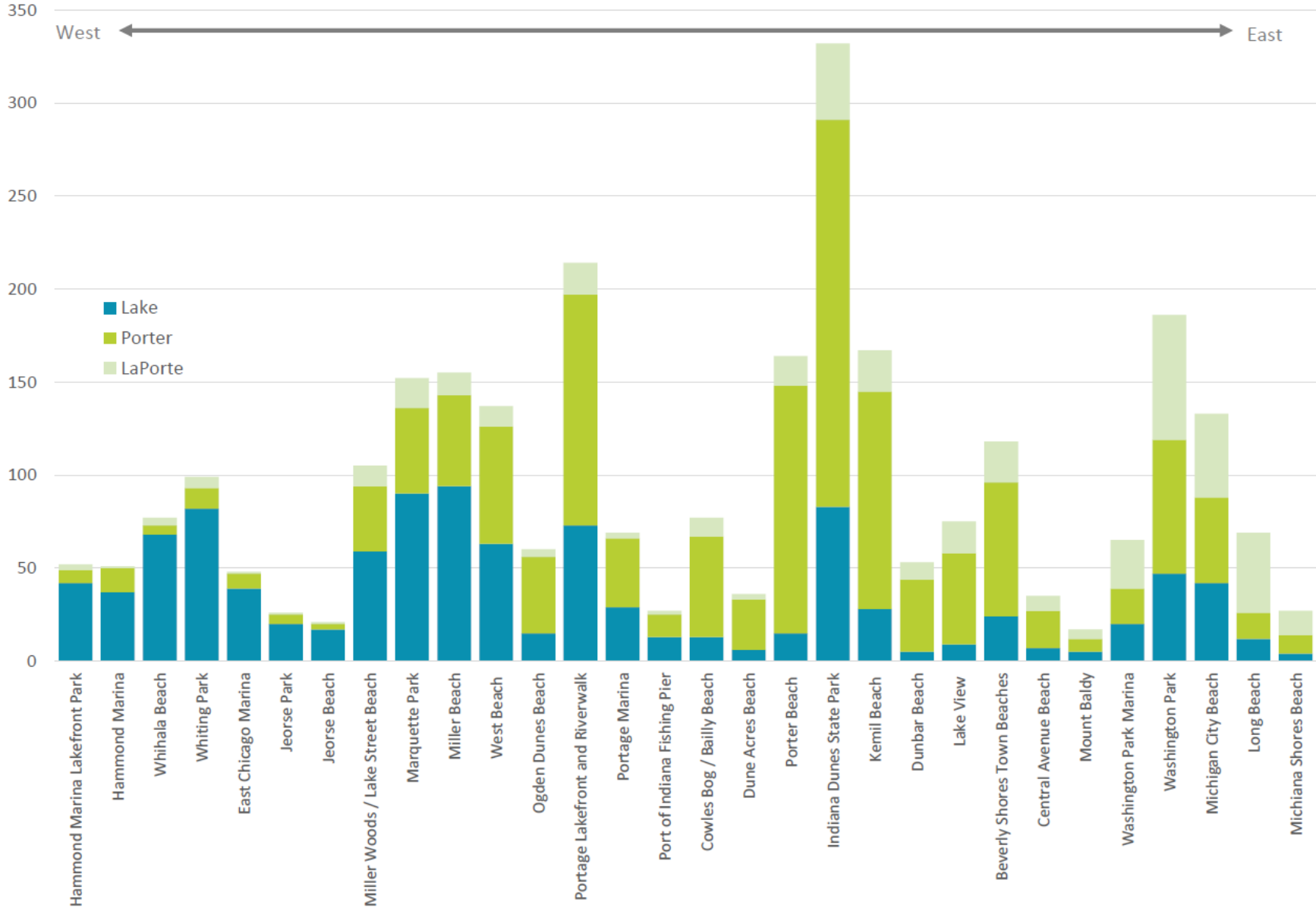
Acknowledgments

- Funding for this project was provided in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and the Regional Development Authority.



Survey

In the last 12 months, where did you access Lake Michigan?

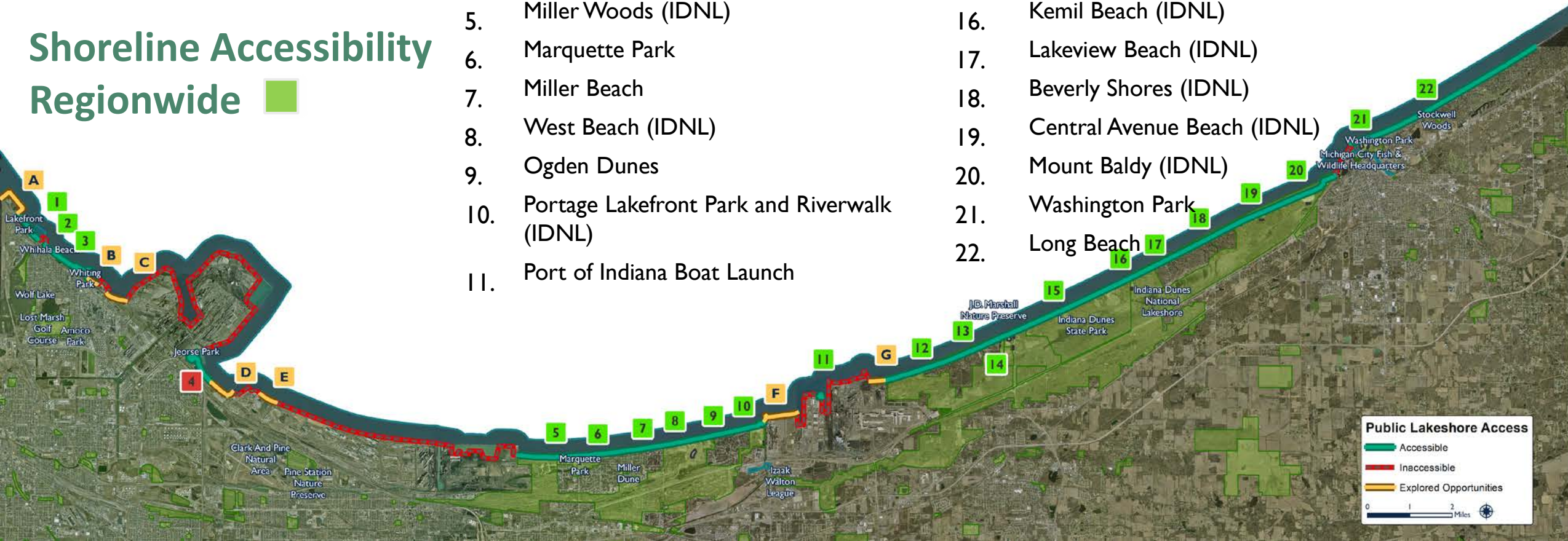


765 Respondents

Survey Summary

- ▶ Wide sampling from across the region
- ▶ People from each county primarily use access points within their county
- ▶ Each county prioritized different amenities, transportation infrastructure, and obstacles to access
- ▶ Lake County had the greatest obstacles to overcome, and the most desired change to their access
- ▶ LaPorte County wants additional amenities like boat launches and fishing piers
- ▶ Porter County wants to preserve the quality of their access points

Shoreline Accessibility Regionwide



1. Hammond Lakefront Park and Marina
2. Whihala Beach
3. Whiting Lakefront Park
4. Jeorse Park
5. Miller Woods (IDNL)
6. Marquette Park
7. Miller Beach
8. West Beach (IDNL)
9. Ogden Dunes
10. Portage Lakefront Park and Riverwalk (IDNL)
11. Port of Indiana Boat Launch
12. Cowles Bog (IDNL)
13. Dune Acres (IDNL)
14. Porter Beach (IDNL)
15. Indiana Dunes State Park
16. Kemil Beach (IDNL)
17. Lakeview Beach (IDNL)
18. Beverly Shores (IDNL)
19. Central Avenue Beach (IDNL)
20. Mount Baldy (IDNL)
21. Washington Park
22. Long Beach

Regional Approach

- Accessibility for all
- Pedestrian and bicycle access
- Canoe and kayak access
- Fishing access
- Parking access
- Public transit
- Planning and tourism coordination.



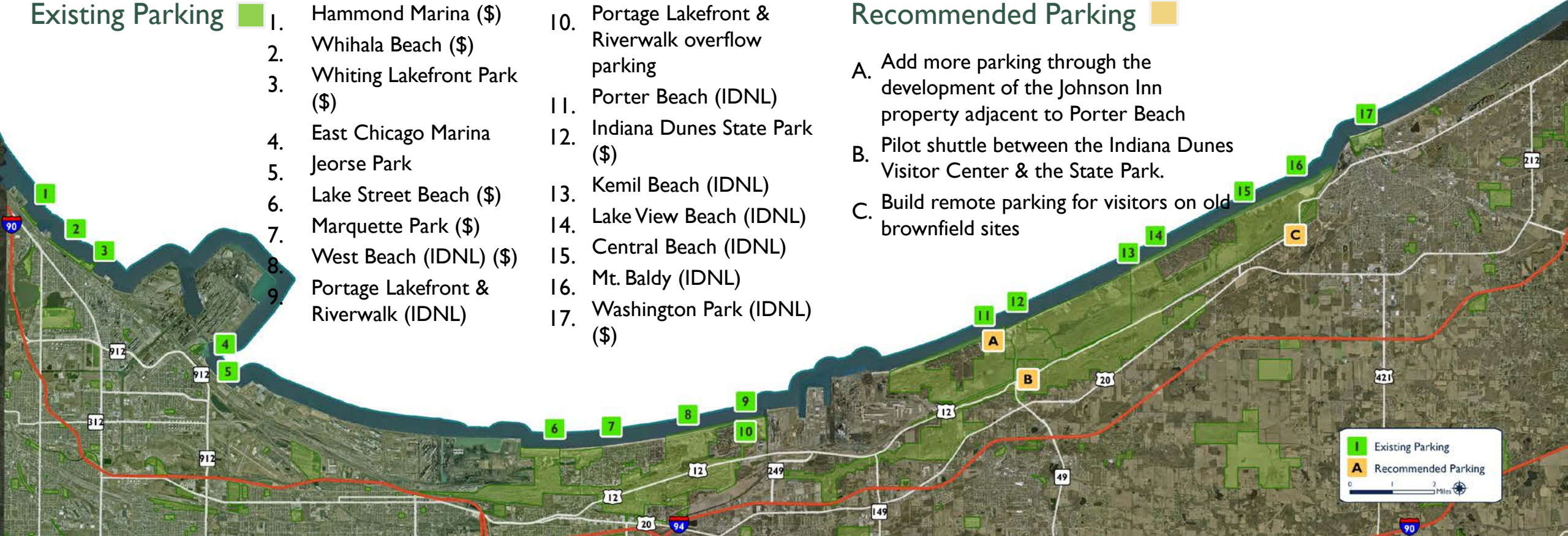
Parking Access

Existing Parking

1. Hammond Marina (\$)
2. Whihala Beach (\$)
3. Whiting Lakefront Park (\$)
4. East Chicago Marina
5. Jeorse Park
6. Lake Street Beach (\$)
7. Marquette Park (\$)
8. West Beach (IDNL) (\$)
9. Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk (IDNL)
10. Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk overflow parking
11. Porter Beach (IDNL)
12. Indiana Dunes State Park (\$)
13. Kemil Beach (IDNL)
14. Lake View Beach (IDNL)
15. Central Beach (IDNL)
16. Mt. Baldy (IDNL)
17. Washington Park (IDNL) (\$)

Recommended Parking

- A. Add more parking through the development of the Johnson Inn property adjacent to Porter Beach
- B. Pilot shuttle between the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center & the State Park.
- C. Build remote parking for visitors on old brownfield sites



Community Approach

- ▶ Access Matrix based on the 8 regional accessibility elements.
- ▶ List of recommendations for 15 communities, Indiana Dunes State Park, and the National Lakeshore that are resulted from
 - ▶ An analysis of current conditions
 - ▶ Discussions with these communities.
- ▶ Possible property acquisitions that would open up more of the lakefront to public access.

	Current Conditions	Recommendations
ADA Accessibility	Improvements are currently underway. Washington Park has removable beach pads near the senior center. Hansen Park has an accessible kayak and canoe launch to Trail Creek.	Explore possibility of ramp to lighthouse catwalk. Continue the maintenance and improvements of planned and existing facilities.
Bike and Ped Access	Designated bike lanes in downtown Michigan City, but no designated routes into the park.	Provide bike storage facilities along Lake Shore Drive. Encourage bike share program. Implement recommendations from Washington Park Master Plan. Connect Washington Park to the Singing Sands Trail. Implement boardwalk paths to beach at Fedder's Alley.
Boat/Paddle Access	There are launch locations along Trail Creek; and at the Washington Park Marina, the Trail Creek Marina, the Sprague Pointe Marina, Hansen Park (ADA accessible), and Winding Creek Cove Park.	Build planned kayak launch at Winding Creek Cove Park, 8th & Dickson Streets. Encourage boat launch at Washington Park to include small craft and ADA accessibility. Explore improvements that cater to transient boaters. Determine feasibility of boat launch from NIPSCO facility.
Fishing Access	Public access fishing can be found by the lighthouse and on sites along Trail Creek.	Continue the maintenance and improvement of the existing facilities.
Parking Access Planning Coordination	Paid parking available at Washington Park and California Avenue parking lot	Continue the maintenance and improvement of the facilities.
	The city coordinates with the Port Authority, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, NIPSCO and the Army Corps of Engineers.	Maintain good relationships and contact with planning partners.
Tourism, Marketing, & Wayfinding coordination Transit Access	New branding "Create, Play, Repeat." and has hired a Marketing/Events Director for the City to promote Michigan City and the new brand.	Improve wayfinding for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially between the South Shore station and Washington Park. Continue to maintain true to the city's branding.
	Michigan City Transit (Wave).	Implement the planned South Shore Double-Tracking project to increase speeds to Michigan City's South Shore Station. Encourage bike sharing between the station, Washington Park, and other amenities.

Michigan City

Current

1. Mt. Baldy trail is open with caution. The beach is open but the dune is closed for public safety & dune protection.
2. Washington Park can be reached from downtown Michigan City via sidewalks and bike lanes.
3. Realigned Franklin Street includes bike lanes.
4. Movable beach path near the Senior Center in Washington Park
5. A bus (Route 1) operates every hour within Washington Park along Lake Shore Drive.
6. Ecological restoration at Bismarck Hill
7. ADA accessible kayak and canoe launch at Hansen Park along Trail Creek.
8. The state's Court of Appeals has ruled that lakeshore past the ordinary high water mark is publicly accessible.



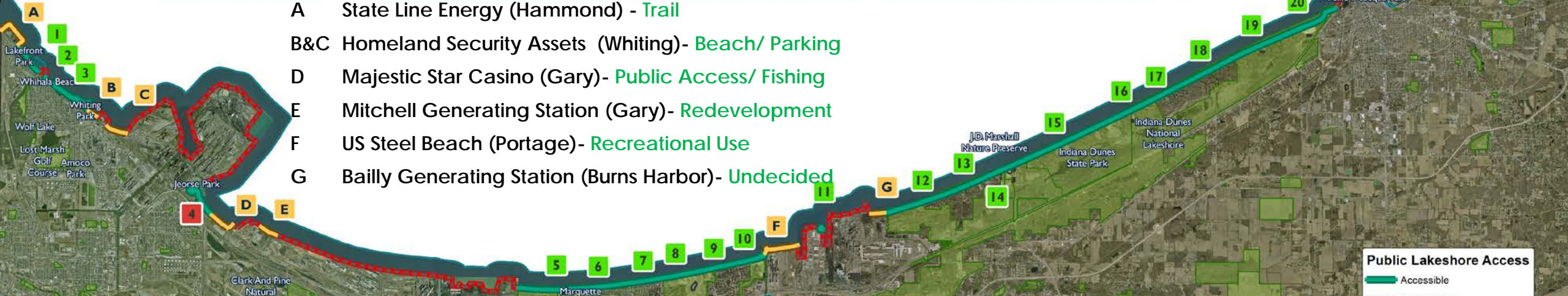
Michigan City

Recommended

- A. Negotiate with Michigan City, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and NIPSCO to open up an entrance to Crescent Dune.
- B. Explore possibility of ramp to lighthouse walk
- C. Encourage boat launch at Washington Park to include small crafts and ADA accessibility.
- D. Improve bike infrastructure at Washington Park.
- E. Encourage bikeshare between the South Shore station, Washington Park, and other amenities.
- F. Connect Washington Park to Singing Sands Trail
- G. Implement boardwalk paths to beach at Fedder's Alley
- H. Build the Singing Sands Trail, a leg on the Marquette Greenway.
- I. Improve wayfinding and bike infrastructure in Long Beach to encourage non-motorized access.



Segments B and C in Whiting



- A State Line Energy (Hammond) - Trail
- B&C Homeland Security Assets (Whiting)- Beach/ Parking
- D Majestic Star Casino (Gary)- Public Access/ Fishing
- E Mitchell Generating Station (Gary)- Redevelopment
- F US Steel Beach (Portage)- Recreational Use
- G Baily Generating Station (Burns Harbor)- Undecided

Explored Opportunities

Segment	Property Size	Length of Shoreline	Percent of Shoreline	Ease of Acquisition	Impact of Acquisition
A	78 Acres	0.89 Miles	1.68%	High	High
B	6 Acres	0.22 Miles	0.42%	Low	Medium
C	101 Acres	0.48 Miles	0.91%	Low	Low
D	88 Acres	0.62 Miles	1.18%	Medium	High
E	129 Acres	0.41 Miles	0.76%	Low	Medium
F	88 Acres	0.91 Miles	1.72%	Medium	High
G	306 Acres	0.31 Miles	0.59%	Low	Low

Total Estimated Costs

Length of Shoreline	Total Property Size	Estimated Total Assessed Value for Properties	Estimated Total Clean-Up Costs
3.86 Miles	797 Acres	\$45,806,900	\$85,168,297 - \$272,000,000

Lake Michigan Shoreline Access

2003 Goal: 75% Lake Access = 33.8 miles

Before 2003

Before the
Marquette
Plan

Goal Achievement

= **44%**

14.85 miles

2003-2017

After
Marquette
Plan I, II, and
the Update

Goal Achievement

= **66%**

22.3 miles

After 2017

With the
Implementati
on of the
Action Plan

Goal Achievement=

76%

25.7 miles

Public Comment

- May 30 – June 28, 2018
- NIRPC website; www.nirpc.org
- Submit comments until June 28, 2018 by 2:00 pm
 - Email: comments@nirpc.org
 - Phone: 219-763-6060, ext. 160
 - USPS: NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN 46368
- Contact: Dominique Edwards, Public Participation Planner
219-763-6060; dedwards@nirpc.org