

Wisconsin Point Area Management Plan - Management Approaches (Options)

What do the Approaches Represent?

The four approaches (options) presented are not finalized options, they are draft concepts. We want public input to clarify the various options, tradeoffs and implications of management approaches. We will modify these and frame a preferred approach based on public comment.

Why Were They Developed?

The various management approaches were developed to address key issues derived from resource inventory, public comment and feedback at public meetings and stakeholder sessions.

We Need Your Input

A comment form is provided on pages 6-7. You can print these pages, answer the questions and send your input to the address below. Comments can also be submitted via email at jlaumann@nwrpc.com

Wisconsin Point Management Plan Comments

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Based on the input we get regarding the management approaches and our continued work refining these concepts, we will be developing a draft plan for the WPMA that will become the proposed final plan in the coming months. The next regular steering committee meeting to consider public comments will be sometime in mid-May. **Please remit comments no later than Friday, May 11th, 2012.**

Management Approach A

Status Quo

Maintain the status quo. Because investment would remain at current levels, Approach A would not increase the emphasis on any of the strategies identified to reach the goals and objectives of the management area. Approach A (No Action Approach) describes the continuation of the present management of the WPMA. Approach A will serve as a baseline and provide an opportunity to compare the current management with various management approaches suggested to be proposed for future management (Approaches B, C, and D).

Management Focus

- Public open space

Activities/Development

- Same as provided for currently

Challenges (Key issues from 8-29-11 public comments)

- Preservation
- Pollution
- Invasive species
- Identifying cultural remains
- Positive opportunities for stewardship, education, research
- Maintaining bird habitat
- Crime
- Access to too much of beach at night
- Landfills
- Safety
- Trash/not enough trash cans
- Enforcement of laws
- Impacts of climate change
- Lack of respect
- Access for all
- Funding to take care of it
- Lack of restrooms
- Quality of the road
- Appropriate uses
- Lack of access/transportation
- Overuse by people
- Water safety

Managing Authority

- Wisconsin point continues to be managed as “open space” as defined in the City’s Master Park Plan.
- Independent managing authorities

Costs

- Existing level of investment

Management Approach B

Recreation-Based Management Approach

This approach generally provides for enhanced recreational access and opportunities within the WPMA through the implementation of local, county, regional and state outdoor recreation plans. This approach provides visitors with new, enhanced or expanded recreational opportunities through increased investment in recreational assets and increased support from user/interest groups.

Management Focus

- Offer additional recreational opportunities
- Offer recreational opportunities which are currently not available
- Enhance the visitor experience
- Quality-based recreational opportunities
- Create a marketable experience

Activities/Development

- New trails built, existing trails expanded
- Connections developed to existing trails
- Improved boat landings
- Boardwalks constructed
- Camping area developed (on mainland)
- Kiosks/Visitor center developed
- Observation tower
- Restrooms
- Waste management system

Challenges

- Need for balancing competing recreational uses to ensure a quality experience
- Need to manage development to blend with existing uses/character
- May create new regulations or restrict some current uses

Managing Authority

- Possible formal designation (WNDR/State Park/Recreation Area under state authority)
 - Access limitations
 - Fee structure
 - Provides potential funding (grants, Stewardship \$)

Costs

- High level of capital investment \$\$\$\$
- More \$\$\$\$ upfront, but greater return over time
- May create new marketing opportunities

Management Approach C

Conservation-Preservation Based Management Approach

This approach generally places emphasis on preservation of the WPMA's natural resources through partnerships, intergovernmental cooperation implementation of local and regional habitat conservation plans. This approach provides visitors with opportunities to experience natural and cultural resource values of the WPMA through low impact recreation opportunities. It proposes a combination of natural processes and active management techniques for resource and use management.

Management Focus

- Habitat restoration
- Limiting public access – more restrictive
- Shorebird projects
- Dune-area plants
- Invasive species detection/removal/treatment/restoration
- Restore pine plantation to natural forest
- Restore natural fire regime
- Restoration of native species/re-vegetation
- Create a desirable setting for research and education

Activities/Development

- Create 'off-limits' areas
- Redirect human uses away from sensitive areas
- Reduced facilities = consolidation of parking areas/closing some trails to beach
- Creation of educational signage
- Development of invasive species checkpoints
- Restore habitats to less degraded conditions
- Remove invasive species
- Create boardwalks
- Possibly introduce prescribed burning

Challenges

- Likely impose new regulations or restrict some current uses
- Less public of use/access to certain areas
- Loss of revenue due to current users being restricted

Managing Authority

- Possible formal designation (Conservation Area/SNA/Scientific Area)

Costs

- Moderate level of capital investment \$\$
- Less \$\$ upfront and less \$\$ over time to manage property

Management Approach D

Educational-Cultural Enhancement Management Approach

This approach generally places emphasis on preservation of the WPMA's cultural resources through partnerships, intergovernmental cooperation and implementation of local, regional and state historic preservation plans. This approach also provides enhanced opportunities for environmental education, research and interpretation.

Management Focus

- Emphasis on educational, research and interpretive opportunities.
- Emphasis on the Harbor entry/existing structures/shipping & tourism
- Foster a greater connection with the community
- Focus on enhancement of cultural resources.
- Identifying resources present
- Increasing the knowledge base
- Prevent/limit resource damage/degradation
- Promote and encourage stewardship

Activities/Development

- Redirect human uses/restrict access due to research/monitoring activities
- Develop interpretive center/outdoor classroom
- Creation of interpretive signage
- Develop web-based educational materials
- Present public educational programs

Challenges

- Likely impose new regulations or restrict some current uses
- Less public of use/access to certain areas
- Educational materials would need to be developed
- Need to ensure a reasonable degree of security

Managing Authority

- Possible formal designation (Scientific Area)

Costs

- Intermediate level of capital investment \$\$\$, between Approaches B&C

Comment Form

Keep in mind that the management approaches (options) do not specify actions and strategies in detail and are intended to be broad in nature. It is possible that you may like some but not all the elements of one alternative concept or you may feel that there are strengths in various alternatives and the best management strategy would be to combine them. Maybe you have an entirely different vision that would address the Wisconsin Point Management Area's planning issues. It would be most helpful to the steering committee to understand the reasons for your likes and dislikes. With your comments we can reevaluate the alternatives and modify them as necessary to help us formulate the best possible future direction for the Wisconsin Point Management Area.

1. Which ideas in each of the draft management approaches (options) do you feel strongly should be included in the Wisconsin Point Area Management Plan?

Approach A:

Approach B:

Approach C:

Approach D:

2. Which ideas in each of the draft alternatives would you eliminate, or which alternatives would you eliminate entirely?

Approach A:

Approach B:

Approach C:

Approach D:

3. List any important strategies, approaches, or elements that you feel have been missed or overlooked and should be considered in the general management plan.

4. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the steering committee to take into consideration?
