

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session of Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called the Huron City Council work session to order at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the meeting. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike and Joel Hagy**. Council members absent: **Mark Claus and Matt Grieves**.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Presentation of the Draft Waterfront Parks Plan by OHM Advisors

Mr. Hamilton reminded Council that back in 2024, the City received a Coastal Management Assistance Grant, which is a 50:50 grant to reimagine our waterfront. This is the final step in the process. This has taken all of the feedback from the residents and multiple planning sessions and will allow them to close out the grant application and the plan. There are a lot of big-ticket items running through this. Staff are not advocating a whole lot of these with the reprioritization of capital projects. If Council decides to adopt this plan, it will allow them to (1) close out the grant application; and (2) it gives them something to use when they apply for more grant funding. Anytime they apply for grant funding for some of the smaller projects, and even if there is larger grant money available, they can go after that grant money using these plans. It will take a long time to get the money to do some of the things in this plan.

Arthur Schmidt from OHM Advisors (attending via Teams videoconference) thanked Mr. Hamilton and his team for pivoting with him to join the meeting virtually due to a family emergency. He also introduced Erica Finorillo, Project Planner, who was present in person at the meeting. OHM has presented a draft plan to Council previously at a work session, but will go over the plan again.

Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Finorillo made a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is attached hereto, which included results of the public survey conducted by OHM. The final park concepts were reviewed, along with connections between the park spaces and next steps in the process.

Mr. Schmidt explained that they have cost estimates broken down into sensible groupings for those items that you would want to get implemented together. OHM has formalized their engagement and has gone out to the public to get feedback and to get some consensus on some of the recommendations. As opportunities present themselves, whether it be the capital budget or grant funding, staff is now well-prepared to utilize this information and know what the general costs are to go after that funding. This is the framework/vision of what they want to see from a long-term perspective, but what they can actually achieve in the short to medium term standpoint, as well. This sets the City up in a positive way to be responsive and not reactive when those opportunities come up.

Mr. Schmidt asked if Council had any questions. Mayor Tapp thanked Mr. Schmidt and OHM for coming. Mr. Artino asked if they already have cost estimate. Mr. Schmidt answered yes, and Mr. Hamilton added that the final report will have cost estimates for every part of the plan.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the work session.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike, Hagy (5)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in a favor, the motion passed, and the work session was adjourned at 5:56pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 25 MAR 2025

DRAFT - 2.19.25

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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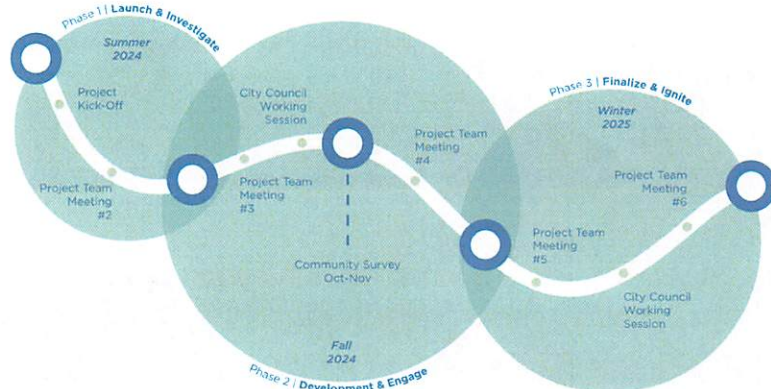
HURON WATERFRONT PARKS PLAN

February 25, 2025



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Project Process



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AGENDA

- Project Overview
- Survey Summary
- Park Concepts
- Next Steps

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Lake Front Park



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Focus Areas

The Huron Waterfront Parks Plan focuses on:

- Main Street/Showboat Property
- Lake Front Park
- Public Access Beach
- Multi-Use Path Proposed Network



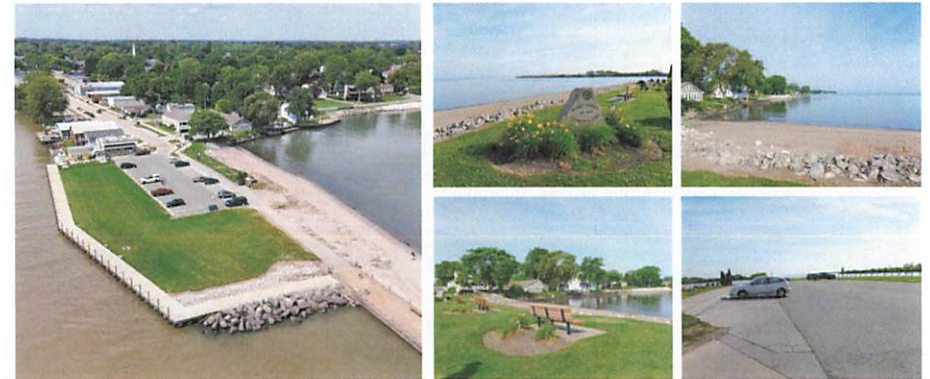
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Public Access Beach



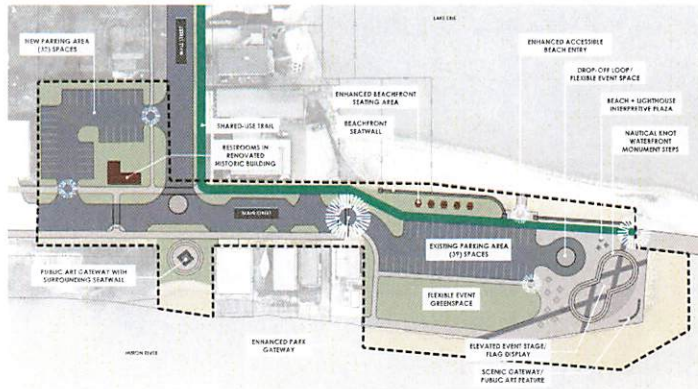
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Main Street/Showboat Property

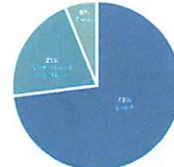


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Main Street/Showboat Property



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CONCEPT FOR MAIN STREET/SHOWBOAT PROPERTY?



Features Most Liked:

1. Beach Access & Waterfront Improvements
2. Parking & Accessibility
3. Public Art & Event Space

Areas of Concern:

1. Overdevelopment & Space Management
2. Parking & Accessibility
3. Public Art & Event Space

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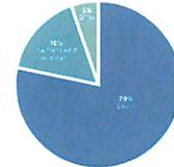
SURVEY SUMMARY

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Lake Front Park



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CONCEPT FOR LAKE FRONT PARK?



Features Most Liked:

1. Trail & Pathways
2. Seating & Accessibility
3. Play Area & Family-Friendly Spaces

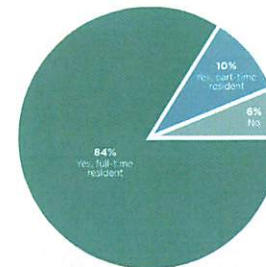
Areas of Concern:

1. Parking
2. Overdevelopment
3. Beach Conditions

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What We Heard

ARE YOU A HURON RESIDENT?



- 1 Park Improvements.** The majority favor enhancements like better beach access, shared-use trails, and improved interpretive. Concepts for Lake Front Park (79% approval) and the Main Street Showboat Property (73% approval) received positive feedback.
- 2 Overdevelopment.** Many residents expressed worry about excessive construction, loss of green spaces, and creating features like amphitheaters that may not fit the area's character.
- 3 Parking.** Respondents consistently emphasized the need for adequate parking across all parks, cautioning against reducing spaces near waterfront areas.
- 4 Natural Enhancements.** Residents prefer low-impact improvements, such as tiered seating, beachfront seating areas, and better shoreline maintenance, rather than large structures or event spaces.

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respondents

- 5 Cultural enhancements.** While some appreciate public art, others view them as unnecessary or potentially disruptive to the area's natural and peaceful ambience.
- 6 Accessibility.** Improved access for all users, including enhanced pathways, ADA-compliant designs, and tiered steps for beach entry, were frequently highlighted as priorities.
- 7 Quality.** Respondents want cleaner beaches, more sand, and solutions to erosion and debris issues. Some suggested features like a splash pad or improved swimming areas.
- 8 Simplicity.** Many respondents advocated for focusing on preserving existing features, maintaining cleanliness, and keeping the parks simple and functional for daily use without unnecessary additions.

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Public Access Beach



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Lake Front Park



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Wall Street



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NEXT STEPS

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Multi-Use Path Proposed Network

