

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The public process for the development of the *GO! Green Oshtemo Plan* was designed to follow both the legislative requirements for master plan adoption and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources local adoption process. This would allow the final document to be incorporated into the Township's overall Master Plan, as well as ensuring eligibility for possible future conservation and recreation grant consideration.

Public participation played an integral role in the *GO! Green Oshtemo* planning process, including study groups, open houses, an online survey, and the public hearings for adoption. The information below provides a summary of the meetings and public input received throughout the months of planning for *GO! Green Oshtemo*.

KICK-OFF MEETING

The first public meeting held in March of 2018 provided an overview of existing conditions in the Township related to parks, recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. Existing plans, ordinances, and Township policies were discussed. But, much of the kick-off meeting was designed to hear from the participants and their desires for these important amenities. The following outlines some of the comments heard at that meeting:

Nonmotorized Transportation

- Needed on 9th Street (from KL to Main) & needed on KL Avenue (from 9th to apartments).
- Oshtemo plans should connect with the KATS "Map 7" plan.
- Provide connections to Kal-Haven Trail and to Grange Hall.
- Utility corridors – Use & connect w/neighbors through existing or planned utility corridors.
- Current Plan is rectilinear (and along existing roads). Natural features follow different boundaries. The system for non-motorized should consider natural features too.
- Where sewer is installed between 8th and 9th on KL Ave– new stretch works well for bike lane/bicyclists.
- Destinations for non-motorized include: Fish Hatchery, Wolf Tree Preserve, and the KRVT.
- Coordinate non-motorized projects with sanitary road construction projects.
- How to cross M43, West of 9th St.? This is a problem.
- Think about functional requirements of non-motorized users
- Road shoulders- are they safe enough?

Parks and Recreation

- Current park facilities are good.
- They are lovely in Spring and Fall.
- Parks need Winter options for recreation, such as cross-country skiing.
- Drake Farmstead – Good location for new park activities.
- More playground at Grange Hall is needed.
- Add electric vehicle charge option at parks, especially Flesher Field.
- Is there a park re-use plan for KL Landfill?
- Water features would add community benefit.
- Maximize number of shelters in the parks.
- Use solar panels for power in the parks.
- The diversity of activities at Township Park is good.
- Provide an all-weather shelter in one of the township parks?
- Provide more tennis/pickle ball courts.

- Provide more basketball courts.
- Add more parks – large and neighborhood parks, and provide passive recreation: (picnic & trails), and active recreation (areas for football, soccer) and less mowed areas to save on maintenance dollars.
- The County property south of landfill on KL Ave is an opportunity for conservation.

Greenways/Conservation

- What is happening with natural features conservation on the East side of Oshtemo Township?
- Use GIS as a tool with overlays (will enhance discussion).
- Greenways will provide a “perk” for neighborhoods.
- There should be protection of natural features (woods, etc.) on East side of township.
- Use buffer zones along sensitive areas (example; given that such buffer resulted in an increase in land values).
- What impact on property owners will greenways have? (Cost, land value, etc.). This question needs more vetting.
- Can the powerline be used for greenway corridor?
- Likely to result in greater property value on greenbelts (if connected to something).
- Provide trail ways everywhere? Or conserve some corridors for wildlife only?
- There is value in preserving wildlife corridors.

STUDY GROUPS

During the kick-off meeting, participants were asked to volunteer for one of three study groups convened for the *GO!* Green Oshtemo planning effort; one for each focus of the plan. The study groups included interested residents; Township Board, Parks Committee, and Planning Commission members; and staff. These groups generally met monthly from April through September to discuss the public process, review research conducted by staff, provide input on the goals, action strategies, and intended outcomes of the Plan.

Open Houses

Two *GO!* Green Oshtemo open houses were held on June 6th and August 2nd in order to gauge public opinion on parks and recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. The open houses were advertised via Township newsletter, website, and email, and on social media sites like Facebook and Nextdoor. Public input was given via informational stations at the open houses and through emails and phone calls before and after the events. Oshtemo residents in attendance participated in survey activities that allowed them to share their input on all elements of the plan and the planning process.

The first open house was designed to receive input on the draft maps created for the three differing amenities, as well as ranking of facilities within the parks. The main themes generated from the meeting, in no particular order, included:

- Provide more hiking/walking paths/trails.
- Protect natural features in the Township from encroachment and development.
- Ensure connectivity of neighborhoods and Township destinations through nonmotorized facilities.
- Access to nature/outdoors should be promoted.
- Safety of pedestrians and bicyclists is paramount.

The second open house was intended to gather community input on the goals and action strategies of the Plan. Comments were provided on the nonmotorized transportation and conservation goals, assisting with some refinement of these action strategies.

SURVEY

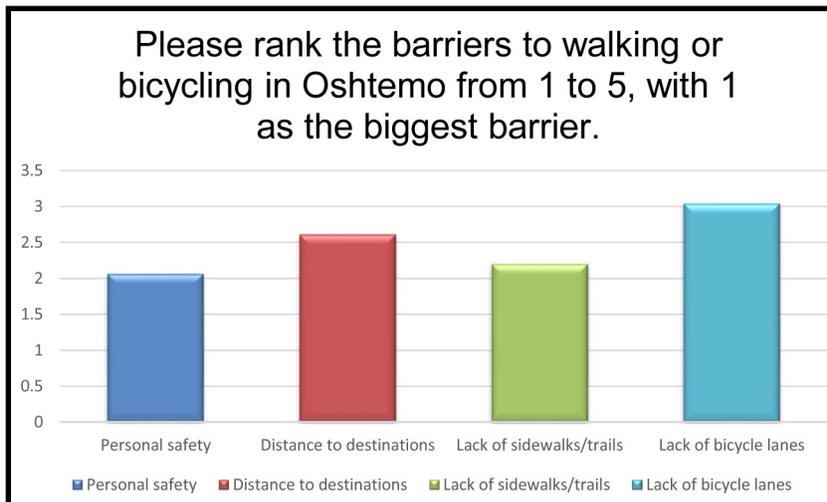
During the kick-off meeting and for a month after in an online format, the Township requested residents complete a survey with questions related to parks, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. Over 200 citizens responded to the survey, providing important insight into resident desires. The results of this survey are provided below and on pages 4 and 5 of this attachment.

If a sidewalk was available, how far would you walk to a park, school, or other destination?	
Up to a quarter mile	3.7%
Up to a half mile	7.9%
Up to a mile	28.7%
A mile or more	33.3%
Would not walk	26.4%

If a bike path or bike lane was available, how far would you bike to a park, school, or other destination?	
Up to a quarter mile	1.9%
Up to a half mile	5.6%
Up to a mile	18.5%
A mile or more	38.9%
Would not walk	35.2%

How satisfied are you with the recent improvements at Flesher Field and Township Park?	
Very Satisfied	15.4%
Satisfied	34.6%
Dissatisfied	6.6%
Very Dissatisfied	6.1%
Don't Know	30.3%
Are there any specific comments you'd like to share with us?	7.0%

What benefits of non-motorized facilities are most important to you? (choose all that apply)	
Transportation to work	12.3%
Connectivity to destinations	41.5%
Access to nature/outdoors	59.0%
Recreation/fitness	73.6%
Other (please specify)	10.4%

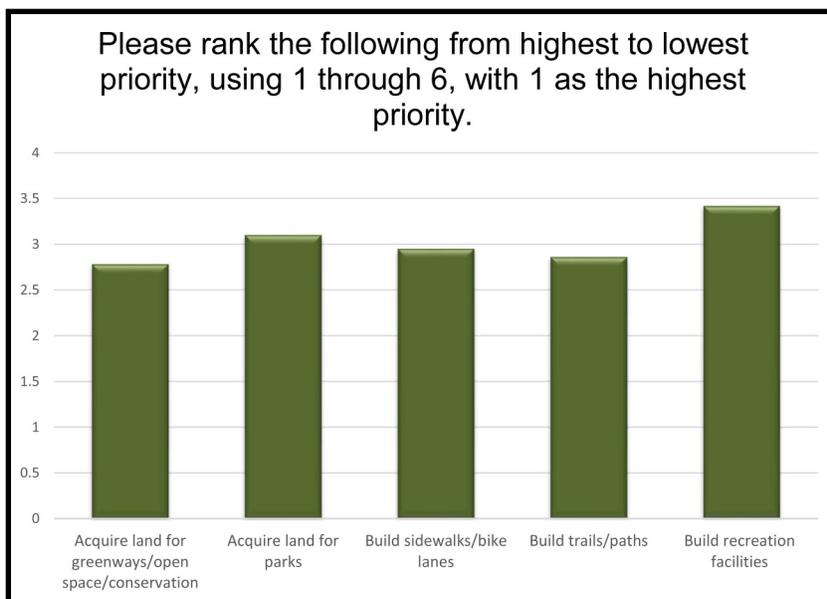


If the Township works to conserve greenways/open spaces, should path/trails be developed within those areas?

Definitely	36.4%
Maybe, but strategically placed in some areas	33.2%
No, preserve natural areas	28.1%
Not sure	0.9%
Other (please specify)	1.4%

What level of millage would you support for parks, sidewalks, trails and conservation?

0.25 mil	14.15%
0.50 mil	23.58%
0.75 mil	7.08%
1.0 mil	32.55%
None	29.72%
Other (please specify)	2.36%



Is there anything else related to the Go! Green Oshtemo effort that you want us to be aware of?

<p>Strive to make Oshtemo age-friendly.</p>
<p>Specialized recreational facilities for specific populations: seniors (a growing segment), teens, and any other group that doesn't have recreational avenues in the township.</p>
<p>Would love to see more recycling in our neighborhoods... Maybe even twp wide like some of the cities and villages...if this is efficacious.</p>
<p>I really think that sidewalks are needed along 11th street. There is a ton of walkers to and from the bus stops and it can be a little dangerous.</p>
<p>I would like to see more disc golf courses. It helps get kids outside and into nature instead of video games.</p>
<p>We need more Disc Golf courses! The course at Oshtemo Township Park is good, but with the massive growth in the sport over the last few years it is becoming crowded. It would be great to see another course or 2 in the area (there looks to be enough room at Oshtemo Township Park to add another 18??!) to support the growth. Especially with 5 High Schools in the area now having Disc Golf teams! Building a Disc Golf Course also allows the design of walking paths strategically to ensure safety and allow for the space to be multi-use. In other areas I've noticed it to be pretty common for having bike & walking trails in the same area as the Disc Golf course - you obviously don't run a trail through a fairway, but that's all part of design.</p>
<p>Be more thoughtful with city planning. Don't turn M43 and the rest of Oshtemo into a concrete wasteland of strip malls. Preservation is key to a happy thriving community. Protect our skyline and green spaces. Create safe ways for residents to get out and enjoy them. Don't let just anyone build here we don't need more banks offices and as gas stations. Support unique shops trails and natural spaces that people want to go to.</p>
<p>I love the Music in the Park at Flesher Field. We need more, but the gazebo is NOT the place to do it. The traffic is loud, and covers up the music. The sun beats down there too, for performers and audience. Northwest corner would provide shade, and a little more quiet for everyone.</p>
<p>Strongly support acquisition of wooded areas and trails.</p>
<p>I believe there is a high need for a side walk on 10th or 9th Street. It would connect West Main to the Kal Haven Trail. Also allow the home owners in between 9th and 10th to walk or ride a bike safely to the Township park, the new Latitude 42 restaurant, and other West Main stores. PLEASE build that sidewalk!!!</p>
<p>More well-maintained recreation areas are a huge plus! Disc golf, tennis, cross country skiing!</p>
<p>Set aside / purchase natural space and leave it as that.</p>
<p>Sometimes the Stadium Drive sidewalk/bike path gets plowed in the winter. Many times it is not. Because of frequent packed ice/snow, it is often unusable in winter. Keep it plowed please!</p>
<p>Please listen to residents and charge a user fee for non-residents. Enough of raising our taxes!</p>

PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARINGS

The plan was made available for public comment from October 23, 2018 through final adoption. A digital copy of the plan was posted on the Township website and e-mailed to a broad audience, including public meeting attendees, neighboring jurisdictions, and Township boards and officials. A hard copy of the plan was made available at the Township Hall. Finally, an adoption process was designed to allow for three public hearings, providing the residents of Oshtemo opportunities to weigh in on the draft Plan.

The first public hearing was held at the Township Board on November 13, 2018 when the Board considered allowing distribution of the *GO! Green Plan* to neighboring jurisdictions per the master plan requirements of Public Act 33 of 2008. Prior to approving the distribution of the Plan, the Board allowed interested residents an opportunity to speak. Two residents spoke at the meeting; one in support of the Plan and one with questions related to the public input process. The Board requested staff provide more detail related to the public input in the Plan. As a result, the full results of the March survey was included in this attachment, as well as lists of public comments.

At the conclusion of the 63-day period where the public and neighboring jurisdictions can weigh in the Plan, the Planning Commission held their public hearing on January 24, 2019. As the planning representatives for the Township, Public Act 33 requires the Commission to make recommendations to the Township Board on any master plan updates.

Include public input