

**Summary of Public Response – September 4, 2008**

Below is a list of common categories and themes that were synthesized from the individual comments gathered at the Wabash River Enhancement Project presentation held on the evening of September 4, 2008. The comments were solicited from the community in three main categories: Environmental Enhancement, Quality of Life and Economic Development.

Within each of these colored-coded categories the community responses were sorted the comments into common themes that were relevant to the respective category. They are as follows:

- Environmental Enhancement (Green)
  - Energy
  - Habitat & Diversity
  - Water Quality
  - Remediation
  - Stewardship & Education
- Quality of Life (Blue)
  - Access
  - Recreation
  - Health & Safety
  - Community Identity
  - Stewardship & Education
- Economic Development (Red)
  - Attractions
  - Development & Growth
  - Amenities
  - Building Capacity
  - Stewardship & Education

The synthesized input were further sorted into goals, strategies and ideas which will extract guiding principles and use to lay the ground work for developing alternatives for the community’s consideration.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT | Energy:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Harness locally available sources of renewable energy		Harness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wind</li> <li>• solar</li> <li>• hydro</li> </ul>

Considerations:

- Interest in dams as a source to harness energy.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT | Habitat & Diversity:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Native species plantings essential.	Protect habitat diversity, quality and connectivity.	
Celebrate robust native ecology.	Enhance floodplain vegetation and tree plantings.	

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT | Water Quality:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
	Promote water quality.	
	Protect and restore riparian zones.	Address run-off quantity and quality.
	Establish strong regulatory standards to protect water quality.	Provide vegetated bank stabilization.

Considerations:

- Address combined sewage outlets environmental issues.
- Concern about agricultural practice impact

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT | Remediation:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Address land/water management practices.	Remove invasive species.	Provide buffers and constructed wetland.
	Optimize re-use of run-off.	
	Provide bank stabilization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vegetated</li> <li>• hardened</li> </ul>	Promote percolation of stormwater

Considerations:

- Level of interest in dams & dredging.
- Smell downstream of waste water treatment plants.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT | Stewardship & Education:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Promote link to educational system and institutions to indoctrinate youth with a strong ecological importance of the Wabash.	Communication with upstream and downstream neighbors.	Complement river paths with interpretive signage about heritage and ecological significance.
Espouse environmental education & stewardship		

**QUALITY OF LIFE | Access:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Balance aspirations for universal, year-round river access with natural ecology preservation.	Promote pedestrian and other self-propelled modes of access to the river.	
	Provide more access points to put-in for small watercraft.	
	Provide central large gathering space to host festivities and concerts.	
	Negotiate railroad as a barrier for neighborhood to river.	

Considerations:

- Providing sufficient parking given current use and driving habits.
- Deal with high and low water level fluctuations.

**QUALITY OF LIFE | Recreation:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Expand opportunities for increased human interaction with, and within, the river corridor.	Provide community recreation/visitor center to support recreational activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lockers</li> <li>• bathrooms</li> <li>• concessions</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>
	Promote passive and active recreational uses along river:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ball fields &amp; courts</li> <li>• sport complex</li> <li>• paths (expand network &amp; provide loops)</li> <li>• rental (bike, segues, etc.)</li> <li>• picnic areas</li> <li>• benches</li> </ul>
	Promote water recreation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• self propelled: rowing, canoeing, kayaking</li> <li>• motorized: Cruises/Ferries, boating, boat tours</li> <li>• access points</li> <li>• liveries to provide rental opportunities</li> <li>• fishing</li> </ul>

**QUALITY OF LIFE | Health & Safety:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
	Provide shelter/shade structures to protect from elements and ensure seasonal use.	
	Provide adequate lighting for safe evening use.	
	Provide traffic calming to allow safe pedestrian access to river	Provide water and river safety courses.

**QUALITY OF LIFE | Community Identity:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Local culture, heritage, and river interpretation should engage both residents and visitors.	Promote local artists' interpretations of historic events and natural eco-systems.	

**QUALITY OF LIFE | Stewardship & Education:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
	Provide river interpretation that engages all ages.	Provide interpretive center/installations and complementary signage for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• heritage</li> <li>• flora &amp; fauna</li> <li>• river</li> </ul>

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Attractions:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Make the river a destination.	Activate along the river’s edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• events</li> <li>• entertainment</li> <li>• amenities</li> <li>• art installations</li> </ul>
	Provide adequate green space along river’s edge.	
Visual connection to river.	Activate the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat Tours</li> <li>• Paddle boats</li> <li>• Canoe</li> <li>• Dinner cruises</li> <li>• Kayak</li> </ul>
Access to the river throughout the year and around the clock.	Integrate culture as part of the river engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Museum</li> <li>• Art installations</li> <li>• Local heritage</li> </ul>
	Provide a variety of complimentary uses along the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of establishments with outdoor seating:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ coffee shops</li> <li>○ restaurants</li> <li>○ retail</li> <li>○ vendors</li> <li>○ farmer’s market</li> <li>○ etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Amphitheaters</li> </ul>
	Consider draws for tourism.	

Considerations:

- River boat gambling-some supported, some contested.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Development & Growth:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Connect the communities of L-WL	Development along river should enhance and complement the existing urban fabric and infrastructure.	
	Compact mixed use development residential, retail, entertainment, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• residential</li> <li>• retail</li> <li>• entertainment</li> </ul>
Investment in new development and infrastructure should incorporate sustainability as fundamental criteria.	Provide viable transportation alternatives.	

Considerations:

- Alleviate pressures of gentrification.
- “Less McWalBucks!”
- Development and structural investments should be limited.

**ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT | Amenities:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Pedestrian circulation and providing a human scale of development and structural improvements is desirable.	Provide a variety of amenities to support local and regional needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grocery stores</li> <li>• restaurants</li> <li>• retail</li> </ul>	
		Developing floating or stilted amenities in safe areas is desirable.

Considerations:

- How to balance parking needs with development-HUGE issue

**ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT | Capacity Building:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Develop public private partnership to help finance development to ensure larger community needs are served.		

Considerations:

- Coordinate efforts with:
  - neighborhoods
  - governmental agencies
  - major institutions (i.e. Purdue)

**ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT | Stewardship & Education:**

Goals:	Strategies:	Ideas:
Sustainability		

**Summary of guiding principles:**

At the conclusion of this synthesizing and sorting exercise, we were able to distill the community’s common aspirations as the following guiding principles:

**Connect the cities to the river. + Create a healthy balance.**

Provide safe, universal, all-season access to the river while maintaining a balance of ecological integrity.

**Cultivate healthy ecosystems.**

Promote superb water quality and healthy ecosystems that support biodiversity and expansion of native flora and fauna.

**Engage the whole community.**

Celebrate local culture and heritage and support a wide variety of recreational opportunities that engage all generations. Cultivate community knowledge and stewardship of the river.

**Connect the cities to each other.**

Connect Lafayette and West Lafayette through vibrant, compact, mixed-use development supported by a coherent network of walk-able streets and public transportation.

**Focus on creating a sustainable community of choice.**

Enhance and develop sustainable attractions, amenities and infrastructure, creating an enduring, prosperous community of choice.

These principles will be the basis for the developing of the coming alternatives.