

# Appendix A

## Survey Results



### Survey#1

#### ***Tivoli Lake Preserve Public Engagement & Visioning Plan Public Input Survey***

#### **Summary of Survey Results**

There was a total of 91 survey responses collected between 9/3/14 and 10/20/14. The survey covered a multitude of topics, and the comprehensive summary of the results can be found in the following pages. Some of the key trends and commonalities can be found below:

- 80% of respondents were aware of the Preserve, but only 57% have visited
- Of those who have visited, 72% visited “...once or twice”
- Most respondents drove to the Preserve, however 33% walked, biked, or took public transit
- A resounding 79% of respondents said they would use the Preserve more if it was improved
- The most popular response to getting people there more often – enhanced walking trails (~78%)
- When asked to rank the best elements of the Preserve - walking trails and the lake scored highest
- Safety topped the list of reasons not to visit (58%) followed by walking trail conditions (34%)
- Water quality and trash (62%) overcame walking trail conditions as the biggest concern (56%)
- Regarding respondent demographics, the majority were between the ages of 30 and 49 and most (71%) were male. Interestingly, most did not have children under the age of 18 in their household.

## **Survey#2**

### ***Tivoli Lake Preserve Visioning Plan Review Public Input Survey***

#### **Summary of Survey Results**

There were a total of 5 survey responses collected between 10/20/2014 and 11/13/2014. Overall, the number of responses fell short of what was hoped for but the results do provide feedback that is useful to the overall visioning process. This survey was much shorter and focused on a single theme – overall impressions of the plan and its recommendations. The following details the results of the 5 responses received:

- Of the 5 respondents, only three answered the question about whether or not they had seen the plan prior to the survey. Of those three – two had seen it previously and one had not.
- Regarding overall thoughts, these were the initial statements from respondents – “Positive,” “Terrific Potential for Preserve,” “Good Idea,” “Excellent short term as well as long term visions,” “Ambitious and beautiful”
- There was only one comment regarding changes to the plan. That comment recommended using the existing field off of Livingston Avenue as a welcome center such as that at Washington Park.
- For near-term potential accomplishments, respondents recommended the following: clear the existing walking trails and add lighting, open-up the site and clean-out trash, organize walking tours now to help build support for what the Preserve could be in the future.

# Appendix B

## Meeting Minutes



30 Jay Street  
Suite 200  
Schenectady, New York  
12305

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

### TIVOLI LAKE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING PLAN KICK-OFF MEETING

**PROJECT:** Tivoli Lake Preserve  
**PA PROJECT #:** 14-NY-016  
**DATE & TIME:** August 7, 2014 at 12:00 pm  
**MEETING LOCATION:** 21 Lodge Street Albany, NY

### DISTRIBUTION & ATTENDANCE:

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Kathy Ember Planning4Places	<a href="mailto:kember@planning4places.com">kember@planning4places.com</a> 518-280-2040	✓

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

JOB MTG #/ ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
<b>CURRENT DOCUMENTS/HANDOUTS:</b>		
	PowerPoint Presentation	Presented by PLACE Alliance during meeting
	Kick-Off Mtg. Agenda	Distributed by PLACE Alliance during meeting
	Project Approach	Distributed by PLACE Alliance during meeting
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
0.1	None	

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
1.1	Introductions	Participants introduced themselves.
1.2	Review of Existing Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man-made lake for water supply</li> <li>• Long history of pollution/industrial runoff</li> <li>• Patroon Creek very contaminated – mercury, uranium, ash</li> <li>• Lakes used for fishing/dirt bikes common throughout trails</li> <li>• Road that runs through park in maintained by the County</li> <li>• Other side of tracks not City property (zoning = conservation)</li> <li>• Sewer lines/transmission mains throughout</li> <li>• Dark &amp; intimidating trails – overgrown &amp; unkempt</li> </ul>
1.3	Committee's Comments & Concerns for future of the Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam safety/flooding concerns – storm events produce a lot of runoff</li> <li>• Issue of encroachment w/ property neighbors - parcel/boundary lines unclear</li> <li>• Issue of safety with people crossing train tracks/adding another rail line (Albany-Schenectady)</li> <li>• Current community perception is that daylighting creek will pollute lakes (issue of miscommunication) Any future improvement/daylighting plans should be accurately conveyed to the community</li> <li>• The committee would like to explore cracking down on dirt bikes</li> <li>• The committee would like to explore how the park can be better interconnected to its surrounding neighborhoods &amp; changing the perception of the park</li> <li>• The committee would like to explore creating view sheds &amp; vantage points to increase visibility and safety within the park</li> <li>• The committee would like to explore creating a more definitive entrance to the park to create a sense of place and arrival</li> </ul>
1.4	Public Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Stations at the Library, City Hall, Koinonia Primary Care (As well as additional list of organizations Kate has)</li> <li>• Focus Groups: Discussed holding focus groups organized by topic, age, affiliation, neighborhood, park users.</li> <li>• The committee would like to explore reaching out to Arbor/West Hill as well as neighborhoods beyond that the committee would like to explore forging partnerships to help fund/maintain park (Autobon, Sierra Club, SUNY, Greentech HS)</li> </ul>
1.5	Walk & Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many invasive species</li> <li>• Trails overgrown</li> <li>• Visibility issue</li> <li>• Entrance/trails unkempt</li> </ul>
1.6	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that Green Tech High school would be a good location for the 2-day charette "home-base."</li> <li>• Exact location, whether it be Greentech or otherwise, needs to be determined.</li> <li>• Bill Simcoe will be providing the design team and committee with a map of utilities within the Preserve.</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>		
2.0	T.B.D – Mid Sept.	T.B.D.

These minutes represent our summary of this meeting. They will become part of the project record and form the basis in which we will proceed. Your response is appreciated within five (5) business days if you have any comments or wish to make any corrections. After this period this document will be official record transcription for this project.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ian Law, RLA**  
Director of Urban Planning & Design  
PLACE Alliance



30 Jay Street  
Suite 200  
Schenectady, New York  
12305

## MEETING MINUTES

### TIVOLI LAKE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING PLAN STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**PROJECT:** Tivoli Lake Preserve  
**PA PROJECT #:** 14-NY-016  
**DATE & TIME:** August 25, 2014 at 1:00 pm  
**MEETING LOCATION:** 200 Henry Johnson Blvd Albany, NY

#### DISTRIBUTION & ATTENDANCE:

NAME/COMPANY	EMAIL/PHONE	ATTENDED
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Andrew Bohne New England Environmental	<a href="mailto:abohne@neeinc.com">abohne@neeinc.com</a>	✓
Kathy Ember Planning4Places	<a href="mailto:kember@planning4places.com">kember@planning4places.com</a> 518-280-2040	✓

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

JOB MTG #/ ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
<b>CURRENT DOCUMENTS/HANDOUTS:</b>		
	PowerPoint Presentation	Presented by PLACE Alliance during meeting
	SAC Mtg. Agenda	Distributed by PLACE Alliance during meeting



<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
0.1	None	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
1.1	Introductions	Participants introduced themselves.
1.2	Review of Project Goals from SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being thorough with gathering community input, reaching out to neighborhood association, going through various organizations to spread the word</li> <li>• Improving overall lake processes – flooding inhibits use, stagnant water breeds mosquitos (health concern)</li> <li>• Introducing fresh water to the lake</li> <li>• Garnering excitement and investment in the park</li> <li>• Addressing issue of invasive species, ecological problems, lack of visual stimulation</li> <li>• Improving overall perception of the park</li> </ul>
1.3	Committee's Comments & Concerns for increasing preserve usership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albany City Schools – could use the park as a living laboratory, fieldtrips, nature days, preserve clean-ups</li> <li>• "WAVE" program – citizens can be involved w/ water monitoring/training program</li> <li>• Addressing the issue of the new rail line – how to keep people safe, create a space for safe viewing</li> <li>• Preserve programming – a calendar of events/clean up days (i.e. earth day clean up)</li> <li>• Delineating park boundaries – make obvious when you are in the park/where you are in the park</li> </ul>
1.4	Ecological Comments /concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tivoli Lake type "C" – not safe to drink from or swim in</li> <li>• Flooding/dam safety concerns – different approaches to address flooding</li> <li>• Consulting with ACOE – coming up with a mitigation package</li> <li>• Phasing the environmental portion of the project – i.e. addressing the creek, daylighting, and then the lake</li> </ul>
1.5	Potential Partnerships/ Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was discussed marketing Tivoli as part of the larger Albany park system ("greenway")</li> <li>• Relationship to the Pine Bush – other environmental education centers</li> <li>• Relationship to schools – ACSD, Albany Charter Schools, UAlbany, etc.</li> <li>• Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy</li> </ul>
1.6	Public Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was concern about the focus groups being in the middle of the day – making it hard for many people to attend</li> <li>• It was decided to switch some of the focus group to the evening to increase attendance</li> <li>• Flyers will be sent out to Albany schools</li> <li>• Information and updates will be made to the 2030 website (and social media)</li> <li>• Flyers and information stations will be distributed at the West Hill/Arbor Hill and Main Library branch libraries. Planning4Places will check with the libraries for permission.</li> </ul>
1.7	Walk n Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options for restoring the lake were discussed (i.e. dredging vs. restoring water level)</li> <li>• Partnering with the DEC is discussed</li> <li>• Prioritizing environmental concerns was discussed (i.e. creek/outflow systems failing/pipes/waterlines should be addressed before other work is done)</li> </ul>

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TIVOLI LAKE PRESERVE COMMUNITY  
 ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING PLAN  
 KICK-OFF MEETING #2

1.8	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate is going to distribute a contact info list for organizations to potentially reach out to and for the committee to add additional contacts</li> <li>• Times for focus groups still needs to be finalized</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>		
2.0	T.B.D – Mid Sept.	T.B.D.

These minutes represent our summary of this meeting. They will become part of the project record and form the basis in which we will proceed. Your response is appreciated within five (5) business days if you have any comments or wish to make any corrections. After this period this document will be official record transcription for this project.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ian Law, RLA**  
 Director of Urban Planning & Design  
 PLACE Alliance





## MEETING MINUTES

### TIVOLI LAKE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING PLAN STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 2

**PROJECT:** Tivoli Lake Preserve  
**PA PROJECT #:** 14-NY-016  
**DATE & TIME:** October 16, 2014 at 10:00 am  
**MEETING LOCATION:** 388 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY

### DISTRIBUTION & ATTENDANCE:

NAME/COMPANY	EMAIL/PHONE	ATTENDED
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MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 7, 2014  
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TIVOLI LAKE PRESERVE COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING PLAN  
KICK-OFF MEETING

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Sara Bonacquist PLACE Alliance	<a href="mailto:sbonacquist@placealliance.com">sbonacquist@placealliance.com</a> 518-339-7638	✓

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

JOB MTG #/ ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
<b>CURRENT DOCUMENTS/HANDOUTS:</b>		
PowerPoint Presentation		Presented by PLACE Alliance during meeting
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
0.1	None	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
1.1	Introductions	Presenters introduced themselves.
1.2	Review of Project to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kickoff Meeting &amp; Walk n Talk with City Staff</li> <li>• Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 1</li> <li>• Public Workshop Days 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 2</li> </ul>
1.3	Presentation of Final Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of project goals, public input and feedback to date</li> <li>• Explanation of each element in the final plan</li> <li>• Presentation of potential phasing strategy</li> </ul>
1.4	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan was generally well-received. No new issues or complications came up.</li> <li>• A short disc-golf presentation was given by Bob Hoffman about implementing a disc golf course within the preserve and the subsequential pros and cons.</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>		
2.0	T.B.D.	

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Respectfully submitted,

**Sara Bonacquist**  
Project Designer  
PLACE Alliance