

Summary of Oct 30, 2007 meeting comments on Pros and Cons of Various Entities Owning North Point:

County Ownership – no restrictions

Pros: - “Adopt a Park” program

- County assists in maintenance – could also use the prison/prisoner program
- County gives ideas and assists with up-keep
- ask for ¼ mill to generate park funds

Cons: - County has no money to operate/supervise the land

- County could decide at any future point to sell
- North Point would be at the mercy of each new County Board of Commissioners or at the whim of the public
(Lots of agreement with the above statement)

County Ownership with Deed Restriction

Pros: - This would give most all County residents a say so in the future of the property

- If the County owned the property, maybe? More County residents would feel free to use the land
- We know many people who use N.P., now more will know about it. Let’s keep it.
- This is a toss up with ownership by SWMLC. Let’s discuss this !

Cons: - County could elect to unrestrict deed in the best(?) interests of the people
(look what is happening with Jean Klok Park in Benton Harbor)

- No County resources \$\$
- No third party oversight that deed restrictions are not violated
- Would deed restriction & conservation easement be permanent?
-- we need to learn more about this option

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Pros: - Experienced at monitoring conservation easements

- Ensures County Boards (and future Boards) cannot decide to sell property
- SWMLC has the knowledge on : how – where – when to observe this beautiful land
- In favor of SWMLC.—very good with all their land which they presently own
- It would be protected by an organization that wants to protect land
- Would keep land natural
- Land would be better protected
- Could either be owned by Land Conservancy or conservation easement.
- Easement language can define rules of use & monitor
- Scouts can continue to upkeep as special projects

- Absolutely. Put in Conservancy hands – they have experience and have contact with those who may aid in funding

- Preserve:** - Permanent protection. No concern for long-term
- Ecological management would be priority
 - Public use ensured, public engaged in management

Easement - Permanent protection

- Cons:** - Loss of ownership
- Restricted use? -- Scouts usage in question?
 - Less handicap friendly ?
 - They have no money to operate/supervise/maintain North Point
 - No Parks Department.

Preserve: - Management of funding

Easement - Monitoring/enforcement funding needed

South Haven Charter Township Ownership

- Pros:** - Local control (lots of agreement on this)
- With a few locally controlled lake access points, Township would develop a committee/group for recreation
 - Township has more resources than County
 - **IDEA:** South Haven Township ownership with SWMLC easement.

- Cons:** - Township has no money to operate/supervise North Point
- Township could sell at a later date ?
 - Added bureaucracy
 - Better if owned by whole County
 - They are involved with obtaining the Derrlick land. This is a big project -- They would not have the resources to proceed with development
 - I don't feel they would be good stewards

DNR (with State Park)

- Pros:** - DNR has staff on site (at the State Park) that could supervise, operate, maintain North Point
- Keep it natural
 - Would stay State land
 - If there is a charge for entry, money for State parks

- Cons:** - No funds
- Can sell later (agreement with this)
 - Loss of local control (agreement with this)
 - Currently, parking is free at County. The other “old road” access point to the park has “No Parking” signs