

Silver Lake Park Survey Results

March 26, 2013

Final Report

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A survey was conducted by the Friends of Silver Lake to gain input regarding the future development of the new Golden Township Park located near "downtown Silver Lake. The survey was on-line from March 8-25, 2013. A link to the survey was sent to Friends of Silver Lake email addresses that consist primarily of Silver Lake area property owners and other persons who have requested to be on the mailing list. 179 persons responded to the on-line survey. Nearly all of the respondents (97.1%) were property owners or family members of property owners in Golden Township.

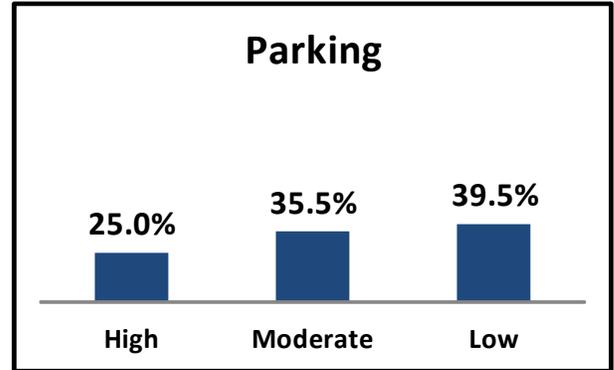
The following is the rank order of interests:

1. Site Furniture {Bike racks, Trash receptacles, Benches, Picnic tables, etc.}
2. Restrooms
3. Stream Enhancements [restore/enhance natural attributes along with bridge crossing, boardwalks]
4. Nature Trail
5. Play Area for Children
6. Landscaping/Plantings/Aesthetics
7. Improve Access to Beach
8. Exercise/Fitness Course
9. Band Shell
10. Parking
11. Multi-purpose Court [tennis, pickle ball, basketball]
12. Skate Park

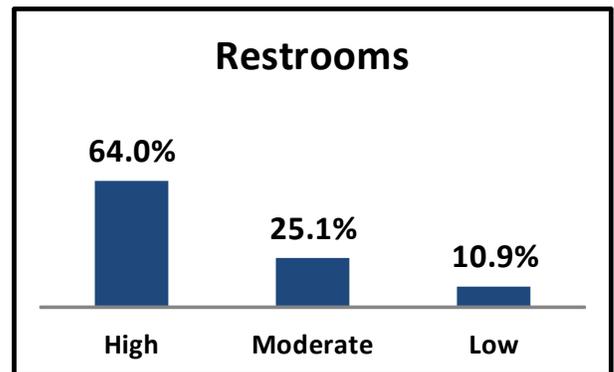
Two questions were added regarding Bike/Jogging Paths. There was very high interest in developing a bike/jogging path from Silver Lake to the Little Sable Point Lighthouse and having the Silver Lake bike path connected to the Pentwater bike path.

Thank you to all who completed the survey and also to persons working on the parking for allowing for this input.

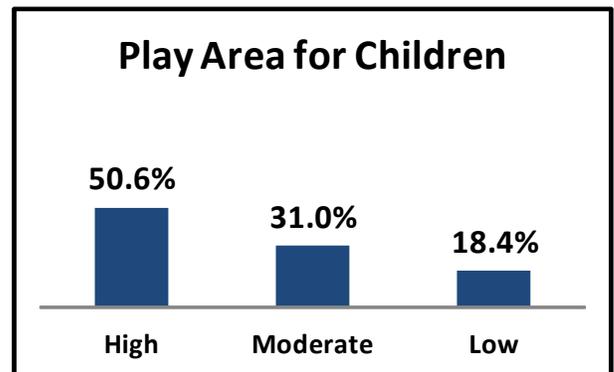
Parking		
High	43	25.0%
Moderate	61	35.5%
Low	68	39.5%



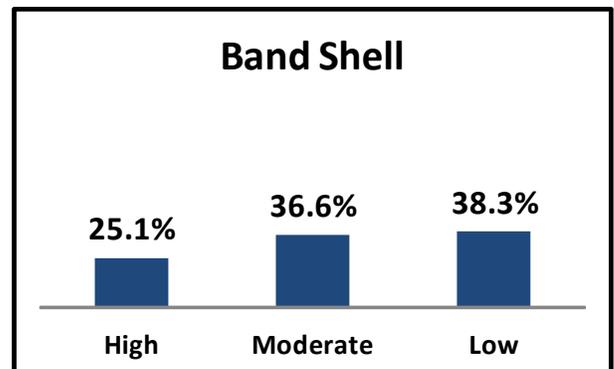
Restrooms		
High	112	64.0%
Moderate	44	25.1%
Low	19	10.9%



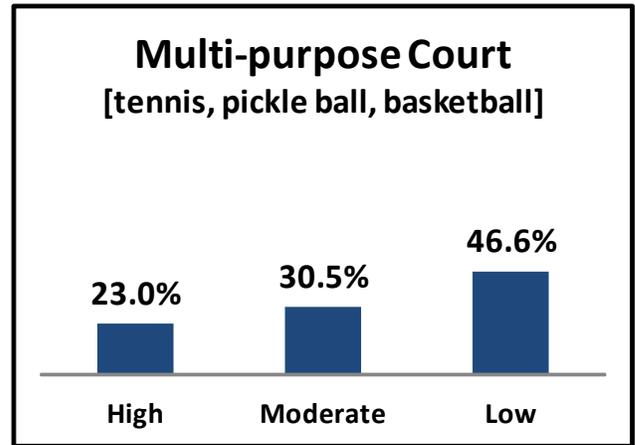
Play Area for Children		
High	88	50.6%
Moderate	54	31.0%
Low	32	18.4%



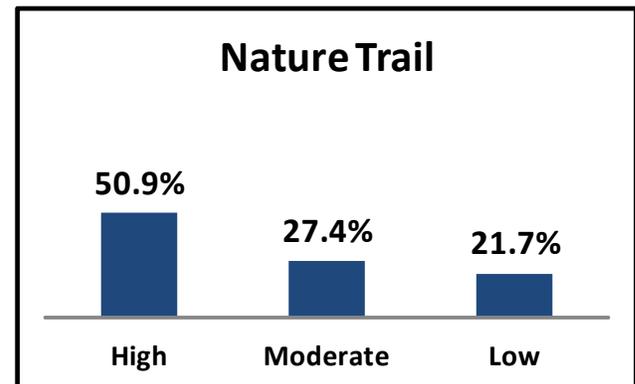
Band Shell		
High	44	25.1%
Moderate	64	36.6%
Low	67	38.3%



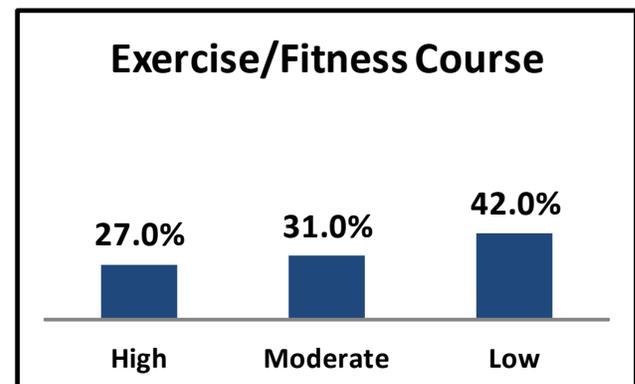
Multi-purpose Court [tennis, pickle ball, basketball]		
High	40	23.0%
Moderate	53	30.5%
Low	81	46.6%



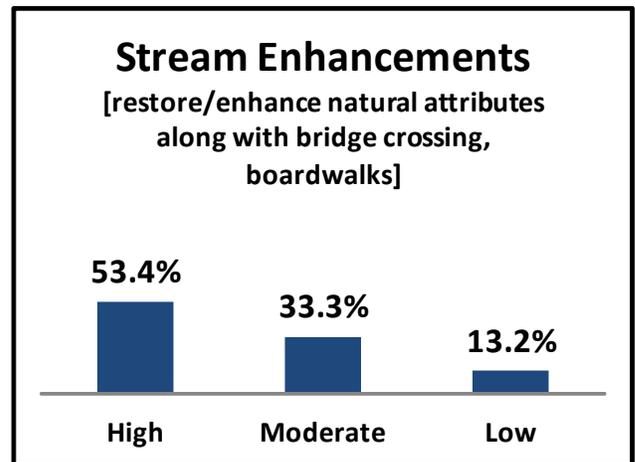
Nature Trail		
High	89	50.9%
Moderate	48	27.4%
Low	38	21.7%



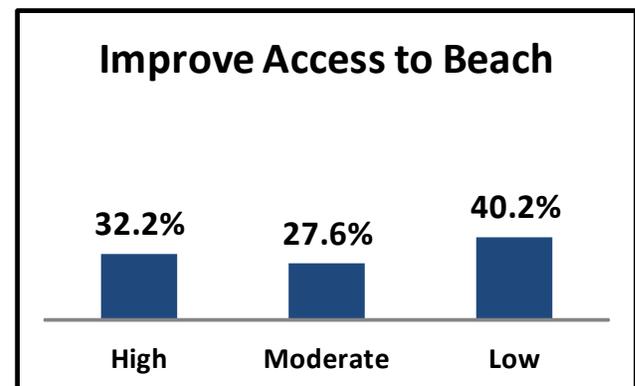
Exercise/Fitness Course		
High	47	27.0%
Moderate	54	31.0%
Low	73	42.0%



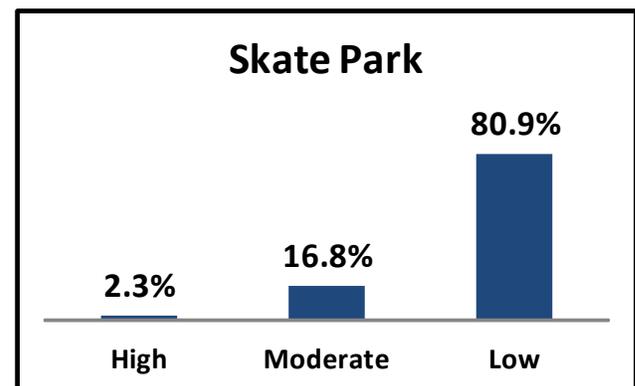
Stream Enhancements [restore/enhance natural attributes along with bridge crossing,		
High	93	53.4%
Moderate	58	33.3%
Low	23	13.2%



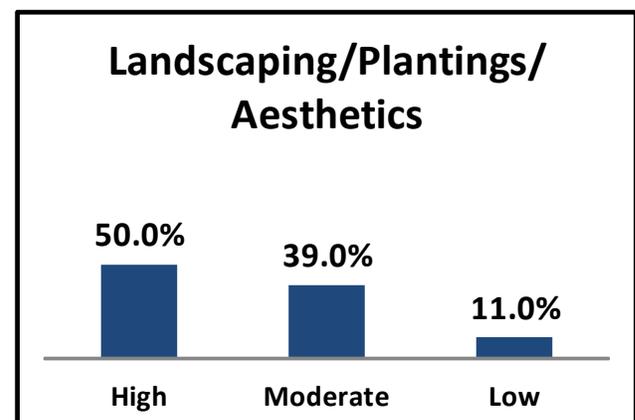
Improve Access to Beach		
High	56	32.2%
Moderate	48	27.6%
Low	70	40.2%



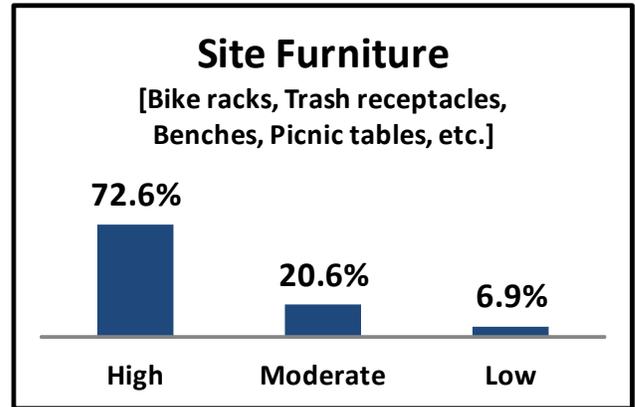
Skate Park		
High	4	2.3%
Moderate	29	16.8%
Low	140	80.9%



Landscaping/Plantings/Aesthetics		
High	86	50.0%
Moderate	67	39.0%
Low	19	11.0%

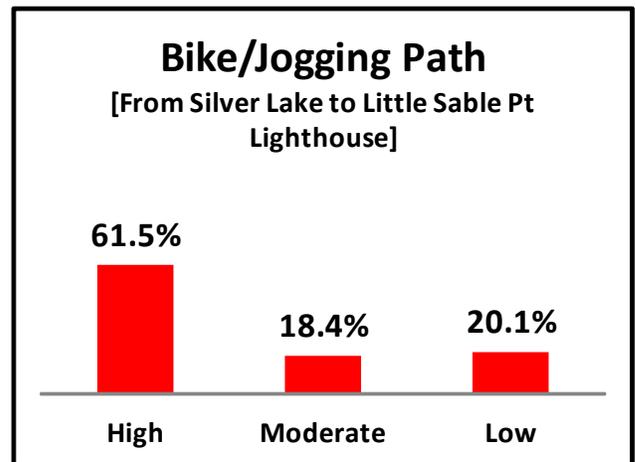


Site Furniture [Bike racks, Trash receptacles, Benches, Picnic tables, etc.]		
High	127	72.6%
Moderate	36	20.6%
Low	12	6.9%

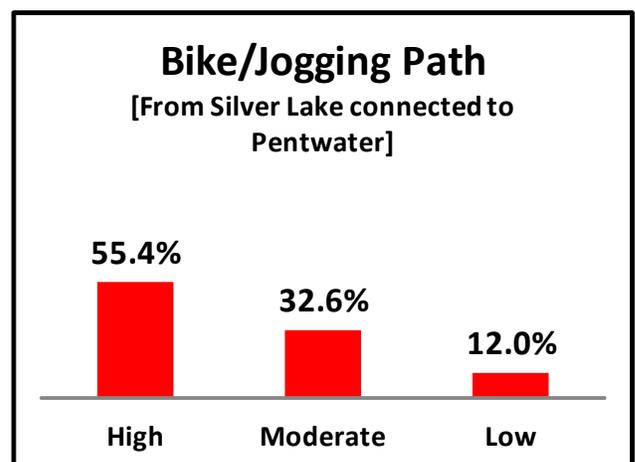


Additional Questions

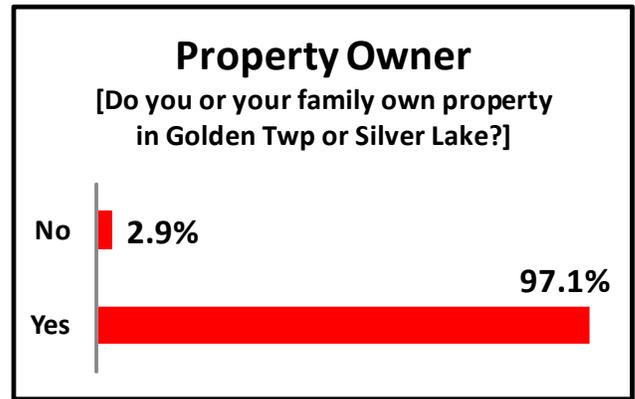
Bike/Jogging Path [From Silver Lake to Little Sable Pt Lighthouse]		
High	107	61.5%
Moderate	32	18.4%
Low	35	20.1%



Bike/Jogging Path [From Silver Lake connected to Pentwater]		
High	97	55.4%
Moderate	57	32.6%
Low	21	12.0%



Property Owner [Do you or your family own property in Golden Twp or Silver Lake?]		
Yes	167	97.1%
No	5	2.9%



Comments Regarding the Park	
1	I think a tent structure for a band shell would be interesting. Something simple but nice. It would be nice to have small theater type feel.
2	Keep hard surfaces to a minimum. Some parking and additional grass area parking for events only. A community cabin/pavilion that can be rented for a nominal fee to have family reunions, birthdays and so forth.
3	Bacci Ball court & Fire pits
4	Gazebo
5	Possibly a splash fountain , or a farmers market on weekends.
6	Concerts in the park would be wonderful. Anything to facilitate that would be good.
7	Play structure for kids.
8	I would like to see picnic tables and/or pavilion and a volleyball court.
9	Enhance the natural beauty so people can enjoy the outdoors.
10	Good lighting, and specific hours to be enforced.
11	I would like it not to look like a version of a yahoo trailer park. A serene place as we have enough yahoo places already.
12	Charge a fee for using the boat ramps and pass the money towards cleaning up the lake. It is a mess. Charge a fee for rental boats on the lake and pass this along to cleaning up the lake
13	Memorial entryway
14	Have community activities for everyone to enjoy similar to what Pentwater does.
15	I do believe it should be as natural as possible. We have a natural beautiful lake and would love to see the park compliment it.
16	set up for festivities such as Applefest and any other possible summer events
17	Keep it simple and open so it can be used for the event and other events that bring in revenue to the area.
18	Don't make this into a big parking lot! Enhance the beauty of the area. A nature trail, fitness trail/park, bike path would be a big draw to the downtown Silver Lake area.

19	How about a Frisbee golf course?
20	make it family friendly, sounds like a great idea to improve activities for the community.
21	Parking at the rear of the park, most furthest from the street so as not to make the street view look commercial. OR, make this a park accessible by bicycles and walking only Restrooms be natural composting toilets or outhouses, like they have in the National Parks.
22	Covered picnic area for large family gatherings
23	I'd like to see this area available for the community/tourists to use for beach/park access. Families/individuals could walk-up and have beach access for swimming (no boat mooring), a pavilion (band-shell), children's playground, activity courts (b-ball, volleyball, tennis). It would be nice to see the natural environment restored (stream) in this area. No parking as it would occupy too much land and there are enough campers/cottage rentals in the area that are walking distance.
24	Do use too much land for parking, tennis courts and BBall courts are great ideas. I would not spend time and money to enhance ponds from the stream. This should be a nice township park to compliment the area.
25	Splash pad
26	Everything should be natural in color scheme. No bright neons or other colors. Can we bring in an old fashioned merry-go-round? There is a great park in Arcadia that has one.
27	There is too much capacity on the lake now
28	An entertainment area with a band shelter where there can be performers either on weekends or during the week like Pentwater Village Green. A nice area for bikers to rest, picnic. Keep a skate park out as any I have ever seen end up being ruined with graffiti ! Kids disrespect was is done for them. Silver Lake is all about family time and a nice park setting and can honor with names on them like benches. A place where they have nature talks or other family events.
29	Proper lighting
30	tennis courts
31	Just keep it simple and friendly for all people to use.
32	I like the idea of a band shell. this would be awesome! this park needs to be available for kids and adults.
33	I don't think people come to our area to exercise, play tennis, etc.
34	We would like to keep it as natural as possible. We are "up north" Not in a big city. Thanks for your work
35	Is this being built on a septic field? Is this solely being funded by a grant? What will this do to our taxes? This is a nice idea but the condition of our lake is much more important.
36	Dogs leashed, dog poop bags. Signs-Please pick up litter!
37	I just want it to be available for all ages. If you put in a skate park it eliminates alot of people and will bring to many people to town just to use the skate park. It would be nice to have a nice place for families to relax, have a picnic or an ice cream. A nice walking path would be nice.
38	When grant \$\$ runs out or is no longer available, where will the \$\$ come from to maintain this park?
39	Needs to be high quality. Something we can all be proud of. This shouldn't be a park which only focuses on how to expand business operations around Silver Lake.
40	Make it user friendly for families. Not a skate board haven. Not just a hangout & place to camp out for those too cheep to stay at a campground or motel.
41	keep the park a true green space where nature prevails.
42	grading is terrible seen a few people stumble and fall during festival
43	We see no need for another park as the state park gets little use except for camping.
44	security?

45	Who would be in charge of keeping it clean and tidy?
46	Don't know how many acres we're talking about. Let's not crowd it with EVERYTHING! It should primarily be a picnic/resting, natural park. People already jog and bike...how would this be improved?????
47	Before proceeding with further development of the area, it should be a priority to clean up the lake. This entails waiting to ascertain what the results of the lake quality study spell out as the problem and what needs to be done to correct the problem. If the problem shows that a Sewer System is needed, this should be a priority over a park.
48	In our town's park, we have a tree house that the kids love. It is designed with a ramp that gradually winds up to a deck that is built around the tree. The tree canopy serves as the roof and there are no walls. There are benches and picnic tables. Kids love it! Would be a great idea to connect this park to the bike trail. Great idea for the bike trail!!!
49	There needs to be significant support for the infusion of people. Suitable lagoons, runoff problems and generally human pollution problems. This has been woefully overlooked when accounting for number of bodies granted access to the area.
50	Make the pavilion area desirable for weddings and wedding receptions.
51	Leave it open so there can be more use for different events like the October fest. like Pentwater does with their waterfront park and we need a public restroom
52	Keep apple fest there
53	Amenities that could aid in long term revenue - being able to rent the park facilities for family reunions, grad parties,
54	Family oriented.
55	Tennis courts are not available anywhere near by and would be a great addition.
56	The last thing it needs is a band shell. The noise level and traffic is too high already.
57	source for water to drink
58	The larger and more kid friendly the better
59	minimize attractive nuisances, i.e. overflowing trash, overnight parking, attractive area for congregating bikers / drinking / etc.
60	Family oriented would be fantastic.
61	Give it great street appeal. Do not have all parking lot along the street. Also some people like to part and watch the traffic go by eating ice cream. Have some perpendicular parking along the street where cars/trucks can back in to face the road.
62	Desire a multi-use site for families, couples, and kids. Also for community events.

Other Suggestions

	The survey allowed a second opportunity for suggestions
1	It is important to create a sense of community and not just trying to figure out how to advance Silver Lake businesses
2	Some sort of festival end of July/mid-August in the new park
3	Consider underground sprinkling to keep the grass green.
4	snowmobile trail
5	A passive park beautifully landscaped with little coves and picnic tables.
6	While improvements are nice and we are generally for them this just brings in more people that causes more pollution and detracts from the beauty of Silver Lake and the Dunes. Charging people to use the lake and other resources is not different than property owners paying taxes that tend to benefit all others. The money that could be raised to take care of the lake and surrounding areas would be very beneficial.
7	Group pavilion with a fireplace divider.
8	I really like #14, never thought of it! As a bicyclist, it gets a little boring cycling with all the cars from the dunes to the lighthouse and back, dunes to the lighthouse and back, etc. Would LOVE for a path through the woods. Re: #15. I didn't know there is a Pentwater Bike Path! I live right on W. Silver Lake Rd. The number of bicyclists increases A LOT every year. Please DON'T do anything that will encourage more dune buggies. If parking is added, make it available only for cars, not dune buggy trailers and dune runners. They have their own area off Ridge Road. We don't want them revving their engines in our residential areas. Great survey. Whoever put it together seems to have thought of everything except type of toilet. (unisex!) Thank you whoever you are!
9	Everyone knows the big draw to the area is the ORV park, without it the Silver Lake economy would die. Developing this park properly could help diversify Silver Lake and create another "draw" to the area. I feel a fitness area/bike
10	Limited hours. Dawn to Dusk.
11	I jog from Silver Lake to the Lighthouse (four miles) every weekend in the summer and see no need for additional paths along this route. Don't ruin the natural landscape and environment, the side of the road is perfectly fine for pedestrians! A path to Pentwater would be nice.
12	I would like for you, after this project, put some serious time in on dredging hunters creek. A lot of people would benefit from this, and at least maintain the value of our homes.
13	Keep it revolved around the beauty of the dunes and not a piece of property that will be trashed or not maintained. People come to Silver Lake to play in the water, visit the beaches and play on the dunes and camp or enjoy your summer cottage ! Don't commercialize Silver Lake !
14	lower speed limit west of park
15	I think there is plenty of access to the beach. will there be a fee charged to access the beach?
16	Is there room to make a bike path to the lighthouse?
17	Interested in safety but keep the natural look.
18	Our concern is what this will do to our property taxes.
19	All profit from the Apple/BBQ Fest should fund any improvements and ongoing upkeep. Businesses should not profit from community property and volunteer efforts - it should go back to the whole community.

20	Adequate park patrol, park rules posted.
21	Family Friendly for all ages.
22	do it so TAXES !!!!!!!!! don't go UP !!!!!I mean that 100 PERCENT you are making it very !!!! hard pay for the lake study the electricity rates are going UP GAS UP EVERY THING BUT PAY CHECKS we don't heed much but the land to start whit and we should talk about it at the meetings like a good community should it's are land are money so work tougher so every one is as happy as we can possibly make it ! AGAIN ITS ARE TAX MONEY so lets take are time and make it something they we are happy whit AND NOT BROKE AND PAYING FOR FOREVER
23	How many more people can this community cram in on a Holiday Weekend than it already has?
24	The road be between Termite Bridge and the lighthouse is a safety hazard. Walking and riding bikes on this road along with vehicular traffic is a major problem. I would like to see a bike path that is an extension of West Silver Lake Rd through the State owned woods, over the dune and end at the lighthouse. This could be very scenic. It could start as a dirt path to begin with and then improved over time.
25	The improvements are nice ideas. However no increase in taxes for the lake property owners.
26	this is for question #17 we have a seasonal lot in campground
27	pet friendly on leash water fountains for drinking
28	I primarily see this park as a place for tourists and day visitors to take their "fast food". and have space and an attractive natural place to rest and eat. Car parking is a necessary evil!!
29	If it is decided that some type of park is warranted, I would strongly urge the Township officials because of the close proximity of private property to not include a band stand for reasons of noise.
30	If we were connected to the bike paths it would make it more desirable for winter sports. Snowmobiling, x-country skiing, etc.
31	The existing bike path needs maintenance, before adding on to it. The grass and sand are covering it, making it very narrow.
32	Make park accessible by walking or biking only. Parking may encourage transients who may abuse facilities and leave.
33	Love the idea that Silver Lake is looking into these issues. As more and more visitors come up to the area, I think the more ammenities they see, the more likely they will be to recommend the area. Our family has owned our cottages for
34	I would like to have another (really nice, informal)seasonal restaraunt on Silver Lake. The closer to the lake shore the better. Serve local wines, beers, etc. Incorporate a wine tasting store. These types of places are very popular in Grand Haven. This will be another reason for people to visit SL.
35	where would the bike path in question 14 above run? along the road or cross country?