

Community Input – Notes from Community Meeting

Bruce Crossing, Interior Township, Township of McMillan and the Town of Ewen

M-28 Visual Enhancement
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday May 13, 2004

Vision 2024- We Picture This

- A friendly more inviting place
- More natural ornamentation
- More lush and colorful detail
- More of a community feel
- Prosperous communication
- Street lights on highway
- Shops or mini-mall on mill property
- Shops on the west side of division
- Business development on North East corner (Interior Township)
- Golf course on mill property
- Seniors housing
- Retirement/vacation condos
- Motel/gas station (Interior Township)
- More accessibility to the trout creek for fishing/walking (Interior Township)
- Bike path along M-28
- Sidewalks and lighting in each community
- Signage to points of interest, such as falls, parks, lakes
- Shrubs and flowers along the corridor
- Heritage centers in each community
- Common zoning laws for all communities
- Small rest areas in each community
- Extension curbing in each community
- New playground and camping – handicapped accessible
- Nicer playground
- A nicer highway (no potholes)
- Flowers – landscaping
- Less signs in town
- Welcome signs out of town
- Sidewalks (Where are they)
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Develop our mill pond with disability/handicap access
- Better signage of community
- Signage to fit in with natural existing settings (Pond)

- More utilization of natural area of pond
- Development of: Access to stream and pond – Preserve and promote our existing natural sites
- Sidewalk you can use
- Public restrooms
- Shrubs and Plants
- Clock
- Water Fountain
- Pocket Parks
- Wildflowers
- Unified look (Business too)
- No power poles
- Benches
- Nice signage
- Nicer lighting
- Lots of community activity
- Remove power lines
- New curbing/sidewalks
- Decorative Street Lights
- Decorative bricks between curb and sidewalk
- Ornamental boulevard/Trees
- Paved shoulders/Bike trails
- Remove blight

Current Conditions/Issues/Visual Invaders

- Vacant businesses – run down
- Too much over growth of brush (Tag alders)
- Sub standard housing and junk
- Brush (Mill Pond)
- Electric Poles
- Vacant Property (Mill area)
- No trimming or mowing – too wild (Maintained wilderness is what we want)
- Overgrowth
- Blight along highway M-28
- Power Poles
- Invasive species
- Potholes in roads
- M-28 has horizontal pressure wear concaves that make for unsafe driving
- Poor signage
- Junk houses
- Power poles
- Blight next to highway
- Too many signs
- Industry on highways
- Curb, sidewalk and roads in poor shape
- Snow piled up near road that blocks traffic view during winter

- Potholes in road
- Collapsed buildings
- Power poles
- Blights (eyesores)

Roadblocks

- Cost
- Funding – Discouraging
- Small community – Who will give us a grant?
- Population decline
- School enrollment at 625 students in 1970's, 349 today
- 1.5% decline in population from July 2002 to July 2003
- Township taxable values are increasing
- Lack of industry
- Same people doing everything
- “So small” apathy
- Loosing at a slow rate
- “I wish somebody would” attitude
- Whose responsibility is it?

How do we get there?

- Fundraisers
- Generate support first
- Identify a project
- If we don't try, we won't get anything

Themes we would like to see

- Historic
 - ❖ For Baby boomers that are returning from the 1950's
 - ❖ Logging
 - ❖ Early times – Farm, creamery, show halls
- Classy wood signs
- Porcupine
- Ottawa Corridor
- Earthy
- Love the outdoors
- Natural looking animals (Not cartoon)
- Common theme with the tree communities working together
- Common continuity with landscaping
- Dress up the Four corners to increase business traffic

What are our priorities

1. Flowers and landscaping with consistency throughout three communities
2. Enhance the Four corners of Interior Township, Standard Township and McMillan Township

3. Sidewalks (Particularly from the community to the school in McMillan Township)
4. Welcome signs with consistency throughout the three communities
5. Develop access to pond and stream
6. Wheelchair accessible playground
7. General cleanup of blight
8. Remove power poles