

Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance

“A Unified Voice for the Restoration and Preservation of the Peoria Lakes”

For further information regarding the Alliance, please contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 309-673-9330

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

Monday, June 26, 2017

12:00 pm

TCRPC Offices

456 Fulton St, Suite 401

Peoria, IL

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
 1. Survey Questions
 2. Open House Stations
 3. Flyer
 4. Website
- III. Other
- IV. Adjournment



**Heartland Water
Resources Council
of Central Illinois**
416 Main St. Ste. 828
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 637-5253

Representatives
Executive Director:
Tom Tincher

Board Members:
Steve Van Winkle
Wayne Ingram



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

301 S.W. Adams St.
Ste. 1007
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 673-6689

Representatives
State Director:
Michelle Carr

Board Members:
Chris Ryan
Ken Katch



**Tri-County Regional
Planning
Commission**
456 Fulton St., Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 673-9330

Representatives
Executive Director:
Eric Miller

Board Members:
Darrell Meisinger
Russ Crawford

Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan Survey Questions

Intro/Background info: Thank you for participating in this survey, which should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

The Upper and Lower Peoria Lakes, which refer to the widened portion of the Illinois River near Peoria, are Greater Peoria's most precious natural resource and have supported life in the Illinois River Valley for 12,000 years. However, as increasing urban development and industrialization occurred over time, water quality declined, habitat was lost and degraded, and sedimentation has steadily filled the Lakes, leaving some areas less than 3 feet deep. The Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance (PLBA) was established in 2001 to coordinate efforts to restore and preserve the Peoria Lakes.

PLBA and other regional stakeholders are joining forces to develop a Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The purpose of this planning process is to develop a set of strategies to address Peoria Lakes' environmental challenges and identify opportunities to preserve the natural environment of the Illinois River and Peoria Lakes for current and future generations. By answering the following questions, you can help contribute to the success of this planning process.

Perception Questions

1. I am satisfied with the current status of the Peoria Lakes.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
2. I am concerned about the future status of the Peoria Lakes.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
3. Conservation efforts for the Peoria Lakes are important for our communities.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
4. I would be supportive of having an organized comprehensive plan for the Peoria Lakes.

- a. Strongly Disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. Neutral
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly Agree

Concerns/Issues

- 5. Asian Carp are a problem in the Peoria Lakes.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
- 6. The water quality is a problem in the Peoria Lakes.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
- 7. The loss of depth of the Peoria Lakes is a problem.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
- 8. Sedimentation is a problem in the Peoria Lakes.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
- 9. The decline of habitat in the Peoria Lakes is a problem.
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
- 10. I would support the following types of conservation or restoration methods in the Peoria Lakes:
 - a. *Comment box*
- 11. I am familiar with any other (past or present) restoration efforts in the Illinois Waterway.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

12. If you answered yes to the above question, what are those efforts?
- a. *Comment box*

Usage/Lake Activity Questions

13. I use the Peoria Lakes ____.
- a. Never
 - b. Rarely
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Often
 - e. Frequently
14. The declined state of ecological health inhibits my usage of the Peoria Lakes.
- a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
15. If you answered **d** or **e** in the above question, in what way?
- a. *Comment box*
16. I enjoy the Peoria Lakes.
- a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
17. I partake in the following activities involving the Lakes: **(select all that apply)**
- a. Boating
 - b. Jet skiing/water skiing
 - c. Canoeing
 - d. Fishing
 - e. Camping
 - f. Bird watching
 - g. Walking/biking
 - h. Sightseeing/viewing
 - i. Other
 - a. *Comment box*
 - j. Not applicable/I do not use the lakes

Demographics

18. Gender
- a. Male
 - b. Female
19. Age

- a. Under 18 years old
- b. 18-29 years old
- c. 30-49 years old
- d. 50-64 years old
- e. 65 years and over

20. Race/Ethnicity

- a. White
- b. Hispanic or Latino
- c. African American
- d. Asian/Pacific Islander
- e. Other
- f. More than one
- g. Prefer not to respond

21. Education

- a. Some high school
- b. High school graduate/ GED
- c. Some college
- d. Associate degree
- e. Bachelor's degree
- f. Master's degree
- g. Professional degree
- h. Doctorate degree

22. Employment Status

- a. Employed for wages
- b. Self-employed
- c. Out of work and looking
- d. Out of work and not currently looking
- e. Homemaker
- f. Student
- g. Military
- h. Retired
- i. Unable to work

23. I live in _____.

- a. Tazewell County
- b. Peoria County
- c. Woodford County
- d. Other

i. Include comment box

24. I am a member of the following advocacy group(s) **(select all that apply)**:

- a. Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance
- b. The Nature Conservancy
- c. Heartland Water Partnership

- d. Friends of Riverfront Park
- e. Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste
- f. Ducks Unlimited
- g. Sierra Club
- h. Greenpeace
- i. Prairie Rivers Network
- j. Illinois Environmental Council
- k. Global Warming Solutions
- l. Friends of the Earth
- m. (list others here)
- n. Other
 - i. *Comment box*

Thank you for participating in this survey.

If you are interested in receiving updates on this planning process, please fill out the information below:

Name: _____

Email: _____

JULY 13 OPEN HOUSE STATIONS

for Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

8 Stations for public comments, participation, visioning, and learning

- SWOT analysis
- Innovation board
- Future vision
- Large map
- Conceptual ecological model
- "Fishing for facts"
- Community photos
- Ecological exhibit

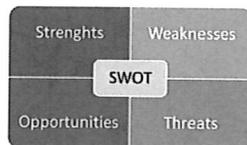
1) SWOT analysis

■ **Materials:**

- Poster board
- Post-it notes
- Pens

■ **Questions:**

- *In your opinion, what are the major strengths of the Peoria Lakes?*
- *In your opinion, what are the major weaknesses of the Peoria Lakes?*
- *In your opinion, what are possible opportunities for the Peoria Lakes?*
- *In your opinion, what are some threats to the Peoria Lakes?*



2) Innovation board

■ One question on each side:

- What do Peoria Lakes mean to you?
- What is your favorite memory involving the Peoria Lakes?



3) Future vision exercise

Writing & Drawing

- Draw or write how you see the Peoria Lakes in 25-30 years.
 - *What do they look like?*
 - *What do they feel like?*
 - *What do they smell like?*
 - *Have there been major changes since today?*
 - *Has the surrounding land use changed?*
 - (ex. More parks, urban areas, residential, trails, etc.)

More detailed questions

- What is your future vision for the Peoria Lakes?
 - What are some future conservation/environmental project ideas?
 - What are some future project ideas for the areas bordering the Lakes?
 - What are some additional recreational activities you'd like to see on the Lakes?
- Opportunity to pin responses & drawings on a bulletin board

4) Large map with stickers

- Where and how do you use the lake?
 - *Boating, Jet skiing, water skiing, tubing*
 - *Canoeing*
 - *Fishing*
 - *Camping*
 - *Bird watching*
 - *Walking/biking*
 - *Sightseeing/viewing*
 - *Other*



5) Conceptual Ecological Model (Corps)

- Corps will man a station showing an ecological model of the Peoria Lakes

6) "Fishing for facts"

- Attendees "go fishing" to learn Peoria Lakes facts
- Magnetic fishing pole with fish cutouts



7) Peoria Lakes Photos slideshow: Crowdsourced



- Use #PartakeInPeoriaLakes hashtag on social media
- Ask community members to submit photos of their experiences on the Peoria Lakes



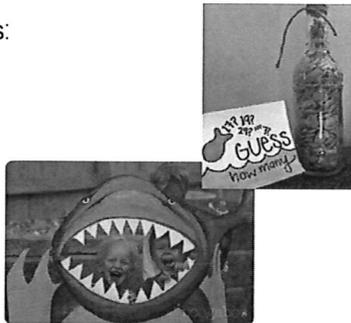
8) Ecological exhibit

- Mini museum exhibit
- Shows organisms that live in the Peoria Lakes
- Guessing game with ecological facts
- Call Peoria Riverfront Museum to ask for assistance?



Other elements:

- Tablets for use in survey
- Online live polling
- Comment box
- Photo frame in the shape of a fish
- Guess how many goldfish are in a jar
 - Winner gets to keep the jar





**For project updates and
additional information, visit:**

www.partakeinpeorialakes.com

We're on social media too!



**Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
@TriCountyRPC**

#PartakeInPeoriaLakes

Partake In Peoria Lakes

Project Outline

April 2017:

Project kick-off

July 2017:

First public meeting to gather input

January 2018:

Public review of the draft plan & second public meeting

Spring 2018:

Comprehensive Conservation Plan complete

Mission

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are joining forces to engage the public and regional stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive conservation plan for the Peoria Lakes. The purpose of this planning process is to develop a set of strategies to address Peoria Lakes' environmental challenges and identify opportunities to preserve the natural environment of the Illinois River and Peoria Lakes for current and future generations to use.