



Owasippe Scout Reservation Taskforce Recommendations



May 19, 2010

The mission of the Owasippe Scout Reservation for nearly 100 years has been to provide, to the youth served by our council, the best possible outdoor experience through continued access to quality camping programs, facilities, support, and promotion.

The Owasippe Task Force submits the following recommendations to help continue and strengthen Owasippe Scout Reservation mission for the next 100 years.

Primary Program Usage

- Primary purpose of Owasippe Scout Reservation is to service the following communities:
 1. Boy Scout Summer Camp
 2. Webelos Summer Camp
 3. Scout and Scouter Training
 4. Family Camp
 5. Offseason BSA usage
 6. Offseason non-BSA usage

Master Plan

The taskforce regards the creation of a master plan before land is sold, to be critical to the future of Owasippe. A master plan for the camp would serve as a comprehensive strategic roadmap to guide future land use and program development. It would also offer guidance on property, building, ecology and forest management, program opportunities on and off season, marketing plan, potential funding needs and priority and endowment to sustain future use.

- Potential Sections
 - Property development and management
 - Program on and off season
 - Marketing
 - Ecology and forest management
 - Maintenance
 - Funding and endowment

Mission Critical Property

The taskforce has identified the following property as mission critical. The taskforce defines mission critical as property that should remain under council ownership to support the primary program.

- Lake Wolverine and surrounding property
- Camp Wolverine
- Camp Blackhawk and Big Blue shoreline
- Camp Carlen and Camp Crown
- Ad Center Complex
 - Food Prep, Maintenance, Museum, Ranger housing, Heath Lodge, Gray Staff Village

Property Recommendations

- Establish sub-camp population size using facility, programmatic and staff size as a guideline
- Examine ways to reduce need to transport scouts to out of sub-camp program areas (example: foot bridge across Lake Wolverine)
- Examine additional ways to responsibly reduce maintenance, energy and propane costs
- Review lake cabins status and demolish non-serviceable cabins
- Develop long term conservation plan. Potential options include:
 - Green Initiatives (recycling, saving energy, etc...)
 - Campsite management
 - Responsible forest management program
 - Limiting size of units in campsites
- Examine current and future buildings that could have multi-purpose and all season use
- Hire industry expert(s) to review infrastructure (power, gas, water, septic and roads) and make recommendations.
- Examine what to do with camp owned aging tents, cots and floor boards. Potential option include:
 - Units provide own tents and cots or rent tents and cots from camp for a fee
- Examine using durable building materials in current and future buildings. Potential options include:
 - Metal roofs for larger buildings
 - Cinder block construction
 - ConEx or cargo boxes for storage
 - Prefab buildings

Sub-camp Recommendations

- Develop reservation wide flexible dining plan that allow units to choose either
 - Dining hall
 - Hot pack delivered to campsite
 - Raw food delivered to campsite
- Limit automobile traffic in sub-camps and campsites
- Redesign KYBO to accommodate individual and externally accessible stalls
- Examine building centralized shower facilities versus showers in individual KYBOs
- Examine additional program offerings. Potential options include:
 - Additional merit badges
 - BMX biking
 - Sports program
 - Order of the Arrow Survey (See attached document)
- Recommend each program area have appropriate storage
- Create multi-use fields in Camp Blackhawk and Camp Wolverine
- Examine adding or renovating an existing campsite for handicap access
- Continue to support lone troop program but may not need to be located at Hiawatha Beach

General Campsite Recommendations

- Campsites should be designed with patrol method focus
 - Areas for 3-4 patrols, adult area and central troop area
- One site per KYBO
- One troop per campsite
- Define size and capacity for each campsite. Assign campsites to troop using the size and capacity as a guideline.

Camp Blackhawk

- Develop plan to add or reopen campsites to accommodate single troop per site and single site per KYBO.

Camp Wolverine

- Develop plan to add or reopen campsites to accommodate single troop per site and single site per KYBO. Plan should include provisions to move some program areas to central locations.
- Build new dining hall or open air pavilion. Plan should include severe weather provisions and facility should be centrally located.
- Build new lodge for meeting space and camp offices
- Examine building cost, use and ongoing maintenance to build a new swimming pool versus creating a swimming area on Lake Wolverine

Camp Reneker

- Recommend keeping family camp
- Family camp may not need to be in its current location or configuration
- Develop long range plan for family camp. Potential options include:
 - Lodge
 - Cabins
 - Tent and/or campsites
 - Trailer hookups
 - Appropriate program areas including aquatics, shooting sports, picnic area, playground, etc...

Diamond O Ranch

- Develop plan to move ranch and riding trails to Camp Crown

Camp Carlen

- Examine future use of swimming pool
- Remove serviceable hardware and demolish extra buildings

Camp Crown

- Move ranch operations and develop riding trails
- Keep lodge, 4 campsites and associated KYBO for future use
- Examine future use of swimming pool
- Remove serviceable hardware and demolish extra buildings

Administrative Center / Maintenance Facilities

- Develop maintenance plan that includes how to opening and close camp
- Review current maintenance facilities to determine if there is a need for additional storage
- Develop plan to use aqua dock storage area as training facility
- Replace or extensively renovate cooks cabins
- Examine future usage of Gray's Staff Village and Tent City.

Food Prep

- Determine status of all cooking equipment
- Determine future needs of equipment and develop repair and maintenance plan



Owasippe Scout Reservation Taskforce Members



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Owasippe Lodge 7 – Order of the Arrow

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District Representatives

Carmen Trapani – Arrowhead
John Kryl – Fort Dearborn
Ken Nikiel – Indian Trails
Ron Loszach – Iroquois
Robert Alanis – River Trails
John Knox – Greater South Side
Gunnard Polite – Western Trails



Owasippe Scout Reservation Taskforce Property Map



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The taskforce has also included a map outlining the mission critical property, buffer property and non-critical or low priority property.

The taskforce strongly debated the need for a buffer zone and to protect the watershed on the southern end of Lake Wolverine. Taskforce strongly encourages that careful consideration be given to any potential sale of the land in Area 3 on the attached map.

Map Key

Area 1 (Green border)

Mission critical property

Area 2 (Yellow shading)

Potential buffer area near Camp Blackhawk

Area 3 (Yellow shading)

Potential buffer area south of Camp Wolverine

Area 4 (Red shading)

Non-critical or low priority property

Area 5 (Blue shading)

Non-critical or low priority property

