

# Michiana Village Master Plan Survey #1

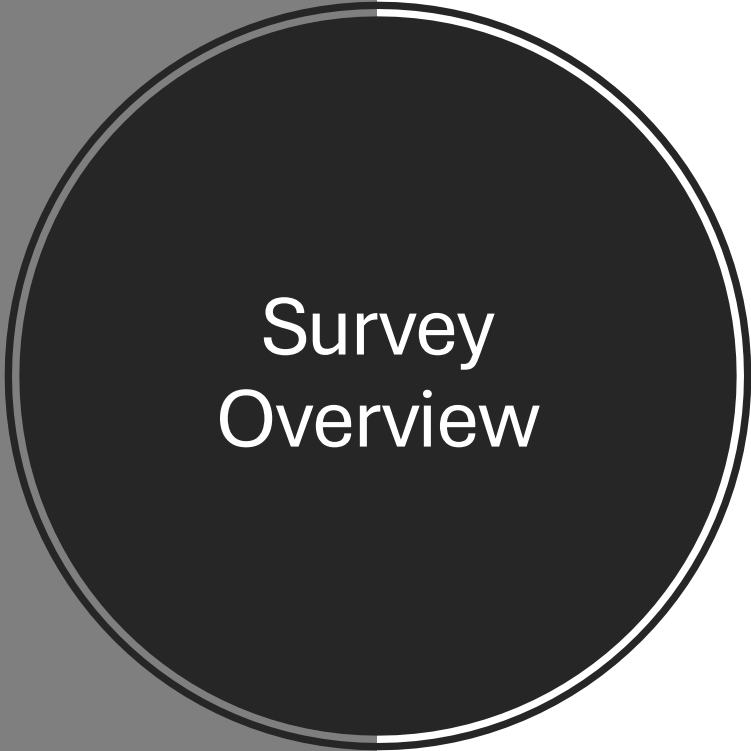
**Analysis of Question 11:**

***What improvements would you like to see in the Village?***

**Reviewed and approved: March 19, 2025**

**Revised with community comments: May 28, 2025**

Compiled by Seymour Turner



## Survey Overview

*Question 11 of the survey asked,*  
**“What improvements would you like to see in the Village?”**

*The question was answered by **216 respondents:***

- There were **713 individual suggestions** for “improvement”
- There were 22 responses that were unclear or neutral

# Methodology

- Responses containing several ideas were separated into individual suggestions
- The individual suggestions were edited to clarify their meaning
  - If the reviewer was unsure of his interpretation the suggestion was reviewed by ChatGPT4.0 for meaning
- A list of 101 gross categories were created and each of the suggestions was assigned to up to three
  - See Table 1
- The gross categories were then assigned to 43 sub-categories under six main categories
  - See Table 2

All  
Suggestions  
by General  
Categories  
(713 responses)

***Beaches received the most suggestions for improvement followed by Infrastructure & Public Works, Policy & Zoning, and Parks & Recreation.***

Rank	Suggestions by General Category	Mentions	% of Total
1	Beaches	156	22%
2	Infrastructure & Public Works	144	20%
3	Policy & Zoning	138	19%
4	Parks & Recreation	133	19%
5	Enforcement & Safety	95	13%
6	Village Management	47	7%

*% of Total amounts are rounded to whole number*

# #1 BEACHES (156 responses)

**Over 60% of all responses about beaches were suggestions to maintain and improve beach access. Another 23% were concerns about beach hazards and erosion.**

Rank	Beach Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Maintain/Improve beaches, stops, stairs	96	62%	13%
2	Remove beach hazards	18	12%	3%
3	Erosion control	17	11%	2%
4	Enforce village ordinances	11	7%	2%
5	More parking at beach	6	4%	1%
6	More pet access	5	3%	1%
7	Control non-resident access	3	2%	<1%

## Key community comments on maintaining and/or improving beaches, stops, and stairs

"Improve beach maintenance—bring back regular raking and debris removal like in past years."  
 "Repair and upgrade beach access points, especially Stop 43, which floods and needs better stairs and drainage."  
 "Ensure wider, safer, and more accessible stairs and pathways to the beach for all users, including those with disabilities."  
 "Provide porta-potties and water stations (like showers or fountains) at more beach stops, especially new or popular ones."  
 "Expand and improve kayak/SUP storage near beach access, with options for multiple spaces per household."  
 "Don't charge residents for beach access or kayak use—we already pay taxes!"  
 "Place more garbage cans at beach stops and keep them year-round to manage pet and visitor waste."  
 "Add storage options for beach chairs and other gear directly on or near the beach."  
 "Open all beach stops and continue year-round investment in beach access infrastructure."  
 "Care for and invest in beaches as a community asset, ensuring they are clean, safe, and welcoming."

## #2 Infrastructure & Public Works (144 responses)

**28% of all responses about infrastructure & public works suggested improvements in road maintenance followed by better electricity reliability, telecommunication systems, and public property clean-up.**

Rank	Infrastructure & Public Works Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Improve road maintenance	40	28%	6%
2	Improve reliability of electric service	25	17%	4%
3	Improve telecommunication systems	19	13%	3%
4	Improve clean-up on public property	18	13%	3%
5	Improve yard waste pickup	17	12%	2%
6	Improve sanitation services	13	9%	2%
7	Improve water, sewer, drainage systems	12	8%	2%

### Key community comments on improving road maintenance and reliability of utility services

"Fix potholes and repave roads consistently, with special attention to high-use areas like Michiana Drive, Chicagami, and Lake Shore Drive."

"Establish a long-term road maintenance plan that includes drainage improvements, ice treatment, and timely repairs—not just random cold patching."

"Improve electrical grid reliability and reduce power outages, especially in vulnerable areas like southeast Village near Grand Beach Rd."

"Bury power and communication lines to prevent outages, protect views, and enhance the appearance of Lake Shore Drive."

"Upgrade street infrastructure—including stormwater management—to reduce flooding, standing water, and winter hazards."

"Enhance cell service throughout the Village, including the beach and lakeshore areas, with options like new towers or boosters."

"Improve Wi-Fi and internet access across the community, including 5G availability and service at the beach."

"End the internet monopoly—bring in additional providers to improve service and affordability."

"Maintain overhead utility lines and poles until they can be moved underground; repair damaged infrastructure proactively."

"Boost communication and transparency about roadwork, utility maintenance, and service restoration timelines."

### #3 Policy & Zoning (138 responses)

**Almost 30% of all responses about Village policies & zoning were related to short-term rentals.**

Rank	Policy & Zoning Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Issues with short-term rentals	39	28%	5%
2	Limit night-time lighting	21	15%	3%
3	Issues with building, planning, & zoning ordinances	17	12%	2%
4	Control non-resident access	13	9%	2%
4	Improve environmental & sustainability efforts	13	9%	2%
6	Enforce noise ordinance	10	7%	1%
7	Preserve the Village character	9	7%	1%
8	Concerns with Tree Board & policies	6	4%	1%
9	Issues with nearby cannabis trade	4	3%	1%
10	Create inter-village transportation service	3	2%	<1%
10	More parking	2	1%	<1%
12	Planning for inclusivity (disabled, older adults)	1	1%	<1%

#### Key community comments relating to short-term rentals, night-time lighting, and building, planning, zoning ordinances

"Limit short-term rentals and enforce rules on noise, garbage, parking, and overcrowding to preserve the village's peaceful character."  
 "Adopt and enforce a minimum rental duration (e.g., one month) to discourage constant turnover and restore neighborhood stability."  
 "Strengthen enforcement of existing rental ordinances and increase accountability for non-compliant owners and repeat offenders."  
 "Adopt a 'Dark Sky' policy—limit unnecessary outdoor lighting, spotlighting, and house floods to reduce light pollution and enjoy night skies."  
 "Require all exterior lighting to face downward or use motion sensors to eliminate glare and preserve village ambiance."  
 "Enforce and revise zoning rules to prevent oversized homes on small lots and ensure consistent application of building codes."  
 "Encourage larger lots and thoughtful spacing in new development to avoid crowding and maintain open character."  
 "Discourage commercialization of homes solely for rental use and restrict new modular or large-scale speculative builds."  
 "Enhance code enforcement for visible disrepair, excessive signage, and storage that affects neighborhood aesthetics."  
 "Refocus Village efforts on core community values—peace, quiet, and natural beauty over amenities like sports courts or beautification projects."

## #4 Parks & Recreation (133 responses)

***Over half of all responses about parks & recreation were suggestions to create more community events and to add amenities at the community hall***

Rank	Parks & Recreation Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Create more community events	36	27%	5%
2	Add amenities at community hall	35	26%	5%
3	Maintain/Improve park facilities	18	14%	3%
4	Improve sport courts	15	11%	2%
5	More nature & bike trails	13	10%	2%
6	More pet access	12	9%	2%
7	Keep & improve the day camp	4	3%	1%

### Key community comments on creating more community events and adding amenities to the community hall

"Improve access to public bathrooms year-round—especially at parks, Village Hall, and the community center—and avoid using portable toilets."

"Host more community events like concerts, movie nights, food truck evenings, happy hours, and mixers to foster connection among residents."

"Expand recreational programming at the community center—offer yoga, fitness, gardening, music, art, and classes for all ages."

"Make Village Hall a year-round community hub with open hours, card nights, coffee socials, book clubs, and better accessibility."

"Support more outdoor events in the park—live music, fitness classes, movie nights, and a seasonal pavilion or stage."

"Introduce a regular farmers market or pop-up shops and consider small-scale local businesses like a café, ice cream stand, or convenience store."

"Encourage recycling and sustainability—restore the recycling center, offer annual electronics collection, and explore composting services."

"Create more opportunities for teens and young adults—programs like sports tournaments, movie nights, and board game events."

"Improve facilities and equipment—upgrade Village Hall floors, bathrooms, sound systems, and explore installing a car charging station."

"Preserve and enhance the village's natural beauty with garden walks, outdoor seating, bigger windows in public buildings.."



## #5 Enforcement & Safety (95 responses)

**80% of all responses about enforcement & safety were related unsafe driving & road hazards, noise, and police patrols.**

Rank	Enforcement & Safety Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Reduce unsafe driving & road hazards	39	41%	5%
2	Enforce noise ordinance	19	20%	3%
3	Increase police patrols	18	19%	3%
4	Remove speed bumps	10	11%	1%
5	Enforce pet ordinances (leash, waste)	7	7%	1%
6	Improve EMS & fire protection services	2	2%	<1%

### Key community comments regarding road safety, noise, and public safety

"Increase police presence and enforcement—especially in summer months—to address speeding, noise, fireworks, and ordinance violations."

"Implement stricter regulations on golf carts: age limits, safety belts, speed control, enforcement of stop signs, and possible special licensing."

"Strictly enforce fireworks restrictions—ban military-grade displays, prohibit use near homes, and issue permits only to residents."

"Lower and clearly mark speed limits, especially near parks and hills; install more speed bumps where necessary."

"Improve signage for speed, stop signs, pedestrians, and safety zones—ensure visibility and proper placement to reduce confusion and risk."

"Support continued funding for a dedicated Village Police Department to maintain responsive, local public safety oversight."

"Improve regulation of noise, including pickleball hours, leaf blowers, and overall quiet hours, to preserve the Village's peaceful environment."

"Ensure safe use of public roads—ticket cars parked dangerously, enforce no-parking zones like on the lake side of LSD, and prohibit overnight street parking on well-traveled roads."

"Address pedestrian safety by widening roads like Lake Shore Drive and educating walkers, joggers, and cyclists on safe road sharing."

"Maintain and clear public rights-of-way—trim overgrown areas to improve visibility and safety at intersections and paths."

## #6 Village Management (47 responses)

*Almost 80% of all responses about Village management were related to taxes & spending, improvements in communications from the Village, and general concerns about Village politics*

Rank	Village Management Suggestions	# of Mentions	% of Section	% of all Suggestions
1	Reduce Village taxes, fees & spending	15	32%	2%
2	Improve communications from Village	14	30%	2%
3	Concerns with Village politics	8	17%	1%
4	Improve wildlife management	5	11%	1%
5	Concerns with long-term Village finances	2	4%	<1%
5	Improve general Village services	2	4%	<1%
7	Prohibit community corrections workers	1	2%	<1%

### Key community comments on Village taxes and spending, communications and politics

"Publish the full budget and clearly report how all funds, including dispensary taxes, are spent."  
 "Improve communication—share updates in advance via newsletter, website, and community groups."  
 "Give summer taxpayers more say in decisions, committees, and votes."  
 "Be fiscally responsible—avoid unnecessary projects and keep taxes under control."  
 "Lower or waive resident fees for hall rental, trash, water, and Airbnb licenses."  
 "Ensure council listens to all residents, not just a few."  
 "Create and promote an online resident directory with new resident updates."  
 "Allow anonymous ordinance reports to protect neighbor relations."  
 "Share a village-recommended list of local services and tradespeople."  
 "Assign council members to oversee key areas like the park for better accountability."

Table 1

## Gross Categorization of Suggestions

Accessibility	Electric	Maintenance	Recycling	Taxes & fees
AED's	Enforcement	Men's club	Resident representation	Teens
Aesthetics	Environmental	Motorcycles	Residents	Tennis
Ambience	Erosion	Nature	Responsiveness	Traffic
Amenities	Events	No new police station	Restaurant/café	Trails
Beach	Finances	Noise	Roads	Transportation
Biking	Fire protection	Non-residents	Safety	Tree Commission
Budget/finances	Fireworks	Overhead wires	Sanitation	Trees
Building code	Generators	Park	Seniors	Vehicles
Cable	Golf carts	Parking	Sewer	Vendor management
Cannabis vendors	Grand Total	Personnel	Shade	Village character
Children	Health	Pets	Short-term rental	Village hall
Communication	Infrastructure	Phone	Signage	Village representation
Community	Internet	Pickleball	Small business	Volleyball
Construction	Invasive plants	Planning	Speed bumps	Waste
Council	Landscaping	Police	Speeding	Water
Dark sky	Leaf removal	Policy	Sports	Wifi
Day camp	Lifeguards	Privacy	Summer residents	Wildlife
Debris	Lighting	Productivity	Sustainability	Yard waste
Density	Long-term plan	Public safety	Swimming pool	Zoning
Drainage				

Table 2

## Main Categories & Sub-Categories

<p><u>1. BEACHES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/Improve beaches, stops, stairs</li> <li>• Remove beach hazards</li> <li>• Erosion control</li> <li>• Enforce village ordinances</li> <li>• More parking at beach</li> <li>• <i>More pet access</i></li> <li>• <i>Control non-resident access</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>4. PARKS &amp; RECREATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create more community events</li> <li>• Add amenities at community hall</li> <li>• Maintain &amp; improve park facilities</li> <li>• Improve sport courts</li> <li>• More nature &amp; bike trails</li> <li>• <i>More pet access</i></li> <li>• Keep &amp; improve the day camp</li> </ul>
<p><u>2. INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; PUBLIC WORKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve road maintenance</li> <li>• Improve reliability of electric service</li> <li>• Improve telecommunication systems</li> <li>• Improve clean-up on public property</li> <li>• Improve yard waste pickup</li> <li>• Improve sanitation services</li> <li>• Improve water, sewer, drainage systems</li> </ul>	<p><u>5. ENFORCEMENT &amp; SAFETY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce unsafe driving &amp; road hazards</li> <li>• <i>Enforce noise ordinance</i></li> <li>• Increase police patrols</li> <li>• Remove speed bumps</li> <li>• Enforce pet ordinances (leash, waste)</li> <li>• Improve EMS &amp; fire protection services</li> </ul>
<p><u>3. POLICY &amp; ZONING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with short-term rentals</li> <li>• Limit night-time lighting</li> <li>• Issues with building, planning, &amp; zoning ordinances</li> <li>• <i>Control non-resident access</i></li> <li>• Improve environmental &amp; sustainability efforts</li> <li>• <i>Enforce noise ordinance</i></li> <li>• Preserve the Village character</li> <li>• Concerns with Tree Board &amp; policies</li> <li>• Issues with nearby cannabis trade</li> <li>• Create inter-village transportation service</li> <li>• More parking</li> <li>• Planning for inclusivity (disabled, older adults)</li> </ul>	<p><u>6. VILLAGE MANAGEMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce Village taxes, fees &amp; spending</li> <li>• Improve communications from Village</li> <li>• Concerns with Village politics</li> <li>• Improve wildlife management</li> <li>• Concerns with long-term Village finances</li> <li>• Improve general Village services</li> <li>• Prohibit community corrections workers</li> </ul>

*Highlighted text appears in more than one category*