



# Community Benefits from Environmental Remediation and Restoration

## A Pilot Study of a Great Lakes AOC Project Area: Pickle Pond



The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the US Government or The Environmental Protection Agency.

# Remediation – Restoration – Revitalization

## Where:

Superior, WI

## Why This Site:

Dredging contaminated sediment

Restoration and revitalization baseline data

Reasonable project scope and timeline

## Timeframe:

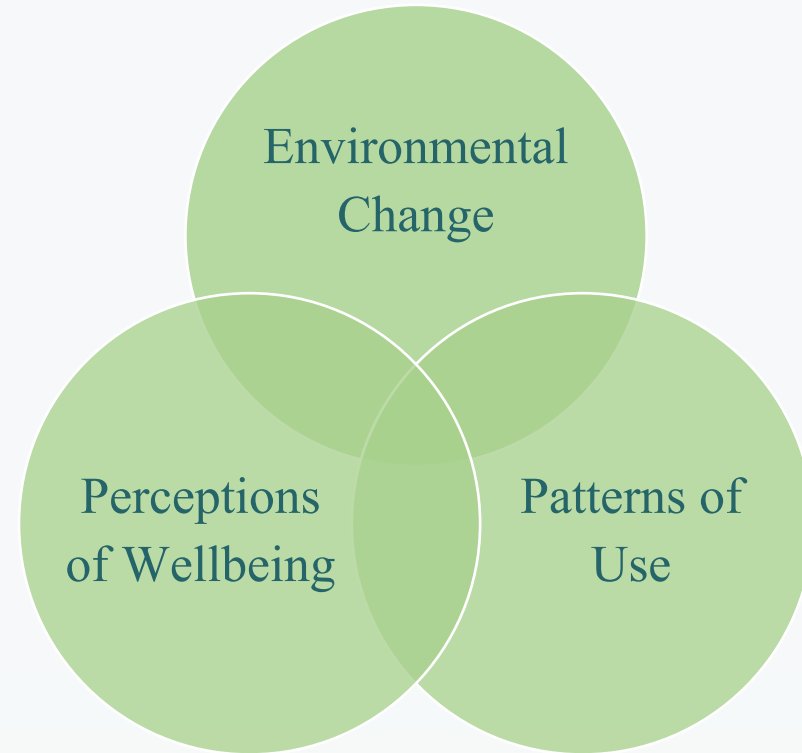
Baseline data collection 2020-2022

\*Post-project data collection 2023-2024

NOTE: Contingent upon completion of dredging and restoration activities



# What are we trying to understand?

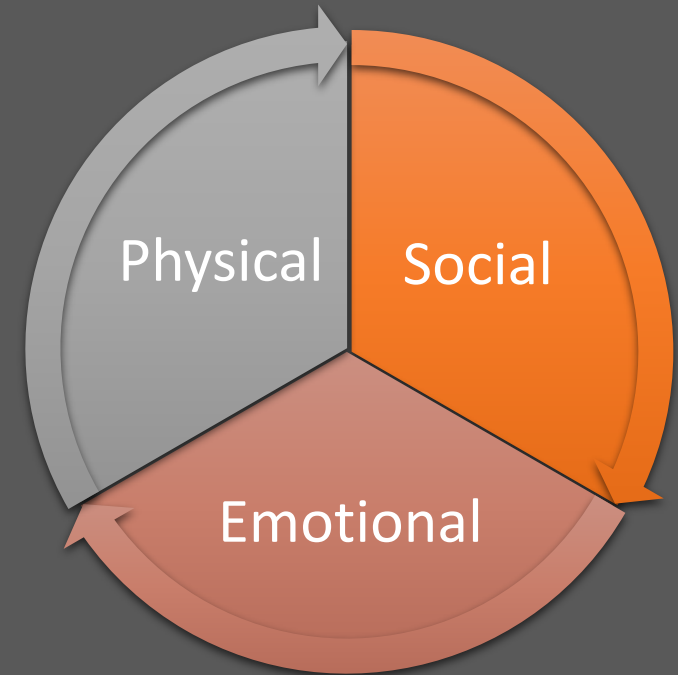


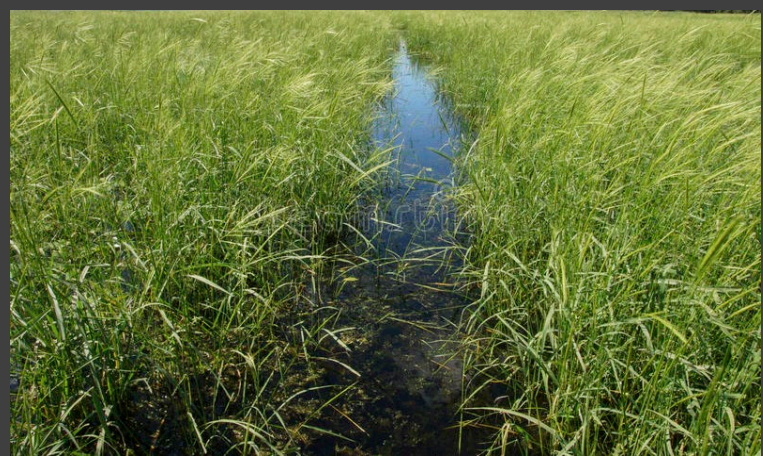
Patterns - Change - Social Benefit



**Experience – Perception – Vision**

**Past – Present - Future**





# Activities YOU like to do in your AOCs

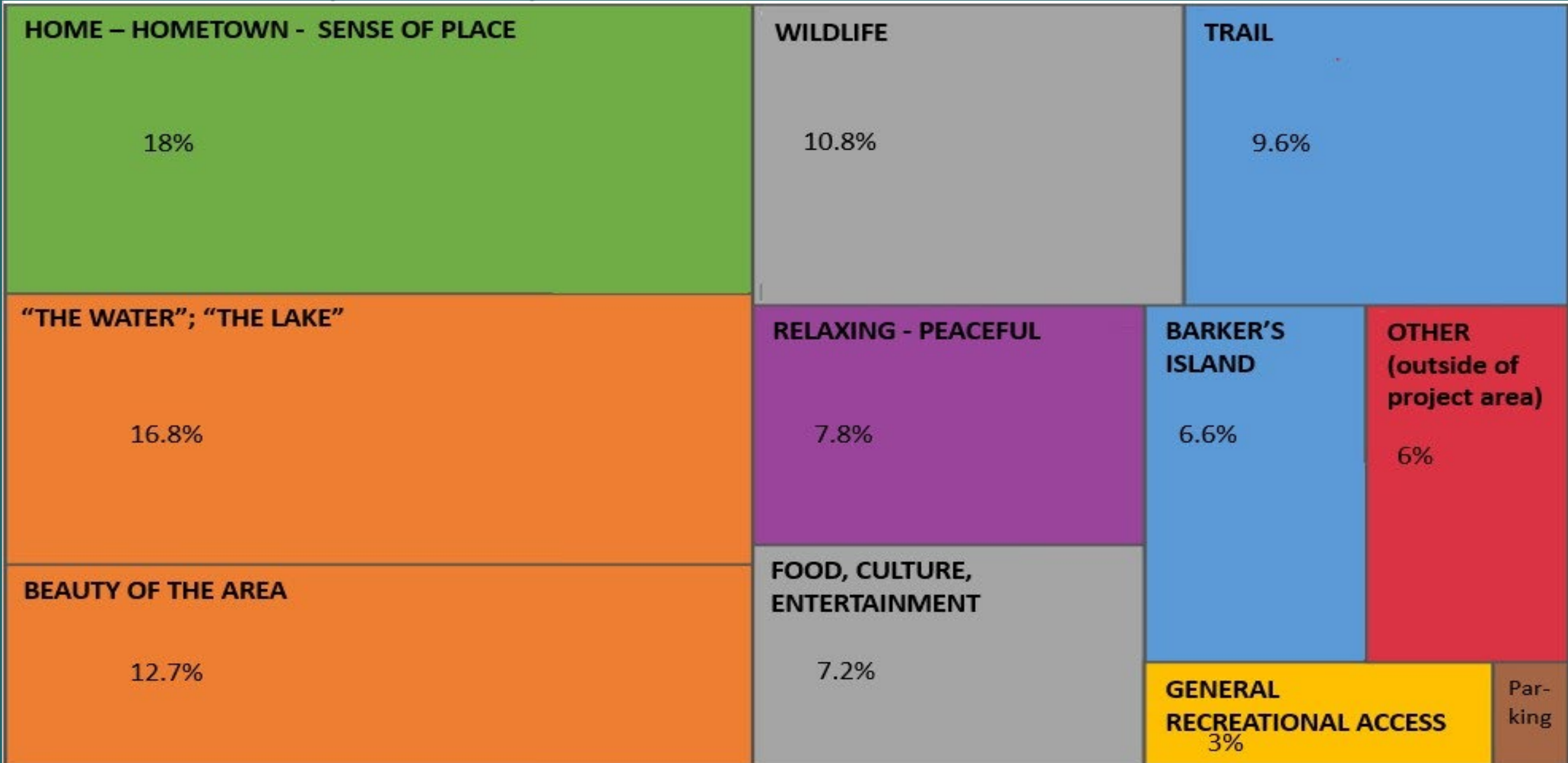
- Work?
- Exercise? – run, bike, swim, kayak...
- Forage?
- Birding?
- Fish?
- Other?

**Think about “your AOC”  
and what it is about the area that  
attracts you.  
In other words,...**

- *What does this place mean to you?*
- *How do you benefit by being here?*
- *Why is this place special to you?*



## Area Characteristics (166 Responses)

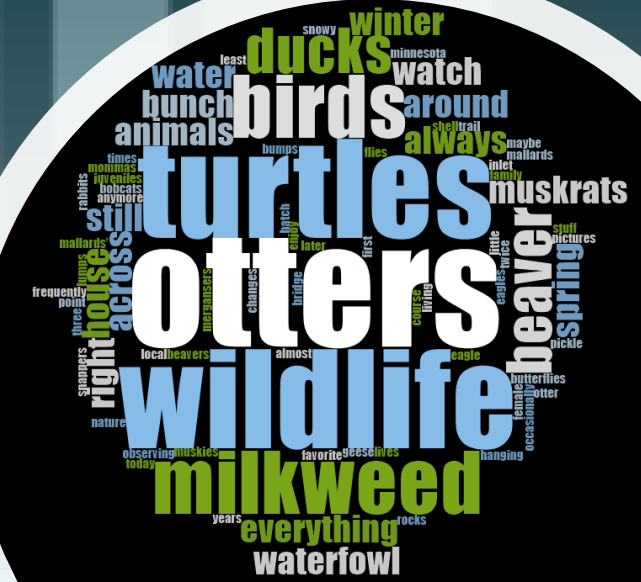


## Beneficial Characteristics of the Pickle Pond area

# Social

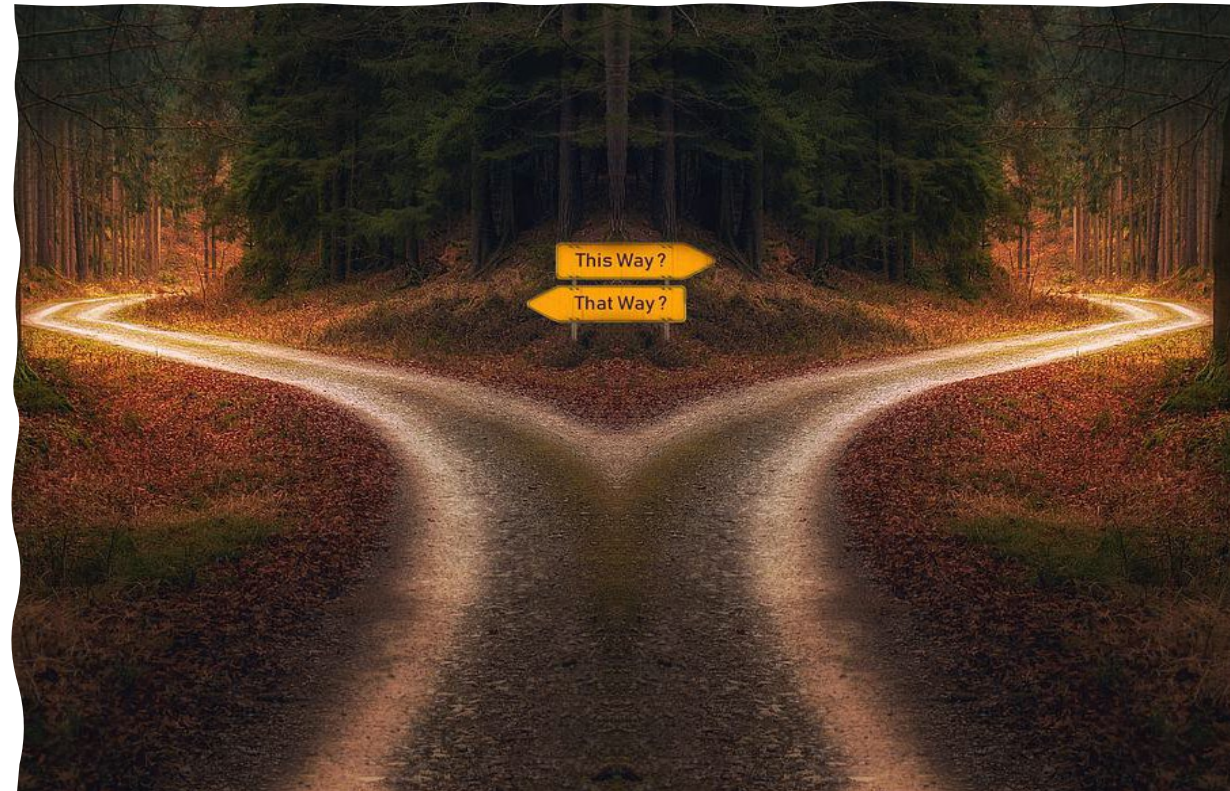
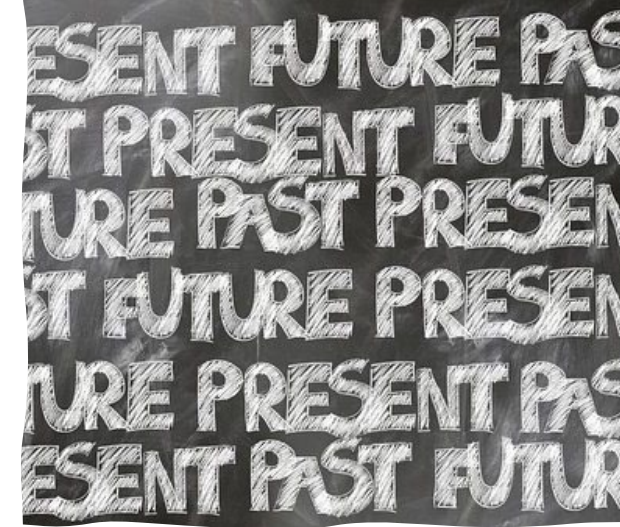
# Emotional

# Physical



# Desired Change

- What is your vision for area improvements?
- Is there anything you would like to see changed in the area in or near the AOC in which you work, recreate, or relax?



# Desired Changes (96 responses)

## Environmental (46% of responses)

- Trash Receptacles 20%
- Clean Pond – Clean Water 20%
- Pond Restoration 16% (*↓ algae and weeds; improve habitat*)
- Control Nuisance Wildlife 11% (*↓ goose pop./goose poo*)
- Landscape Preferences 11% (*native plantings; weed control*)
- General Environmental Cleanup 9%
- Wildlife Protection 7%
- Reduce Tree Overgrowth 5%

## Built – Hybrid Amenity (22% of responses)

- Trail Expansion/Development 33%
- New or Improved Island Amenities 33%
- New or Improved Pond Amenities (natural and hybrid) 19%
- Restroom Facilities 10%
- Pavement or Concrete Repair (trail, bridge) 5%

## Public/Personal Safety (10%)

- Leash law 50%
- Safer Pedestrian Crossing
- Uncontaminated Work Env.
- Increase patrols
- Bridge repair

**Limit  
Development  
(8%)**

**Attract Tourism  
(8%)**

**No Desired Change (4%)**



# Next Steps

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- Complete baseline data collection/analysis and initial write-up
- Collect project and post-project survey responses and complete analysis with other methodological components
- Final write-up; suggestions for modifications



# Mixed Methods = COMPREHENSIVE DATASET

## Qualitative & Quantitative



### Aesthetics Survey

Record environmental conditions over time



### Intercept Survey

Community perceptions of the area



### Trail Counters, Trail Cameras, and a Web Camera

Counts site-usage, captures recreational activities, provides overview of project area



### Website

Public access to project information, updates, and online survey.



# Questions?

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