

**Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters
Advocacy Positions**

ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES

- Land Use and Recreation
- Solid Waste Management
- Wastewater Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment/River Basins
- Measures to Implement League Goals in the Rouge River Basin

Land Use and Recreation

A. The League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe supports long-term comprehensive planning for the orderly development of the Grosse Pointe communities. There should be community participation, both lay and professional, in the planning process. This participation should include fact finding, public discussion of choices and alternatives. There should be efforts to obtain total community involvement and cooperation (business, professional, educational, and civic groups).

Each of the Grosse Pointes has a master plan for its development. These plans are continually being reviewed. The master plan should be available to the citizens of each community, and citizens should have the opportunity to participate in these reviews. Opportunities for possible coordination of the plans of different communities should be utilized. Appointments to the various planning boards and commissions should reflect the values and needs of the community at large.

Zoning practices should permit a variety of choices in housing (single family, multi-family dwelling and housing for the elderly and handicapped, low and moderate income families.) We support the rehabilitation of present buildings and a careful review of the use of land as it becomes available.

B. Support the establishment of a recreational planning committee for the five Grosse Pointes composed of representatives from the municipalities, community institutions and citizens involved in recreation.

C. Support all communities, the Grosse Pointe Public School System and local organizations that work for:

1. Equality in financing of and access to recreational facilities without regard to sex,
2. Increased enrollment in physical fitness activities to be enjoyed by all ages.

D. Support efforts of the communities and the Futuring Process group to develop a master plan for land and facility use, establish a land acquisition process, develop new facilities and upgrade existing sites.

Encourage local governments to develop a unified plan to complement existing master plans.

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Solid Waste Management

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe recognizes the problems of solid waste in the Grosse Pointes. Based on the positions established through consensus at the National and State levels of the League of Women Voters, we support the use of all resource recovery methods to reduce the quantity of waste. This includes reduction, reuse and recycling. We support the use of recycled products by residents, communities, organizations and the Grosse Pointe Public School System as a means of completing the recycling loop.

The five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods should work together to maintain a cost effective and environmentally safe waste management program.

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater Treatment Advocacy Position based on studies conducted by the former League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area (LWVDMA). Adopted by LWVGP, May3, 2014.

- A. Goals of a wastewater management system should include:
 - 1. Consideration of long-range social, environmental and economic costs and benefits, as well as immediate effects.
 - 2. Improve water quality.
 - 3. Concern for Lake Erie.
 - 4. Preservation of natural drainage systems, including lakes, rivers, floodplains and wetlands.
 - 5. Health protection and resources recovery.

B. To achieve these goals, and recognizing that local conditions vary, methods of wastewater management will vary, but could include:

- 1. Pollution control as close to source as possible.
- 2. Retention/detention, screening and/or filtering of stormwater runoff.
- 3. Separation of storm and sanitary sewers.
- 4. Industrial pollution control.
- 5. Preventive measures such as street sweeping, catch-basin cleaning.
- 6. Limiting the use of deicing materials, fertilizers, etc.

C. LWVDMA (League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area) supports measures that:

- 1. Encourage saving and planting of vegetation.
- 2. Protect wetlands and floodplains.
- 3. Require on-site detention in areas of new development.
- 4. Encourage open space preservation.

D. These can be accomplished by:

- 1. Enactment and enforcement of local ordinances and resolutions.
- 2. Requiring local governments to prepare an EIS when projects significantly affect water quality.

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3. Participation of local governments in watershed councils.
4. Discouraging the establishment of mosquito abatement districts because of adverse effects on water quality.
5. Encouraging tax policies as an incentive to preserve drainage systems.
6. Having factual information provided to citizens so that there is an opportunity for meaningful public input at all stages of the decision-making process.
7. Local officials should:
 - a. take water quality into consideration when making land use decisions.
 - b. consider the secondary consequences - economic, social, and environmental - when planning sewer development.

E. Water Treatment Plants

1. The degree of water treatment should depend on local conditions, most importantly on the condition of receiving waters.
2. Secondary treatment is a minimum goal and advanced treatment should be sought.
3. Should be built with the potential for advanced treatment.
4. When siting treatment plants, the following should be considered:
 - a. the water quality and quality of the natural river system
 - b. the efficiency of operation.
 - c. surface water flow in natural areas.
 - d. cost effectiveness, including transportation of sewage, ability to handle emergencies, social concerns and vulnerability to disaster.
5. Should be required to use methods to detect and treat severe types of polluted influents.
6. We favor modular construction and monitoring to prevent breakdowns of systems and to protect receiving waters.

F. Recognizing that the treatment of water is costly, both financially and in terms of energy consumption, we favor a public education program in water conservation.

Wastewater Treatment/River Basins

(Waste Water Advocacy Position based on studies conducted by the former League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area (LWVDMA). Adopted by LWVGP, May3, 2014.)

Supports treatment of a river basin in its entirety. Work for adequate studies, consideration of all the needs of the river basins, coordination of actions of governmental agencies, protection of the floodplains from misuse and filling, evaluation of the need for improvements, and elimination of water pollution.

Recognizing that watershed boundaries rarely coincide with governmental boundaries. LWVGP believes that wastewater management, whether undertaken by one government or a combination of governments, should be planned, coordinated and reviewed on a regional basis.

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Measures to implement League goals in the Rouge River Basin.

(Rouge River Basin Advocacy Position based on studies conducted by the former League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area (LWVDMA). Adopted by LWVGP, May 3, 2014.)

- A. Coordinated long-range planning by state, county and local authorities for the entire River Rouge Basin in both flood control and pollution abatement, with special attention to environmental factors.
- B. Establishment of a basin policy for river basin management at the state level.
- C. Legislation that will protect and encourage proper treatment of the River Rouge and its floodplain and sufficient funds and machinery to enforce such legislation.
- D. Management and development according to a basic policy and appropriate to the particular environmental needs of the River Rouge area.
- E. Machinery that provides for research of alternative flood control and pollution abatement measures and an adequate framework to analyze alternative measures and make intelligent decisions.
- F. Procedures to provide ample information and opportunity for participation in planning and policy decisions which will affect the future of the River Rouge Basin area.
- G. Termination of future plans for channelization of any portion of the River Rouge Basin because channelization:
 - 1. Causes soil erosion as a result of cutting back of river banks and accompanying removal of plant growth.
 - 2. Destroys plant and animal water life from sedimentation from soil erosion.
 - 3. Causes more flooding in adjacent river and floodplain areas due to quicker runoff.
 - 4. Induces pollution because the natural pollutant removal through plant root systems has been eliminated.
 - 5. Destroys nesting and spawning areas of aquatic and small animal life.
 - 6. Depletes groundwater due to quick runoff.
 - 7. Does not in any way upgrade the water quality of the river.
 - 8. Is a very expensive process for the dubious benefits derived.