Waves of Waterfront Economic Development

MML Convention
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Benton Harbor, MI
Recreation/Public Access
Riverfront Parks
Boat Launches
Beachfront
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Golf Course
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Good example of PPP working to create jobs, increase tourism and promote Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and SW MI

Harbor Shores includes golf course, Harbor Village, and residential units in three municipalities (530 acres)

Newest addition is $26 million mixed-use development, Harbor Village

Harbor Village includes luxury hotel, marina and residential living
Harbor Village
Business/Commerce
Major Employers:
Whirlpool Corporation
Small business/mixed-use development
Opportunities
Strategic & prioritized redevelopment of vacant, underutilized property along/near waterfront

Develop a comprehensive, community vision for the waterfront and connectivity to other parts of city

Work diligently to navigate/ease tensions about commercial/private use vs. public access

Work collaboratively across waterways

Tackle the complex and controversial issues
“Waterfronts are public assets – destinations for residents of the city and the broader region. Public waterfront is precious and we should do everything we can to make it cleaner, less noisy, less harmful to our environment, and more accessible and enjoyable for all...” - Mayor Nickels of Seattle, 2004
Visit us in Benton Harbor!

Thank you for your time and attention.

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