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*Issued as a service to the Lakes to Land  
Regional Initiative*



## **Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Begins Second Round of Visioning**

**Manistee and Benzie Counties, Michigan** – The Lakes to Land Regional Initiative, the unique Northwestern Michigan planning effort that now encompasses fifteen communities, has successfully completed its first round of visioning sessions and is ready to start on another.

- Citizens of Arcadia, Blaine, Crystal Lake, Gilmore, and Joyfield Townships who were unable to make their communities' original Visioning Sessions are invited to a makeup session at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11 at the Pleasant Valley Community Center**, 3586 Glovers Lake Road.
- Citizens of Springdale Township, recently added to the collaborative, will hold their first Visioning Session the following night, at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at Springdale Township Hall** at the corner of Glovers Lake and Healy Lake Roads.

At both sessions, attendees will join their neighbors for small-group exercises identifying what they are most proud of in their communities, what they would like to see changed, potential and preferred futures, and local agencies and organizations that can help achieve those futures.

As many as 115 participants attended the previous sessions. The lively exchanges resulted in data sets which are now posted on [www.lakestoland.org](http://www.lakestoland.org) as tallied spreadsheets. As the Initiative progresses, these spreadsheets will form the basis of the citizen engagement portions of the final reports, and the summaries generated from them will guide the rest of the process.

"We're looping back around to try and give as many people as possible an opportunity to share their visions," said John Iacoangeli of Beckett & Raeder, the consulting firm selected for the project. "For those in the makeup session group, it's the last chance to participate, and we really want to hear from everyone."

An initial visioning session for residents of Manistee Township as well as a makeup session for residents of Pleasanton and Bear Lake Townships with the addition of Bear Lake Village are upcoming.

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