

## Uses of the Pavilion as reported in the press (as of September 4, 2017)

Articles after June 2016 [*emphasis added*]:

*Northwest Indiana Times*, July 15, 2016

*Williams said existing amenities at the site haven't kept up with the market and demand. Plans for the pavilion include a restaurant and banquet area, which could be used for weddings and other activities.*

*Northwest Indiana Times*, July 19, 2016

But Heather Ennis, president of the Northwest Indiana Forum, an economic development association, said plenty of Region residents and businesses *want to see the long-abandoned pavilion used for restaurants and as a wedding reception venue.*

*Post-Tribune*, July 22, 2016

Under a public-private partnership, Pavilion Partners is leasing the pavilion from the state park, with *plans to turn the interior into a fine dining restaurant*, among other amenities. Plans also call for a 17,000-square-foot banquet center adjacent to the pavilion.

*Post-Tribune*, September 2, 2016

Planned repairs to the roof of the pavilion at Indiana Dunes State Park are not in violation of a demand by the National Park Service that work there remain on hold *until the federal agency sorts through plans for a fine dining restaurant and rooftop bar at the facility, according to an NPS official.*

*Post-Tribune*, May 26, 2017

Pavilion Partners, in a public/private partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, would renovate the pavilion at Indiana Dunes State Park *to include fine dining. . . . Supporters touted the project as a way to bring visitors to the park year-round and provide a unique dining and event experience that would draw even more people to the already popular park.*

There were other uses mentioned prior to July 2016. The DNR should be asked if any of these uses are still planned.

*Northwest Indiana Times*, April 1, 2015

*The pavilion's first floor will be split between a gallery that could be used for private parties and a family style restaurant that would open April 2016.* [Note: These two galleries show up on the first floor plans.]

*Chesterton Tribune*, August 3, 2015

*. . .first floor remodel of the Pavilion include a pizza seller, Great Lakes craft beer, and an ice cream shop*

*. . .second floor is planned to have areas for yoga and exercise, photography, a spa, an art studio, a wine bar and fine dining.*

...third floor, the roof [of] the pavilion, *include seating for about 200 for birthdays, wedding rehearsals and corporate events. There will be a movable wall system so the roof can be used all seasons of the year, Williams said.*

*PEER, E&E Reporter, December 10, 2015*

The agency's [NPS] concerns with the renovation of the Indiana Dunes State Park pavilion were spelled out in a Friday letter to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). It was publicly released today by the watchdog group.

Cameron Sholly, the Park Service's Midwest regional director, said "*several of the prospective uses would be non-compliant, and if carried out, would constitute conversion*" of public land to private use.

*He was referring to a \$6 million plan for Pavilion Partners LLC to build a gallery for wedding rehearsal dinners in the historic building and construct a separate 17,000-square-foot banquet and conference center nearby. The company, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, also intends to create space in the pavilion for three restaurants with bars, a craft brew pub, a yoga and dance studio, a photography and art studio, and a rooftop lounge.*

*"Although weddings, wedding receptions and banquets can be conducted outdoors, they are not generally categorized as contributing to the outdoor recreation experience," Sholly said. "Likewise, the construction of new banquet facilities not accessible to the public could not be approved as a public facility."*