

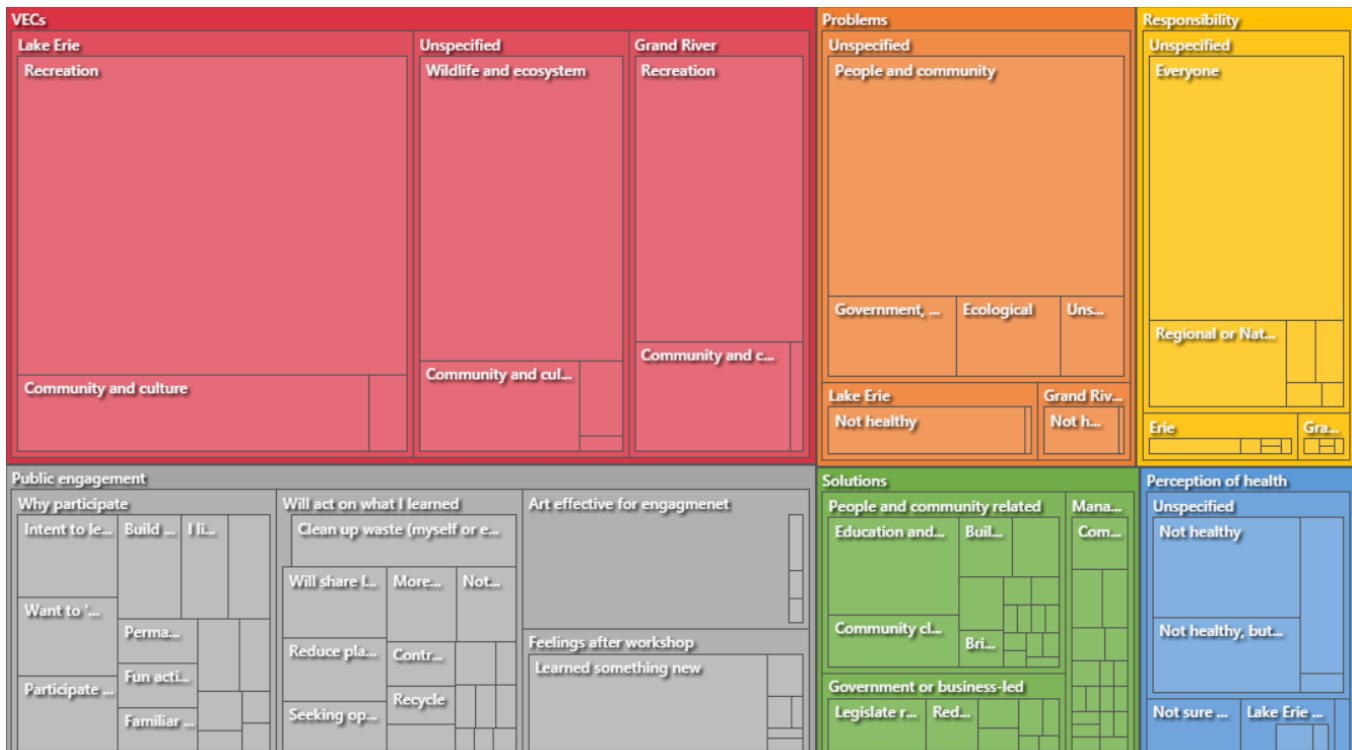
Summary of results: Great Art for Great Lakes feedback forms

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Introduction

The Great Art for Great Lakes program (greatnessglp.com/GAGL) commissions artists/‘makers’ to engage with at least 250 members of the public (each artist) through workshops aimed at skill-building, educating, showcasing the grandeur of the Great Lakes and co-creating a permanent art installation in their communities. Participants in each workshop were invited to complete questionnaires to contribute to future planning of the program and, if they chose, to contribute to this research. The ten questions used for this research are listed in the section below. These questions were open-ended (e.g., no options or sample answers were provided), allowing for complete freedom and true personal/individual responses. All responses were anonymous. A total of 133 (of 135) questionnaires were used (omissions were due to being irrelevant to the study area, e.g., visiting for the first time as opposed to living here).

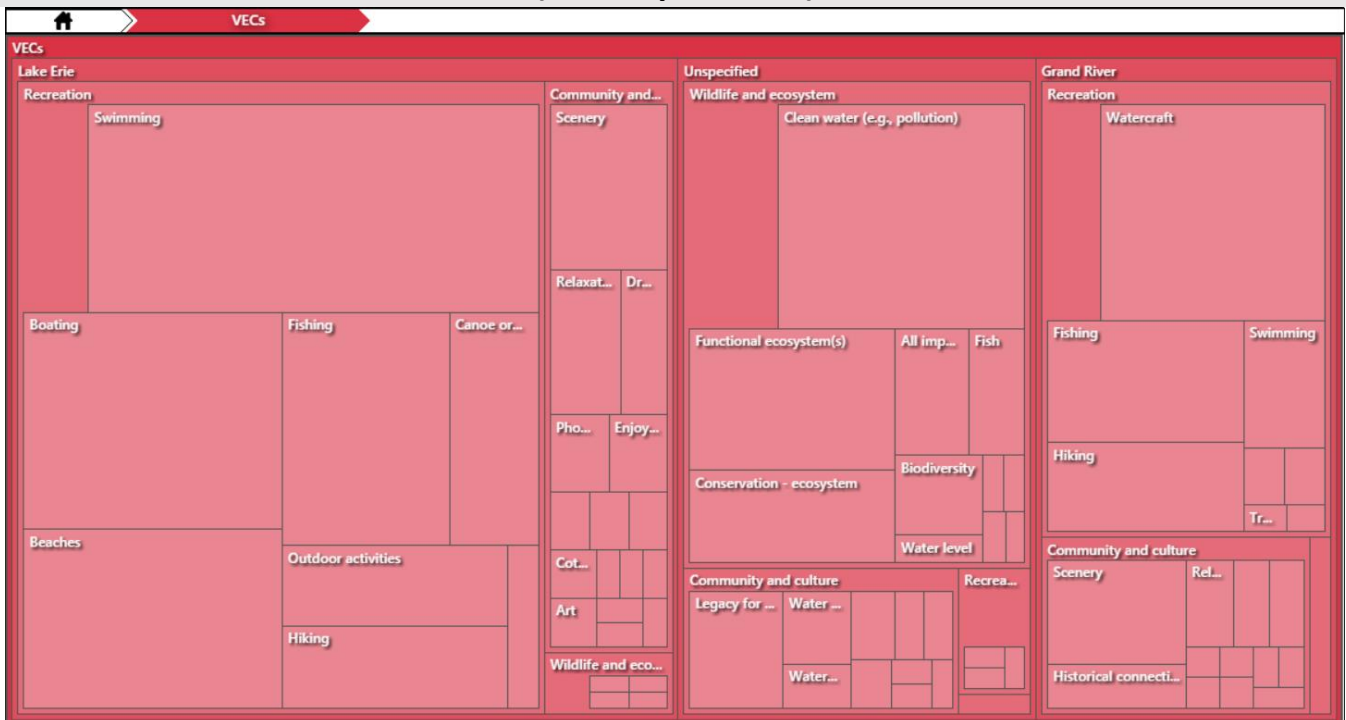
The hand-written responses were scanned and imported into NVivo 12 software, which was used for coding and analysis. A grounded theory approach was used, in which themes and categories slowly emerged as more and more responses were coded. Although the questions provided a loose framework under which the responses could be categorized, the themes or categories in which answers were coded were not formed until after all questionnaires were coded. A hierarchy chart was generated to order each theme according to the number of people who responded under each code (e.g., bigger boxes = more people).



Questions asked of the public

1. How are you connected to Lake Erie/Grand River?
2. What activities do you enjoy on/in Lake Erie/Grand River?
3. Who do you feel is responsible for the health of Lake Erie/Grand River?
4. Do you feel Lake Erie/Grand River are healthy? If no, why not?
5. Why are you interested in learning how to [workshop activity]?
6. Has this experience impacted the way you feel about Lake Erie? Please explain.
7. Moving forward, will you do anything differently regarding Lake Erie? Please explain.
8. Do you think participatory arts projects like these are effective for bringing the community together? [Note: some workshops had an earlier version of the questionnaire that did not have this question on it]
9. What do you care most about, or what do you think is most important regarding the Grand River and/or Lake Erie (including their wetlands, ponds, creeks, etc.)?
10. Imagine you have a chance to speak to those who make decisions about the Grand River and/or Lake Erie, and you have only minutes to raise your priorities with them. What are...
 - a. Issues or challenges you have identified that you feel should be prioritized?
 - b. Your ideas or recommendations about how we should address the issues/challenges?

Valued ecosystem components (VECs) – e.g., things people care about (132 respondents)



Lake Erie top three themes (top three VECs bolded)

1. Recreation (8 direct, 114 aggregated)
 - a. **Swimming (71 direct, 73 aggregated)**
 - b. **Boating (42 direct, 45 aggregated)**
 - c. **Beaches (36 direct, 37 aggregated)**
2. Community and culture (42 aggregated)
 - a. Scenery (16 direct, 17 aggregated)
 - b. Relaxation, peace and solitude (8 direct, 9 aggregated)
 - c. Drinking water (6 direct, 6 aggregated)
3. Wildlife and ecosystem (2 direct; 6 aggregated)
 - a. Equal coding (1 each): weather, Long Point, healthy fish and organisms living in the water, and ecosystem services

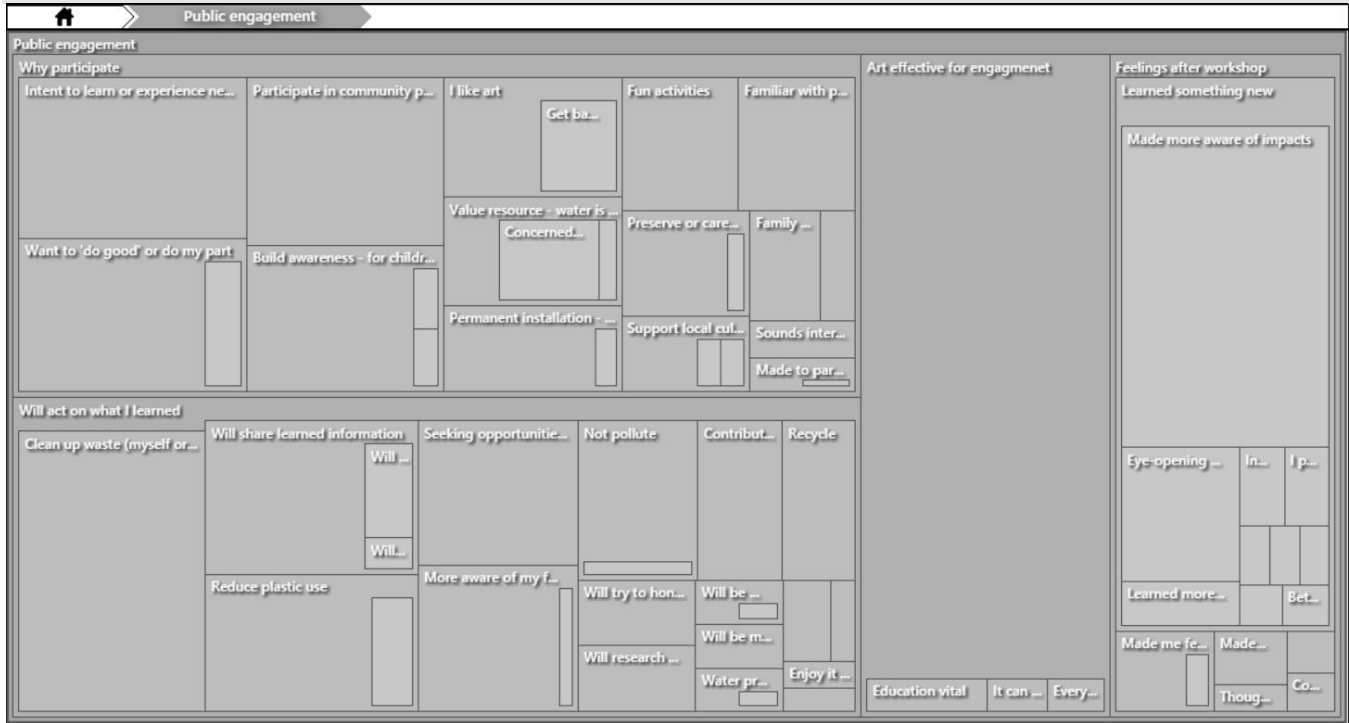
Grand River top three themes (top three VECs bolded)

1. Recreation (9 direct, 66 aggregated)
 - a. **Canoe or kayak (28)**
 - b. **Fishing (20)**
 - c. **Hiking/walking (15)**
2. Community and culture (28 aggregated)
 - a. Scenery (13 direct, 14 aggregated)
 - b. Historical connection (5 direct, 6 aggregated)
 - c. Relaxation, peace and solitude (3 direct, 4 aggregated)
3. Wildlife (3)

Unspecified or both top three themes (top three VECs bolded)

1. Wildlife and ecosystems (17 direct, 80 aggregated)
 - a. **Clean water, e.g., pollution (30 direct, 41 aggregated)**
 - b. **Functional ecosystems (9 direct, 21 aggregated)**
 - c. **Conservation (various terms under this – e.g., protection, restoration, preservation, etc.) (1 direct, 15 aggregated)**
2. Community and culture (26 aggregated)
 - a. Create or maintain a legacy for future generations (11)
 - b. Water for basic living (5)
 - c. Water use (2 direct, 3 aggregated)
3. Recreation (3 direct, 6 aggregated)
 - a. Equal coding (1 each): water sports, swimability, and a place to gather and play

Public engagement (124 respondents)



Biggest reasons for participating (98 aggregated):

1. Intent to learn or experience new things (19)
2. Participate in the community (17)
3. Want to 'do good' or 'do my part' (13 direct, 16 aggregated)

Those who stated they would act differently as a result (1 direct, 93 aggregated) said they would:

1. Clean up waste/littering/garbage (themselves or encourage others to do so) (27)
2. Spread awareness or share what they learned (13 direct, 16 aggregated)
3. Reduce (single-use) plastic use (12 direct, 14 aggregated)

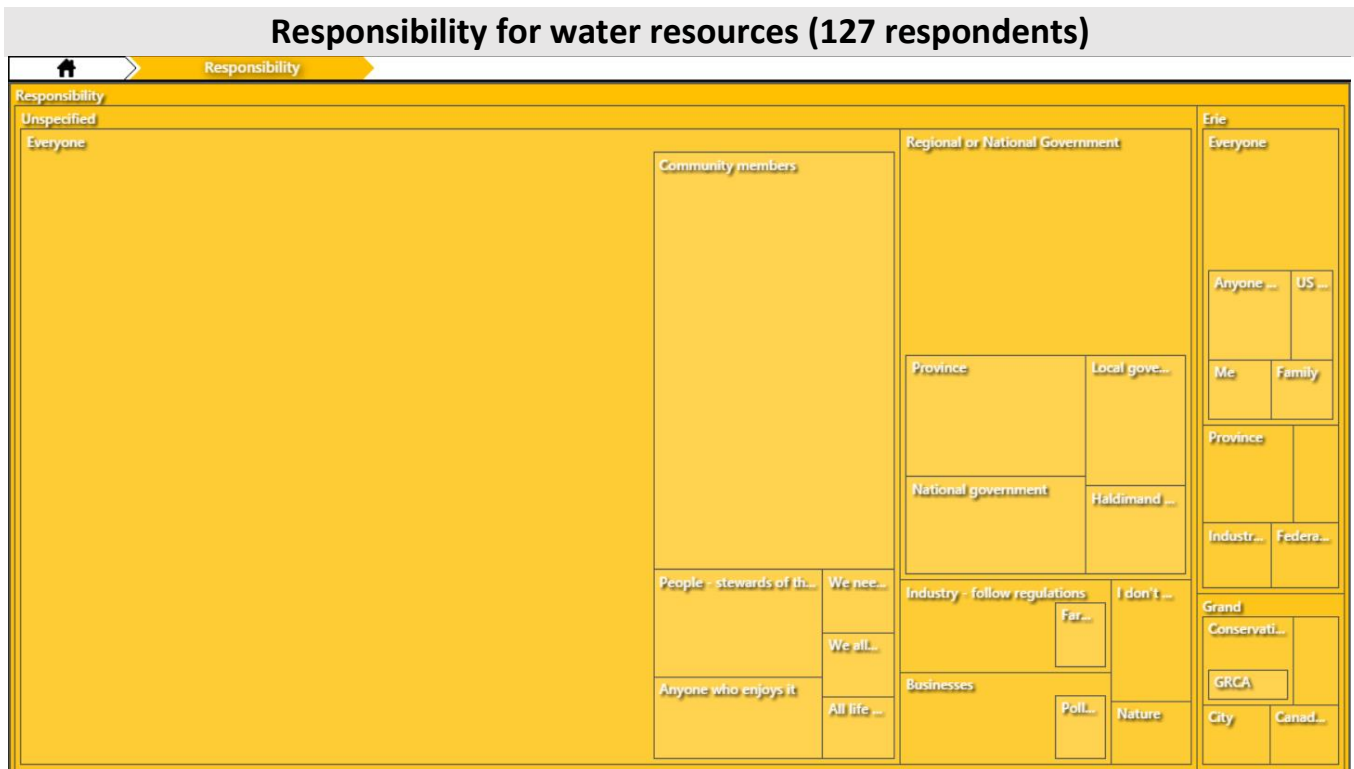
After the workshop, the top three experiences were described as follows (64):

1. Learned something new (3 direct, 56 aggregated)
 - a. Were more aware of their impacts and broader societal impacts on the lake and river (31 direct, 35 aggregated)
 - b. Realized more people were connected/cared about the lake/river than they thought (9)
 - c. Learned more about the ecosystem/understood more about how it works (1 direct, 3 aggregated)
2. Felt closer to the water than before (3 direct, 4 aggregated)
3. Felt more involved in the issues and with the community (2)

Is participatory art effective for bringing the community together? (75)

All participants who responded felt participatory arts are effective for engaging with the community (73 direct, 75 aggregate). One of these respondents stated participatory arts "can be" effective but did

not expand on this statement. Two participants highlighted how vital the educational component is, while one highlighted the benefit of bringing together different age groups.



Unspecified or both (117)

1. Everyone has a role to play in maintaining the health of the water system (83 direct, 111 aggregated)
2. Regional or national government (13 direct, 22 aggregated)
 - a. Interestingly, two people felt that Haldimand County was responsible for the combined health of the river and lake.
3. Industry (3)

Two people did not know who would be responsible for the health of the river or lake.

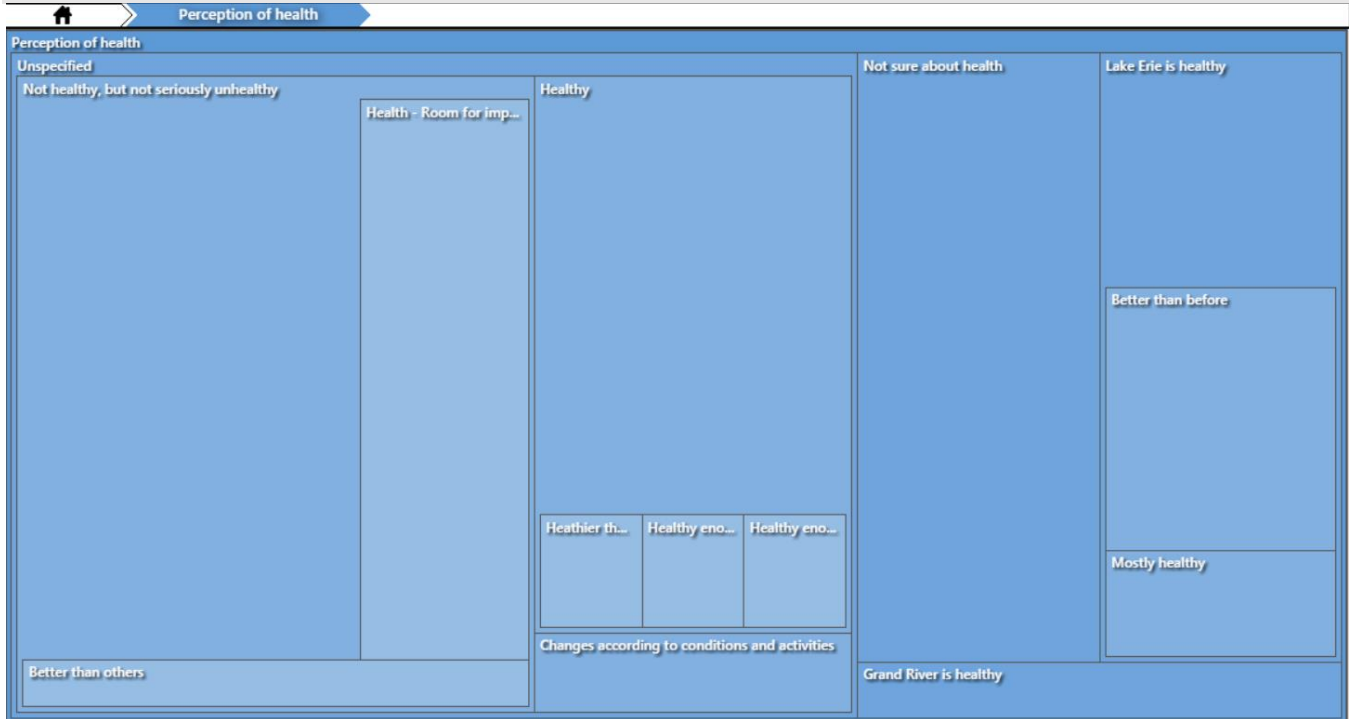
Lake Erie (13)

1. Everyone (4 direct, 9 aggregated)
2. Province (2)

Grand River (4)

Two people specified a Conservation Authority (one of which named the Grand River Conservation Authority). Three others each named one of: government, city, Canadian people.

Perception of health (128)



Unspecified or both (113)

- Healthy (12 direct, 17 aggregated)
- Somewhat healthy/room for improvement (17 direct, 27 aggregated)
- **Unspecified unhealthy (10 direct, 11 aggregated + 37)**
- Depends – changes according to conditions and activities (2)
- Not sure about health/don't know enough (9)

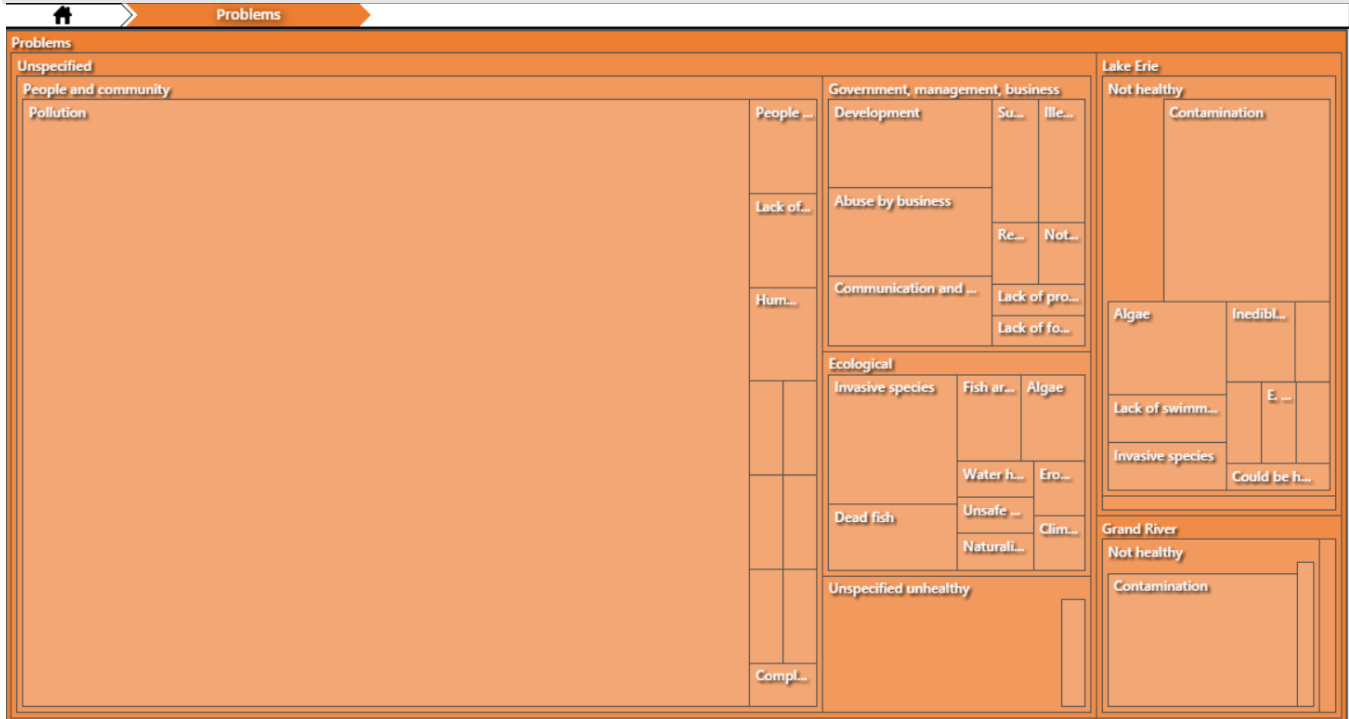
Lake Erie (34)

- Healthy (4 direct, 11 aggregated)
 - Better than before (e.g., in 1970s) (5)
- Somewhat healthy (2)
- Not healthy (4 direct, 21 aggregated)

Grand River (12)

- Healthy (2)
- Not healthy (1 direct, 10 aggregated)

Problems identified (107 respondents)



Unspecified or both (98)

1. People and community (85)
 - a. **Pollution (47 direct, 85 aggregated)**
 - i. **Garbage or litter (33 direct, 35 aggregated)**
 - ii. **Plastics (15)**
 - iii. **Agricultural or chemical runoff (14 direct, 15 aggregated)**
 - iv. Human waste (6)
 - b. The following four problems were each identified by two people: people are lazy; lack of education; human interaction
2. Ecological (16)
 1. Invasive species (3 direct, 5 aggregated)
 2. Dead fish (3)
 3. The following two problems were each identified by two people: inedible fish; algae.
3. Government, management or business (20)
 1. Development (4 direct, 5 aggregated)
 2. Abuse by business (2 direct, 5 aggregated)
 3. Lack of communication and conversation with public (2 direct, 4 aggregated)

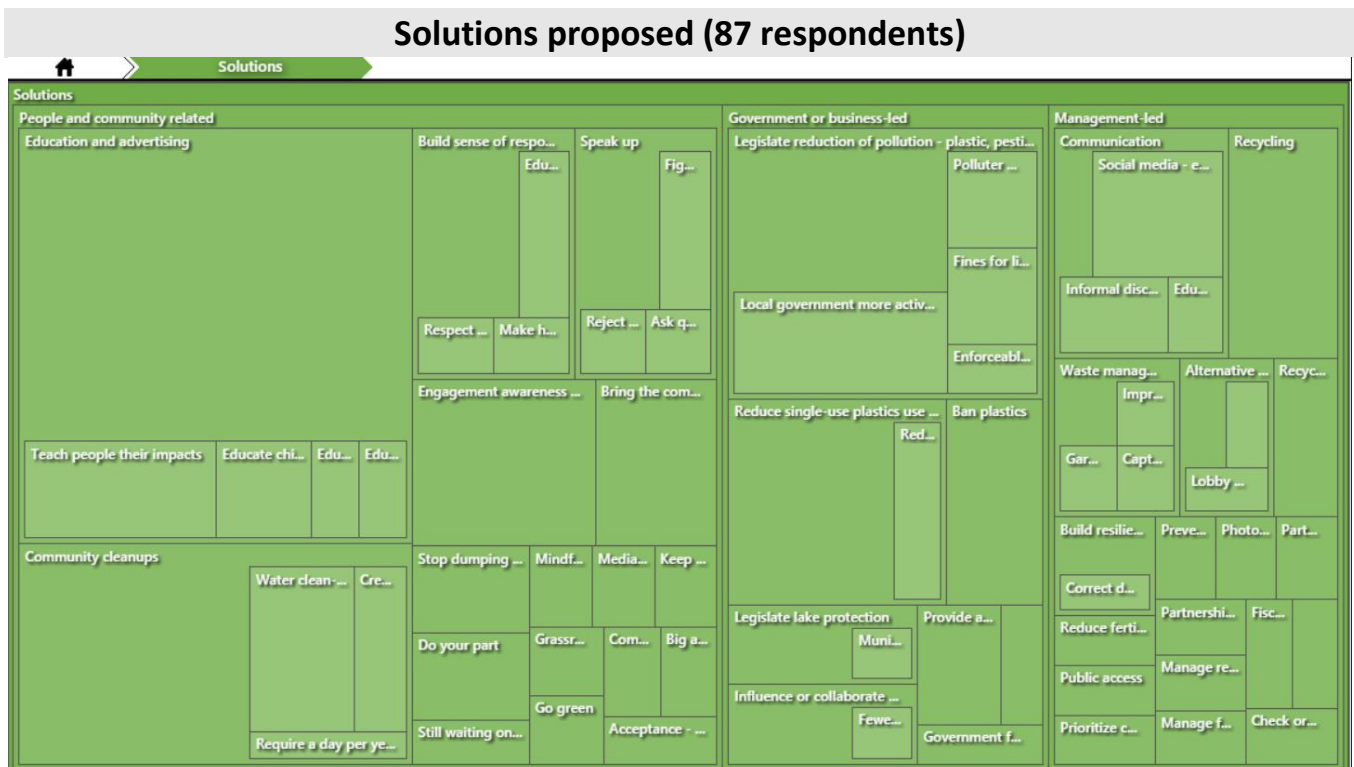
Lake Erie (22)

1. Contamination (9)
 - a. Garbage, litter or trash (2)
 - i. Plastics (1)
 - b. Sewage (2) and general pollution (2)

2. Algae (4)
3. The following three problems were each identified by two people: lack of swimability; invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels – 1); inedible fish (e.g., mercury in perch – 1)
4. Water levels were also mentioned as a problem to prioritize.

Grand River (10)

1. Contamination (9)
 - a. Swimability (2)
 - b. Littering (2)
 - c. Poaching (especially by non-local fishing) was also mentioned as a problem to prioritize.



People and community-related (64)

1. Education, awareness and advertising (24 direct, 31 aggregated)
2. Community clean-ups (10 direct, 16 aggregated)
3. Build a sense of personal responsibility in the community (4 direct, 7 aggregated)

Government and business-led (29)

1. Legislate the reduction of pollution (6 direct, 13 aggregated)
2. Reduce single-use plastics use or manufacturing (7 direct, 9 aggregated)
3. Ban plastics (4)

Management-led (27)

1. Communication (e.g., sharing information or engaging the public via social media like Facebook challenges) (1 direct, 8 aggregate)
2. Encourage and facilitate recycling (5)
3. Waste management improvements (1 direct, 4 aggregated)