

## Huron River Water Trail Trip Description

### Barton Dam (Mile 52.8) to Gallup Park (Mile 47.2) – 2.5 hours; 5.6 miles

Launch just downstream from Barton Dam. This section takes you through several city parks and natural areas while also providing a unique perspective on the City of Ann Arbor. Take out at the public landing at Gallup Park.

#### TRIP DESCRIPTION:

Launch your boat just downstream from Barton Dam in the [Bird Hills Nature Area](#). Parking is available off of Huron River Drive. You will have to carry your boat in to the launch. Note that the stone steps near the dam buoys are the formal launch (and end of portage for those paddling down from Barton Pond). In the case of high water, you may opt to use the mowed clearing near a drainage outlet to seek refuge from roiling water near the dam. This area is currently used by the City of Ann Arbor livery system, which initiated a Barton to Gallup trip in 2009. If you are interested in renting canoes for this trip, contact the [City of Ann Arbor](#) liveries for more information.

On river left you will pass [Barton Nature Area](#), a 102-acre park. From here to Argo Pond the river is wide and deep. You will pass [Bandemer Park and Argo Nature Area](#). After passing Argo Livery on your left, take the left channel at Argo Dam, entering the millrace. You will then portage to return to the river at the Broadway Bridges. A path beneath the bridges connects to Riverside Park, a pleasant place shaded by huge willows.<sup>1</sup>

One-half mile below the dam you will pass [Riverside Park](#) and [Island Park](#), which has an informal landing at the base of the island where you may land to access drinking water and toilets. Island Park has footbridges, paved trails, a Greek Revival picnic shelter, and flocks of waterfowl. An old dirt road, now a walking path, ascends from the woods at the back of the park and reaches Cedar Bend Nature Area, a woodland hillside (also accessible from Broadway via Cedar Bend Drive) with an opening that offers a partial view of the city's skyline.<sup>2</sup> Across the river from Island Park are the busy soccer fields, swimming pool, and play areas of [Fuller Park](#).

Next, on river right, you will pass the [Nichols Arboretum](#). You will encounter the "Heart of Jesus" rock formation in the river – a "V" shaped rock formation created by a local artist – which you will paddle through. There is an informal landing just below the stone steps in the Arboretum. The landing is tucked to the after the stairs and is shallow.

As you conclude your trip in [Gallup Park](#), look for the public boat landing, which is downriver from the livery operation. Gallup Park is the city's most popular park, with arched footbridges connecting a series of small islands. Canoes, paddleboats, and kayaks can be rented at the livery. The Perk & Paddle at the livery sells coffee and baked goods. Adjacent to the Gallup Livery is a wonderful river themed playground with a climbing wall, slide, boats, tire swing, sculptured river critters, and sand & water play.<sup>3</sup>

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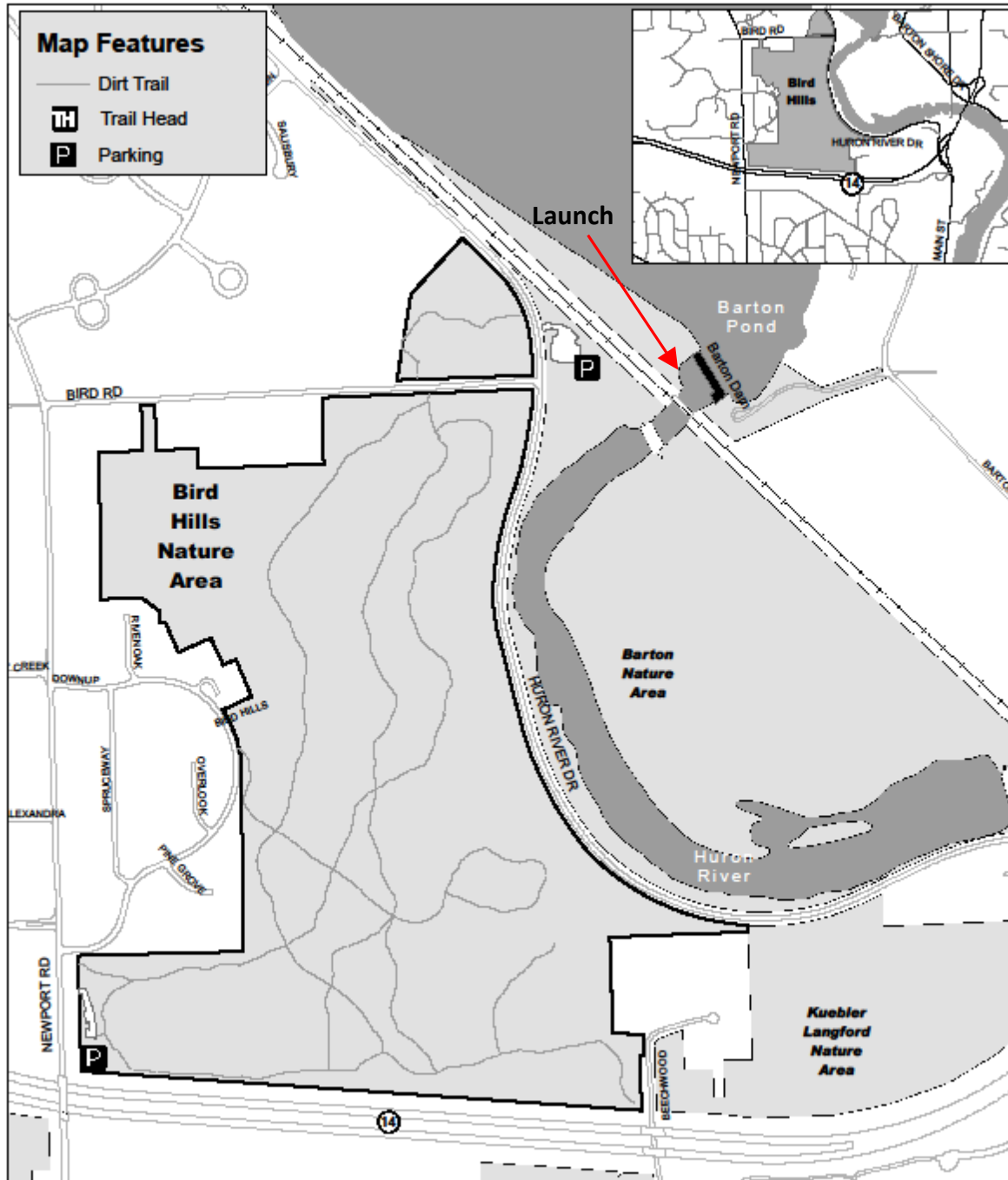
<sup>1</sup> <http://arborweb.com/cg/t0430.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://arborweb.com/cg/t0430.html>

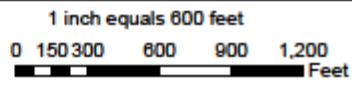
<sup>3</sup> <http://www.a2gov.org/government/communityservices/ParksandRecreation/CanoeLiveries/Pages/GallupPark.aspx>

Launch site map:

## Bird Hills Nature Area



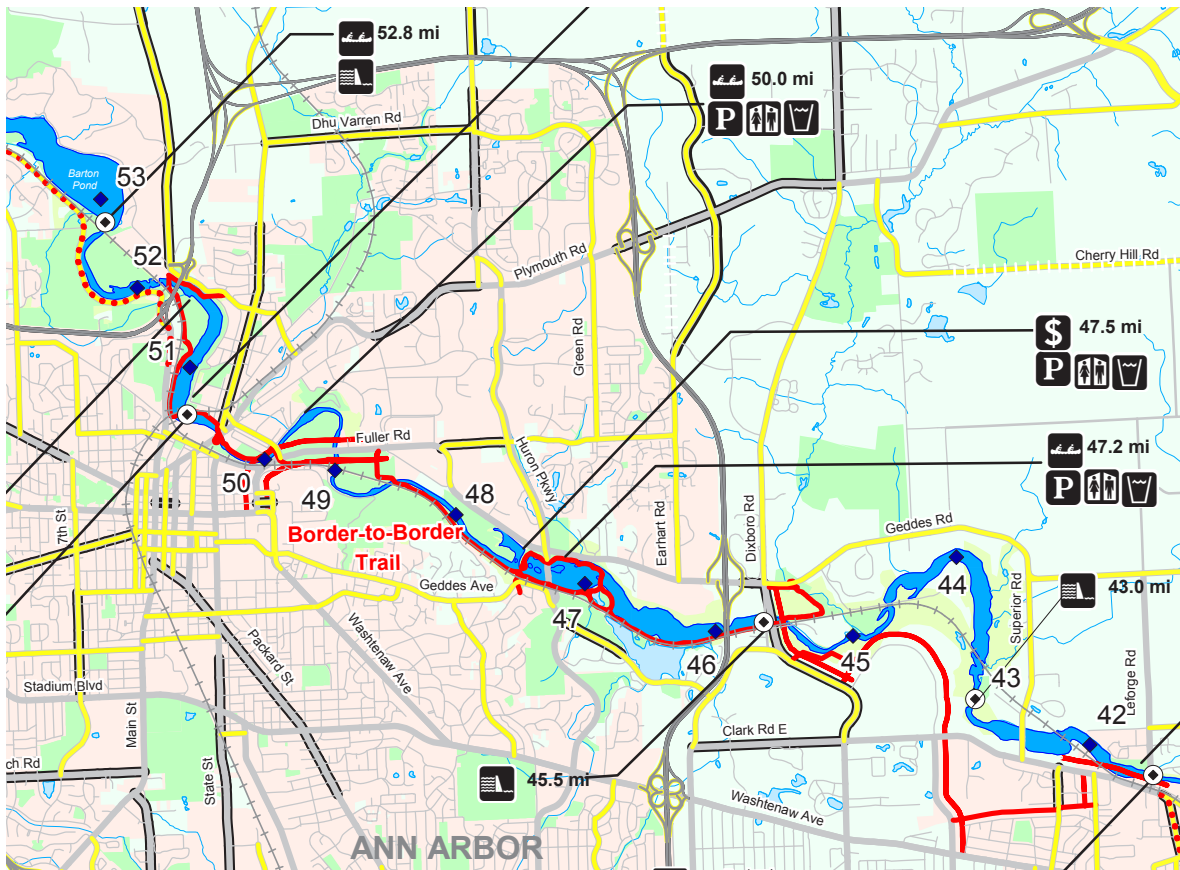
Prepared By:  
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## Padding route map:



Take-out site map:

