

# Huron River Water Trail Partners Meeting

January 20, 2016

10:00 - noon

REI Store, Ann Arbor, MI

## Participants:

Graham Battersby – paddler, Trail Ambassador program

Laura Bickel – Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental

Lyn DeGroot - REI

Bruce Gibb - paddler

Andrew Haapala – Island Lake State Recreation Area

Rich Harrison – Clinton River Trail

Al Heavner – Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental

Andrea Kline – Huron River Watershed Council

Bob Krzewinski – City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation

Tim Phillips - HCMA

Tony Pitts - paddler

Don Reef – paddler, Trail Ambassador program

Elizabeth Riggs – Huron River Watershed Council

Cheryl Saam – City of Ann Arbor

Ron Sell - paddler

Carol Thompson – City of Belleville

Otho Ullrich – paddler, Trail Ambassador program

Commission

Chris Wall – Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental

Bonnie Wessler – City of Ypsilanti

## 1. Introductions

Lynn welcomed the group to the REI meeting facility. It is available for non-profits to use as a meeting space. Attendees were invited to inquire about using the space for future meetings.

## 2. Presentation from the City of Ann Arbor

Cheryl Saam, who manages the City liveries, made a presentation about paddling the HRWT in Ann Arbor. Some points of interest from the presentation include:

- a. The City has been promoting paddling since 1898
- b. The liveries are located on Argo Pond and Gallup Park. Rentals include canoes, kayaks, rafts, paddleboats and stand up paddleboards. The City offers a variety of trips and opportunities for paddling in Argo and Gallup ponds. Shorter trips tend to be the most popular. The most popular trip is from Argo to Gallup, a trip that takes about 1.5 hours. The liveries also provide a variety of very popular paddling-oriented programs and camps. River trips make up 52% of all boat rentals and Stillwater trips make up 48%.
- c. The popularity of paddlesports in Ann Arbor has been increasing exponentially, especially since the opening of the Argo Cascades. The Cascades draw day-trip paddlers from as far as Windsor and Toledo.

- d. Tubing is becoming increasingly popular and Cheryl is working on ways to provide information to tubers regarding places to park, launch, and take-out along the river.
- e. Parking is a big issue; the City runs shuttles between the UM Kellogg Eye Center and the Argo livery to help alleviate some of the parking pressure at Argo.
- f. The biggest challenges that the liveries face are boat maintenance, retaining staff, managing the budget, alcohol use, and risk management. The liveries generate revenue for the Parks system.
- g. The group discussed some of the challenges of managing river use, particularly in the more popular stretches of the HRWT.
- h. Al Heavner commented that his livery has seen an increase in business since the HRWT received National Water Trail designation. He has also seen an increase (approx. 50%) in private paddlers using the launch at Proud Lake.

### **3. Water Trail Improvements**

Andrea reported on the status of on-going water trail improvement projects.

- a. The portage improvements at the Ford Lake Dam are nearly complete. The portage will now be at river left.
- b. Kiosks with four sides and a stone base have been installed at Ann Arbor's Argo livery, Flat Rock's HuRoc Park, and Ypsilanti's Riverside Park. Art work and informational content was developed for the panels in coordination with the communities.
- c. Securing approvals for the planned portage improvements at the Flook Dam (at Portage Lake) is taking longer than expected; the University of Michigan owns the land and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner has an easement on that land for the operation of the dam. Both parties are re-negotiating the configuration of the easement and its language; the project has been stalled pending resolution of those negotiations.
- d. HRWC has received a Coastal Zone Management grant to prepare a master plan for Labo Park in South Rockwood, including new river access facilities.
- e. HRWC is also planning to revisit the options for improving the portage at French Landing Dam in Van Buren Township.
- f. Andrea will share specifications of launch access materials with Tim Phillips, HCMA.

### **4. HRWC Updates**

Elizabeth reported the following items from HRWC:

- a. Progress is being made on the Trail Ambassador Program. A "position description" is being drafted to recruit volunteers for the program. Training is planned for March. Participants noted that providing a "business card" for ambassadors would be useful to distribute to people that may be encountered on the river. The card could provide HRWC contact information.
- b. HRWC will coordinate with liveries to provide HRWT marketing materials to distribute to their customers.
- c. The 2016 Marketing Program handout from HRWC was distributed and Elizabeth requested of partners to review the 2016 events and see where they can help at the HRWT booth.
- d. HRWC has commissioned a professor from Grand Valley State University to prepare the next iteration of an Economic Impact Study for the HRWT. This study will focus on impacts to

downtown areas and survey paddlers and other river users. The study will also quantify the value of the ecosystem services provided by the Huron River. Once the study is underway this summer, there will be opportunities for volunteers to assist in collecting data.

- e. The second edition of the Paddlers' Companion is available. The new edition includes updated information about the Trail Towns. The first edition run of 1,800 copies is nearly gone and 1,000 copies of the second edition have been sold.
- f. HRWC is seeking a funder for a project to advocate for increased use of lifejackets for HRWT users. Chris Wall expressed interest in helping with programming at Heavner's. Elizabeth will share an update at the next meeting.

## 5. Partner Updates

- a. City of Belleville: Carol Thompson reported that the launch improvements on Belleville Lake are complete. Items include a new ADA kayak/canoe launch and boat slide. A HRWT wayfinding sign has been installed on-site. Motor City Canoe Rental will provide kayak rental service at Horizon Park for the 2016 season. Carol would like to discuss having a Water Trail panel installed at Horizon Park. The Belleville Yacht Club is sponsoring a completion for high school students to prepare "water-friendly" landscape plans for the Club grounds.
- b. HCMA: Tim Phillips reported that HCMA staff have been helping install HRWT signage at road crossings in the Metroparks and is preparing to install new signs and safety buoys at the dams at Kent Lake and Flat Rock.
- c. Friends of Island Lake SRA: Andy Haapala reported that improvements to the launch downstream from the Kent Lake dam have been completed and the group is looking for a contractor to install a boat slide at the stairway on the portage; that project will be complete in 2016. Plans are underway for improvements at the Placeway landing. A paved trail connecting the trails within the State Recreation Area and Green Oak Township has been completed.
- d. Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental: Al and Chris reported that an association of Southeast Michigan liveries is forming to facilitate networking and exchange of best practices. The group would like to spread paddler traffic more evenly along the length of the HRWT. Heavner's is offering SUP rental and team-building programs. Al noted that year-round use of the river is expanding. Laura and others asked for guidelines from HRWC about using the National Water Trail logo and language for printed materials.
- e. Ypsilanti: Bob Krzewinski reported that improvements are being made at the launch in Frog Island Park. The new Border to Border Trail bridge over the Huron in Riverside Park has been installed and is very popular. A new HRWT kiosk has been installed in Riverside Park.
- f. Don Reef reported on their work with volunteers to clear woody debris in tributaries of the Huron; Portage Creek (downstream from Hell), Ore Creek, and Davis Creek are all much more navigable.

## 6. Infrastructure Assessment

Elizabeth distributed a document summarizing the status of river access sites along the river and asked the group to review it and offer feedback for where access or access improvements are needed along

the HRWT. Some of the comments made at the meeting are listed below; additional comments are welcome and should be directed to Elizabeth:

- a. There is an on-going need for access in the vicinity of the US-23 crossing in Green Oak Township. The Township had been in negotiations with HCMA to purchase land for its fire hall expansion that would include river access but these negotiations have ended unsuccessfully.
- b. There was discussion of the current status of the portage at the dam in Flat Rock. Elizabeth noted that this situation has been on the radar of HRWC for quite some time and efforts to resolve it are on-going.
- c. A master plan for Central Park in Milford was recently completed. The Village will be focusing its efforts on installing rest room facilities as its first priority in implementing the plan.

#### **7. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9 at Willow Metropark. Suggestions for discussion items included: designs and suppliers of ADA dock systems, and update on the Trail Ambassador program. Additional ideas are welcome. Hardy paddlers may wish to organize a post-meeting trip.

# Marketing Program 2016



## Advertising

Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau Travel Guide, 2016

Pure Michigan Travel Guide, Spring 2016 (circulation 1,000,000) and listing at michigan.org

Michigan Trails Magazine, 2016

Hour Detroit and University of Michigan Visitor's Guide (in negotiation)

## Trail Town and Promotional Materials

Strategic distribution of materials to public through HRWT Partners, Paddler's Companion retailers and Trail Towns (key trail-user and tourism oriented businesses and organizations).

**Materials available at March 9 Partners Meeting.**

- Water Trail Poster
- Rack Cards (new design for 2016)
- Logo Decals

Michigan Welcome Center Program. Distribute 2,000 rack cards at 11 locations March-November.

Michigan Welcome Center in Monroe promotional display May 1-31.

## Event Booth (volunteers needed!)

Promote Huron River Water Trail and recreational programming and Huron River Watershed Council protection and restoration efforts.

March 3, Flat Rock Business Expo

March 5, Quiet Water Symposium, Lansing  
Booth and film screening for 3,000 visitors from across the state.

July 10, Huron River Appreciation Day  
Teach safety and distribute HRWT lifejackets.  
Five Trail Town locations plus Huron River Day festival in Ann Arbor.

August 7, Kensington Paddlefest

August 12-13, Dexter Daze

October 9, Ypsilanti Fall River Day

Additional events under consideration: Milford Earth Day Festival, Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival, National Park Service Centennial Celebration, Hudson Mills Canoe & Kayak Race.

**Reminder! submit your programming and events for inclusion on [huronriverwatertrail.org](http://huronriverwatertrail.org).**

**Contact Pam Labadie at [plabadie@hrwc.org](mailto:plabadie@hrwc.org), (734)769-5123 x 602.**

## HRWT Infrastructure Assessment

Mile Marker	Location	Natural River Zone	Type	Portage/ Hazard Type	Portage/ Hazard Notes	Distance to Parking	No. of Parking Spaces	Amenities	Signage Notes	Needs	Lead Agency
<i>from Greenways Collaborative map (headwater to mouth)</i>						ft		camping, bathrooms, boat storage, adaptive launch, potable water	<i>Mile Marker Signs with 3/8" Holes</i>	entire trail needs adaptive launches, bathrooms, and canoe/kayak storage lockers	
103.4	Proud Lake SRA		Boat launch with ramp and dock			500			<b>Proud Lake Trail Access</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	
102.6	Proud Lake SRA Dam			Dam							
101.2	Proud Lake SRA		Natural shoreline; Road crossing			45			<b>Wixom Road</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	
101.0	Heavner Rental									in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	
100.0									<b>Huron</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	
99.4									<b>Peters</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	
98.x	Central Park		Natural shoreline					parking, potable water, near downtown Milford		bathrooms; signage; launch, take-out; canoe/kayak storage; kiosk	Village of Milford; HRWC
97.9	Hubbell (Milford) Dam			Dam					HRWT signage installed	dam safety measures--safety buoys and signs	Village of Milford
97.1	Camp Dearborn									Improvements completed for new canoe and kayak access	Camp Dearborn
97.0			Road crossing				None		<b>General Motors Rd</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	HCMA
96.5	Kensington Metropark		Natural shoreline			for campers only	not a public launch	Camping, Pit Toilets, Water, Trash, Reservations Required.	<b>Canoe Camp</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	HCMA

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95.7	Kensington Metropark Dawson Road/Mill Site Launch		Road crossing; natural shoreline			350'	10	Parking, trash	<b>Dawson Rd; Canoe Livery logos</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's; HCMA: Used by Canoe Liveries. Not promoted as a public launch. Staff does not want it included on maps.	HCMA
94.5			Road crossing						<b>Buno Rd</b>	in good condition and reviewed by Oakland Co efforts and outfitter Heavner's	HCMA
94.2	Kensington Metropark (Shorefishing Launch)		Natural shoreline			170'	96	Parking, Pit Toilets, Grills, Tables, Trash, Water Pump	<b>Canoe Livery Logos / Signs</b>	Used by Canoe Liveries. Not promoted as a public launch. Shoreline could be improved. Signage needed. Preferred launch on lake for all abilities access. Regrade access path.	HCMA
93.3	Kensington Metropark (Boat Rental)		Natural shoreline			80'	191	Parking, Restrooms, Tables, Grills, Trash, Water	<b>None</b>	The public is encouraged to use one of the other launches. This launch is for rentals only when facility is open. HCMA staff does not want it included on maps.	HCMA
92.6	Kensington Metropark (East Boat Launch)		Concrete Ramp			180'	70	Parking, Restrooms, Water, Tables, Grills, Trash	None	A softshore launch is needed. The concrete ramps are used mostly by fishermen. Signage needed.	HCMA
91.7	Kensington Metropark (West Boat Launch)		Concrete Ramp			100'	224	Parking, Restrooms, Water, Tables, Grills, Trash, Playground Nearby	<b>I-96</b>	A softshore launch is needed. The concrete ramps are used mostly by fishermen. Signage needed.	HCMA
91.0	Kensington Metropark		Dock			120			?	canoe/kayak storage	HCMA
90.9	Kent Lake Dam			Dam					<b>Kent Lake Dam portage</b>	MDNR and Friends group improved the downstream side.	HCMA owns land at dam and above dam; below dam - Island Lake Recreation Area, MDNR 2015
	downstream of dam		concrete weirs							evaluate condition and purpose of the concrete weirs	MDNR
	Kent Lk to Chain of Lakes									fallen trees prevent passage	
89.8	Kensington Rd								<b>Kensington Rd</b>		MDNR
88.7	Island Lake SRA		Natural shoreline			50			?	woody debris removal	MDNR
87.3	Island Lake SRA		Natural shoreline			250			?	woody debris removal	MDNR

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Mile Marker	Location	Natural River Zone	Type	Portage/ Hazard Type	Portage/ Hazard Notes	Distance to Parking	No. of Parking Spaces	Amenities	Signage Notes	Needs	Lead Agency
87.1									Canoe Camp	add sign to notify public that there is no potable water; woody debris removal	MDNR
85.5	Island Lake SRA		Natural shoreline			300			Trail Access?	rip-rap failing at put-in; woody debris removal	MDNR
79.5	Huron Meadows Metropark (Cedar Ridge Access)		Natural shoreline			880'	40	Parking, Restrooms, Water, Tables, Grills, Trash, Play Area Nearby	None	Improve vehicle access to launch. Launch is muddy. Add peastone, or mix of sand and gravel, to the launching surface. Signage needed.	HCMA
	Strawberry Lk/Hamburg									add public canoe/kayak launch upstream of lake	
69.3	Portage Lake		Boat launch with ramp and dock			50			HRWT signage installed	provide hand and canoe launch. This site geared towards motorboats, trailers crowd parking lot. Difficult to park and launch.	MDNR
69.2	Baseline (Flock) Dam		embankment of dam	Dam					HRWT signage installed	RiverUp! investing in portage improvements. Clearing obstacles with the County and UM. Construction planned for 2016	Washtenaw County; HRWC
68.9	South of Portage Lake			Rapids							
68.5	Hudson Mills Metropark (Fishing Site)		Natural Shoreline			400'	20	Parking, Pit Toilets,	None	Launch needs work. Staff does not want it included on maps.	HCMA
xx.x	Bell Rd										
67.7	Hudson Mills Metropark (Canoe Camp)		Natural Shoreline			For Campers Only.	Not a Public Launch.	Parking, Pit Toilets, Water, Trash, Reservations Required.	None	Launch needs work. Signage Needed.	HCMA
67.3	Hudson Mills Metropark (Take-Out Upstream of Rapids)		Natural Shoreline	Rapids	Portage on Right	1,450'	30	Parking, Pit Toilets, Grills, Tables, Trash	Portage Sign is Faded	Launch needs work. .	HCMA
67.2	Hudson Mills Metropark (Launch Downstream of Rapids on West Side)		Natural Shoreline			Use Rapids View Launch Instead	Use Rapids View Launch Instead	None	HRWT signage installed	Launch needs work.	HCMA



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67.2	Hudson Mills Metropark (Rapids View Launch)		Natural Shoreline			125'	30	Parking, Pit Toilets, Grills, Tables, Trash	HRWT signage installed	Remove a few stones.	HCMA
xx.x	Village of Dexter							near downtown Dexter		Assess need for an improved access point to/from downtown Dexter between Mill Creek and Dexter- Huron Metropark	Dexter, HRWC 2015
61.5	Dexter-Huron Metropark (Dexter-Huron Launch)		Natural shoreline			300'	42	Parking, Restrooms, Tables, Grills, Trash, Playground Nearby	HRWT signage installed		HCMA
58.4	Delhi Metropark (West Delhi Launch / Take-out)		Natural shoreline	Rapids	Portage on Right	100'	28	Parking, Pit Toilets, Grills, Tables, Trash, Water Pump	HRWT signage installed	Metroparks would like the public to use this launch instead of the launch at Skip's Canoe Livery. Creates long portage if individuals need to portage around rapids.	HCMA
58.2	Delhi Metropark (Livery Launch / Take- out)		Natural shoreline	Rapids	Portage on Right	100'	58	Parking, Pit Toilets, Livery	Skip's has a sign	This is a take-out for folks using Skip's Canoe Livery. The general public is encouraged to use the launch at West Delhi or the Launch downstream of the Bridge in the main part of the park. HCMA staff does not want it included on any maps.	HCMA
58.0	Delhi Metropark (Delhi Bridge Launch)		Natural shoreline			230'	56	Parking, Restrooms, Tables, Grills, Trash, Water, Playground Nearby	HRWT signage installed	A few stones should be removed at launch	HCMA
52.8	Barton Dam		dock at take-out	Dam				Boat guide rails; put- in, signs	HRWT signage installed Nov 2014	bathrooms; add safety measures-buoys	Ann Arbor, HRWC
51.6	Bandemer Park		Natural shoreline			100	30	parking, trash, bathrooms		signage, storage lockers	Ann Arbor
50.7	Argo Dam			Dam		75, 500	20, 40	bathrooms, potable water, signs/kiosk; parking, picnic tables, trash, livery, near downtown Ann Arbor		reduce pressure on parking and circulation of customers; dam safety measures-signs	Ann Arbor
50.8	Argo City Park		Ramp			50					Ann Arbor

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50.0	Island Park		Natural shoreline, improved group access in 2014			30		parking, bathrooms, potable water, picnic tables, shelter, trash, signs			Ann Arbor; HRWC
47.2	Gallup Park		Boat launch with ramp and dock; numerous informal launch sites			Varies		bathrooms, potable water, signs; parking, picnic tables, trash, livery, snacks, vending, Universal access		kiosk	Ann Arbor
46.0	Geddes Dam		concrete ramp at take-out	Dam				parking		signage; launch; add safety measures-buoys, signs	Ann Arbor
43.0	Superior Dam		low dock at take-out, gravel put-in (2012)	Dam				dock at landing, bench, sheltered launch, signage for portage	HRWT signage installed	maintenance of trail infrastructure, add safety measures - buoys, signs	Ann Arbor; HRWC
41.6	Peninsular Park		Floating dock (2014)			50	10	launch	HRWT signage installed Oct 2014	DPS planning to improve stairs and launch on downstream side of dam	Ypsilanti; HRWC
41.5	Peninsular Paper Dam			Dam						exposed rebar and crumbling concrete at put-in - approach city staff about adding wood boards to front of palling concrete; research underway for dam repair and removal; add safety measures - buoys, signs	Ypsilanti
	Frog Island Park		gravel access			100	10	parking, trash, near downtown Ypsilanti		add rail to stairs, and fence at top; grade for canoe/kayak access, regrade parking, boat rental, boat storage	Ypsilanti; HRWC
	Riverside Park		dock					kiosk, near downtown Ypsilanti		possible graded natural shoreline, gravel	Ypsilanti
	Waterworks Park									improve as a launch/landing?	Ypsilanti
	I-94			interstate bridge							MDOT
35.5	Rawsonville Rd Dam (Ford Lk)		natural shoreline at take-out, gravel and steps at put-in (2015)	Dam				parking, bathrooms, potable water, signage, picnic tables		add safety measures-buoys, signs	Ypsilanti Township; HRWC

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35.4	North Hydro Park		ADA accessible ramp for fishing			150	20	toilets, potable water, shelter	HRWT signage installed with construction 2015	improve take-out, signage, portage. Developed master plan with Ypsi Twp in 2014, implementation 2014/2015.	Ypsilanti Township; HRWC 2014/2015
	Ford Lake Park							launch, bathrooms, potable water			Ypsilanti Township
	Lakeside Park		Boat dock					parking, bathrooms, potable water, picnic tables, shelter, trash, signs		TBD	Ypsilanti Township
33.3	MDNR		Boat launch with ramp and dock			100					MDNR
33.0	Van Buren Park					100	15	bathrooms, potable water?		canoe/kayak storage	Van Buren Township
31.2	Horizon Park		stairs, dock (2015)		elevated dock difficult for canoes	200	15	bathrooms, potable water, next to downtown Belleville		Kiosk signage.	City of Belleville
	French Landing Park										Van Buren Township
27.7	French Landing Dam (Belleville Lk)		rock at take-out	Dam						improvements recommended: change portage route; signage -- NEEDS LOTS of WORK. (Adjacent property for sale, environmental assessment of property)	Van Buren Township; HRWC
26.0	Lower Huron Metropark		Natural shoreline			300		launch at McBride Drain			HCMA
25.8	Lower Huron Metropark (Launch at North Fishing Site)		Natural shoreline			320'	21	Parking, Pit Toilets, Tables, Grills, Trash	HRWT signage installed	Launch improvements completed	HCMA
24.8	Lower Huron Metropark (Walnut Grove Campground)		Natural shoreline			For Campers Only.	Not a Public Launch.	Camping (Reservations Required), Restrooms, Playground nearby.	None	Launch area may need some work. This is not a public launch. Two other launch sites are provided in the park.	HCMA
22.6	Lower Huron Metropark (East Bend Launch)		Natural shoreline			250'	48	Parking, Restrooms, Water, Tables, Grills, Trash	HRWT signage installed	Access for boats with trailers in downriver section?	HCMA

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15.6	Willow Metropark (Big Bend Launch)		Natural shoreline			100	68	Parking, Restrooms, Water, Tables, Grills, Play area nearby.	HRWT signage installed	improve launch; suggestion is to widen to accommodate boats landing parallel to the shore versus perpendicular, and perhaps add stairs	HCMA
12.5	Railroad bridge			log jams/strainers						identify lead agency on clearing jams here	HRWC
12.0	Oakwoods Metropark (Cedar Knoll Launch)		Natural shoreline			650	50	Parking, Pit Toilets, Tables, Grills, Water		Launch needs work. Signage needed. Metroparks encourage use of this launch instead of the launch at the nature center. Possible extension of drive closer to river. Needs to be moved closer to launch.	HCMA
11.0	Oakwoods Metropark (Nature Center Launch)		Dock			600	204	Parking, Nature Center, Restrooms, Water		Not at the launch, one near the parking lot. Area is used for interpretive programs. Closed to the public when programs are being held in the area. Signage needed.	HCMA
9.5	Flat Rock Dam			Dam	locked gate; steep concrete slabs at landing					Unrestricted portage access; RiverUp! produced site plan improvements; add dam safety measures -buoys, signs	City of Flat Rock; Flat Rock Metals; HRWC
9.4	HuRoc Park		Natural shoreline	high, fast-moving waters below dam can make launching a challenge				bathrooms, potable water, signs/kiosk; parking, picnic tables		Trail Town trailhead development?	Flat Rock
8.8	Flat Rock Boat Launch		Boat ramp, natural shoreline			50	12			signage; restrooms, picnic tables; boat storage; may be contender for trailhead development	Flat Rock; leased from DNR
5.x	Rockwood									currently no access to river from paved path; consider whether to add launch/landing, signage	Rockwood
4.5	Dodge Park		Natural shoreline			25	6	parking		none, basic drive for fishing boat access	South Rockwood
3.4	Labo Park		Natural shoreline			75	8	bathrooms, parking		improve the kayak and canoe launch, add signage; CZM 2016 grant funded project	HRWC; South Rockwood

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x.x										add HCMA property to map and this table	HCMA, HRWC
0.0	Hull's Trace Unit		boat launch with ramp			25	25	parking, scenic boardwalk		merging into NPS as part of River Raisin War of 1812 Battlefield; federal gov't expected to rehabilitate bathroom and drinking fountains; GREAT OPPORTUNITY for HRWT gateway	National Park Service
0.0	Pte Mouillee State Game Area		Boat launch with ramp and dock			100					MDNR
0.0	Lake Erie Metropark (Boat Launch)		Boat launch with ramp and dock			200	194	Parking, Restrooms, Water	Yes	There doesn't appear to be a good location for a soft shore launch in the park. Staff discourages launching at the parks marina to the south.	HCMA



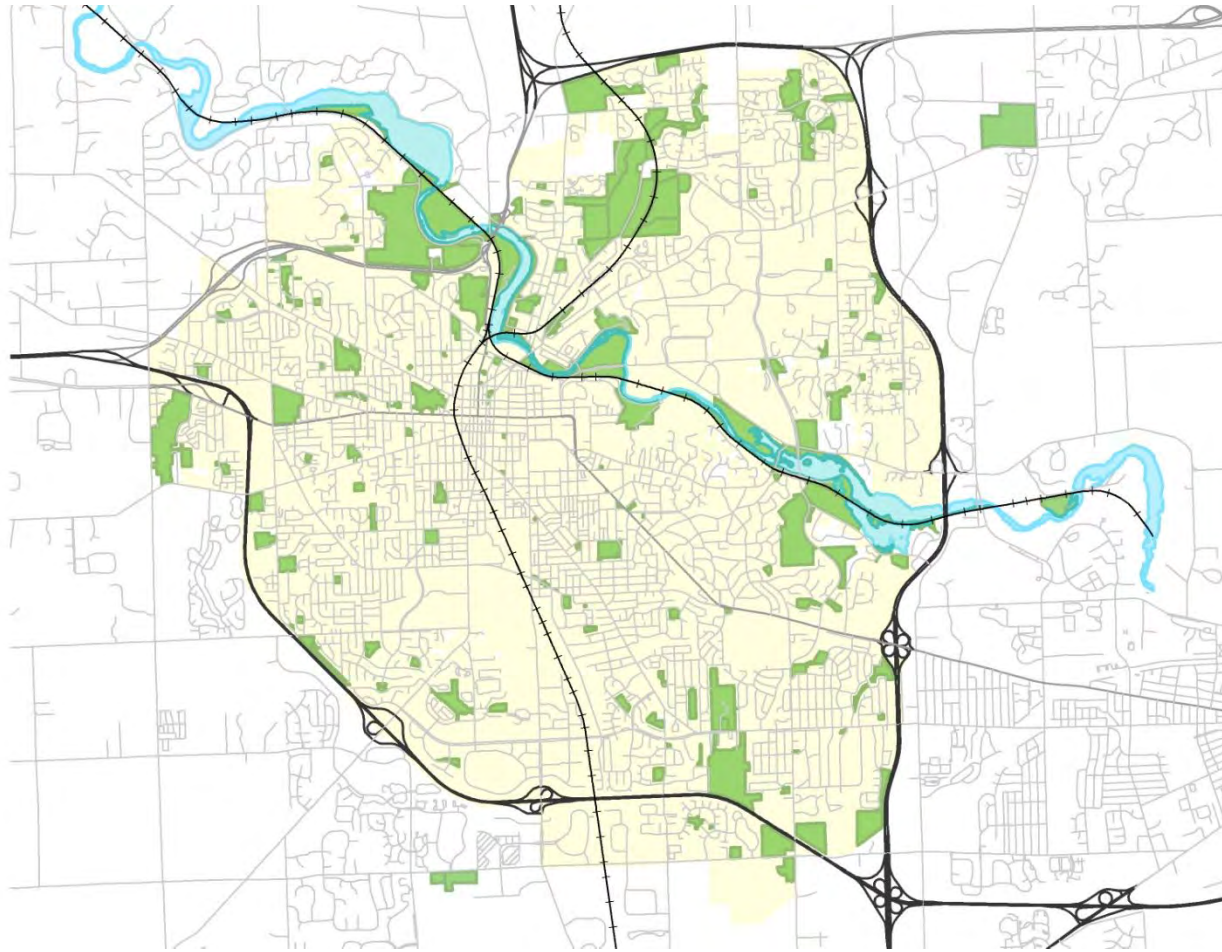
**Parks & Recreation**  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

# CITY OF ANN ARBOR CANOE LIVERIES

Gallup Park Canoe Livery & Argo Park Canoe Livery



# City of Ann Arbor



# Paddlesports in Ann Arbor

- 1898 U of M Boat House constructed
- 1963 City purchased Edison land and dams
- 1970 City purchased privately owned canoe livery and changed name to Argo Livery
- 1983 Gallup Canoe Livery constructed
- 2012 Argo Cascades opened





# City of Ann Arbor Canoe Liveries

Largest  
canoe livery  
operation in  
the State

Over 2000  
customers on  
a busy  
weekend day

Over 80,000  
people each  
year



# Gallup Park Canoe Livery



- River Trips
  - ▣ 5.7 mile Barton-to-Gallup River Trip
- Stillwater Paddles
  - ▣ 2 mile Gallup Pond
- River Camps & Programs
- Coffee shop and concessions
- Popular park

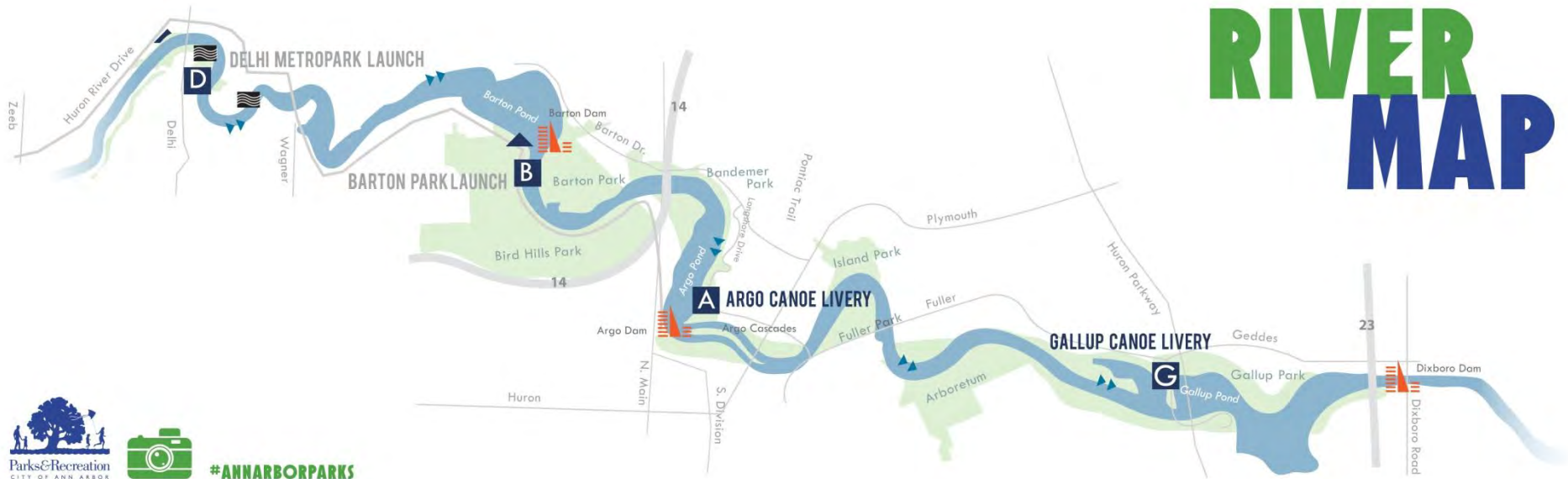


# Argo Park Canoe Livery



- River Trips
  - ▣ 3.7 mile Argo-to-Gallup
  - ▣ 7.1 mile Delhi-to-Argo
- Stillwater Paddles
  - ▣ 2 mile Argo Pond
- Tube Rentals
  - ▣ Argo Cascades
- River Camps & Programs
- Concessions

# River Trips in Ann Arbor



**RIVER  
MAP**



#ANNARBORPARKS



# River trips

- River trips 52% of all boat rentals
  - ▣ Argo to Gallup  
1.5 hr 84% of the river trips
  - ▣ Barton to Gallup  
2.5 hr 15% of the river trips





# Stillwater paddles

- Stillwater paddles 45% of all boat rentals
  - ▣ Novice paddlers
  - ▣ Less costly
  - ▣ Easy for us, easy for customer
  - ▣ Boats





# Tubing the river

- Tubes 3% of our rentals
- Tube popularity





# Livery operations

- ❑ Season April to October
- ❑ 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily
- ❑ 8 vans and trailers
- ❑ Parking
- ❑ Boats & equipment





# 600 Boats + 70 Tubes





# Livery staff

- 80 seasonal employees
- Staff training
  - ▣ Customer service
  - ▣ Risk management
  - ▣ Knowledgeable



# River Programs

- ❑ Boating instruction
- ❑ SUP yoga
- ❑ Preschool Kids
- ❑ Fishing
- ❑ School outdoor education
- ❑ Huron River Day
- ❑ Trick or Treat Paddle





# River Day Camps

132 Argo campers 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades



336 Gallup campers 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades





# Groups





# Challenges

- ❑ Staff
- ❑ Boat maintenance
- ❑ Budget
- ❑ Infrastructure improvements
- ❑ Family friendly
- ❑ People





# Crowds

- Weekend crowds
  - ▣ Parking
  - ▣ Queues
  - ▣ River
- More people, more problems
- Facilities



# Risk management

- ❑ Risks of boating
- ❑ Rental contracts
- ❑ Risk waivers
- ❑ Alcohol and drugs
- ❑ River hazards
- ❑ River briefings
- ❑ Vans/trailers
- ❑ Staff training





# River management

- River cleanups
- Woody debris
- Harvesting aquatic plants



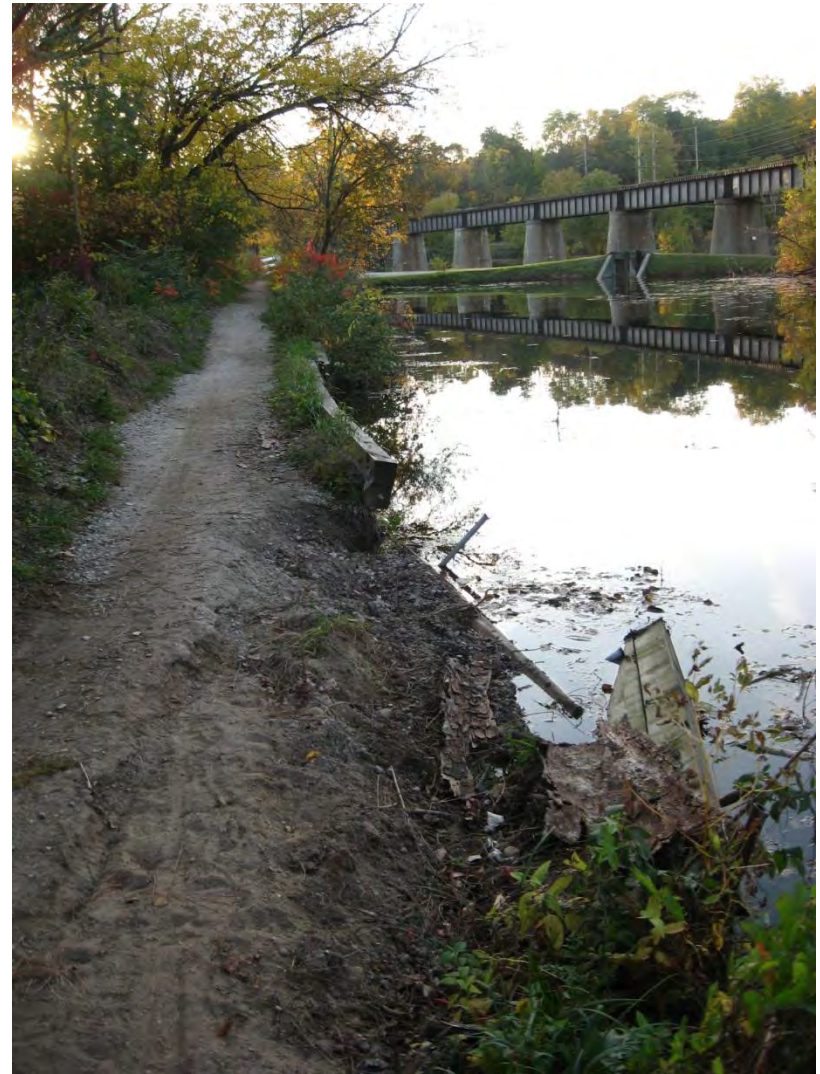
# Capital improvements

- City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Millage
- Argo & Gallup facility renovations
- Argo Dam & Cascades





# Argo millrace & dam 2010





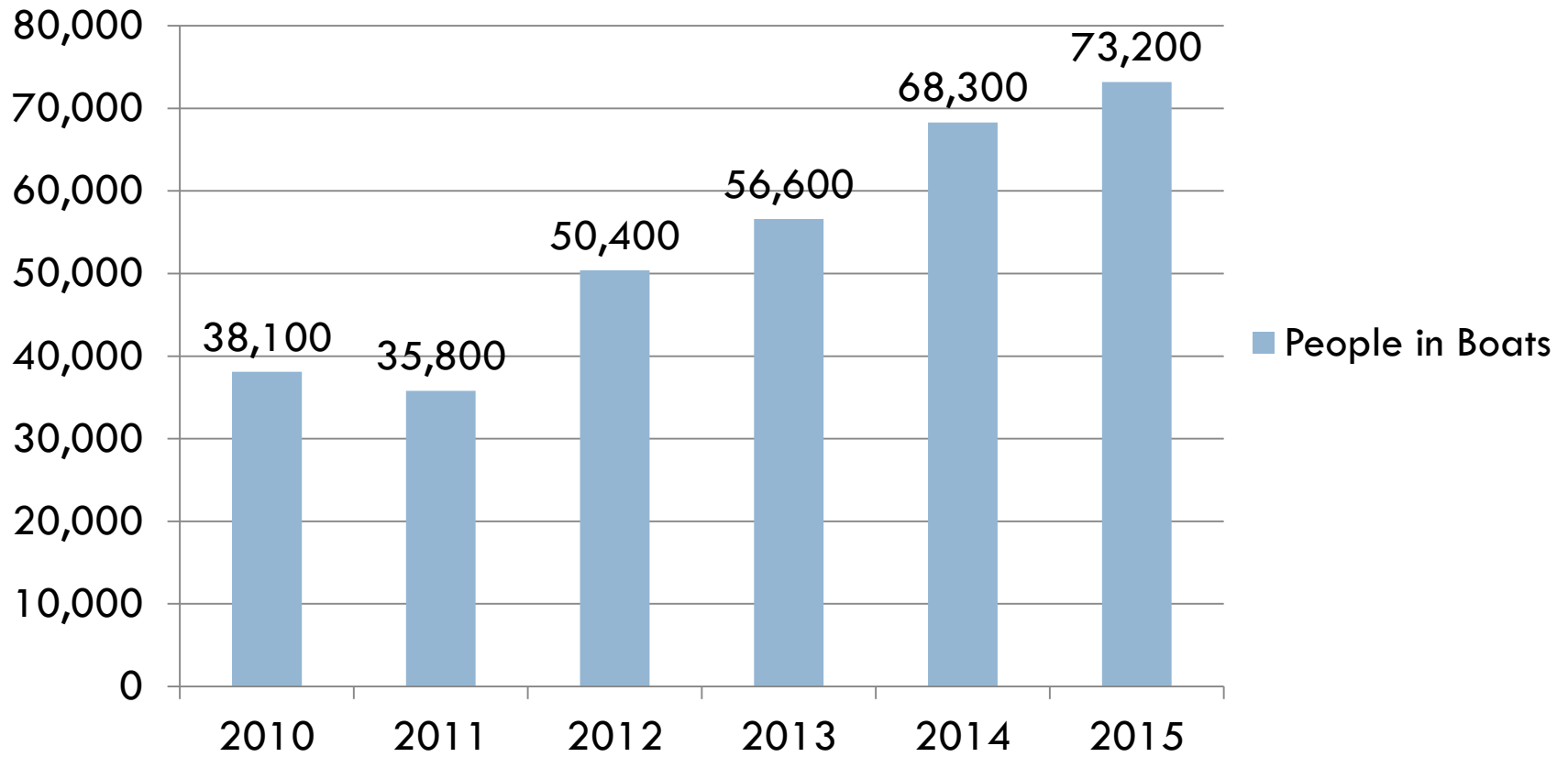




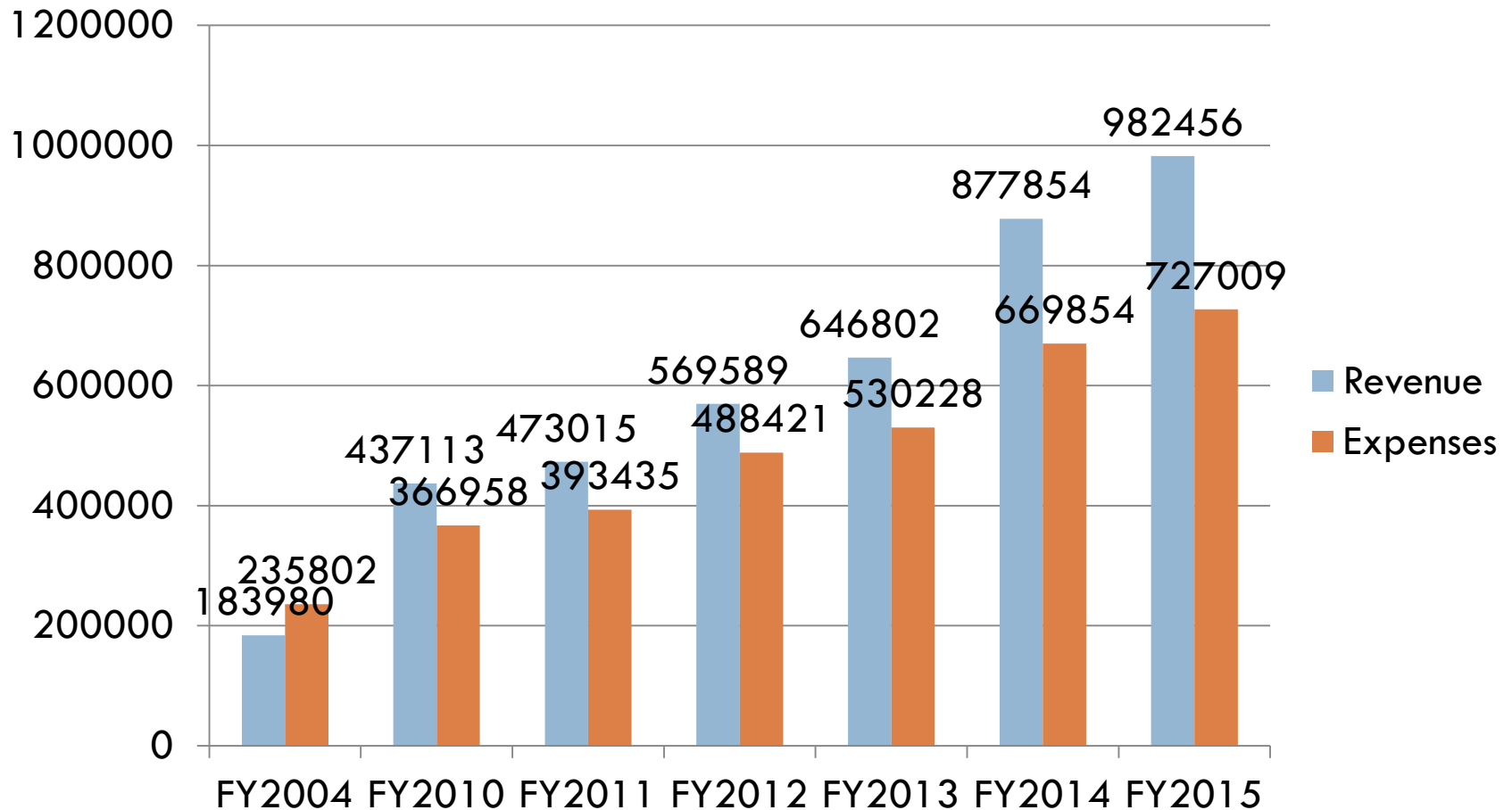
# Expanded and improved recreation



# Number of people renting boats



# General fund revenue & expenses





# Why paddlesport's popular in Ann Arbor?

- ❑ Clean beautiful river
- ❑ City of A2 Parks & Recreation Services
- ❑ Urban
- ❑ Easy and accessible
- ❑ River experience for all
- ❑ Programs
- ❑ Argo Cascades
- ❑ Growing popularity of paddlesports





# Paddlesports nationwide

- 21.7 million Americans  
7.4% of population  
paddled  
2014
- 3 million  
increase  
since 2010



# Promoting river recreation

- Huron River Water Trail
  - ▣ National Water Trails 18<sup>th</sup> trail
  - ▣ HR Watershed Council
  - ▣ Trail Town
- River attractions and amenities
- River themed programs
- Marketing





# Paddlesport trends

- Boat designs
- Risk management
- Rivers and water
  - ▣ Clean
  - ▣ Accessible
  - ▣ Fun and adventure
- Demographics



# Paddlesports & parks

- ❑ Provides active outdoor experiences
- ❑ Nature makes people happier
- ❑ Michigan's water resources
- ❑ Promotes and supports your parks

