

Paw Paw River Water Trail



68 miles through two counties.



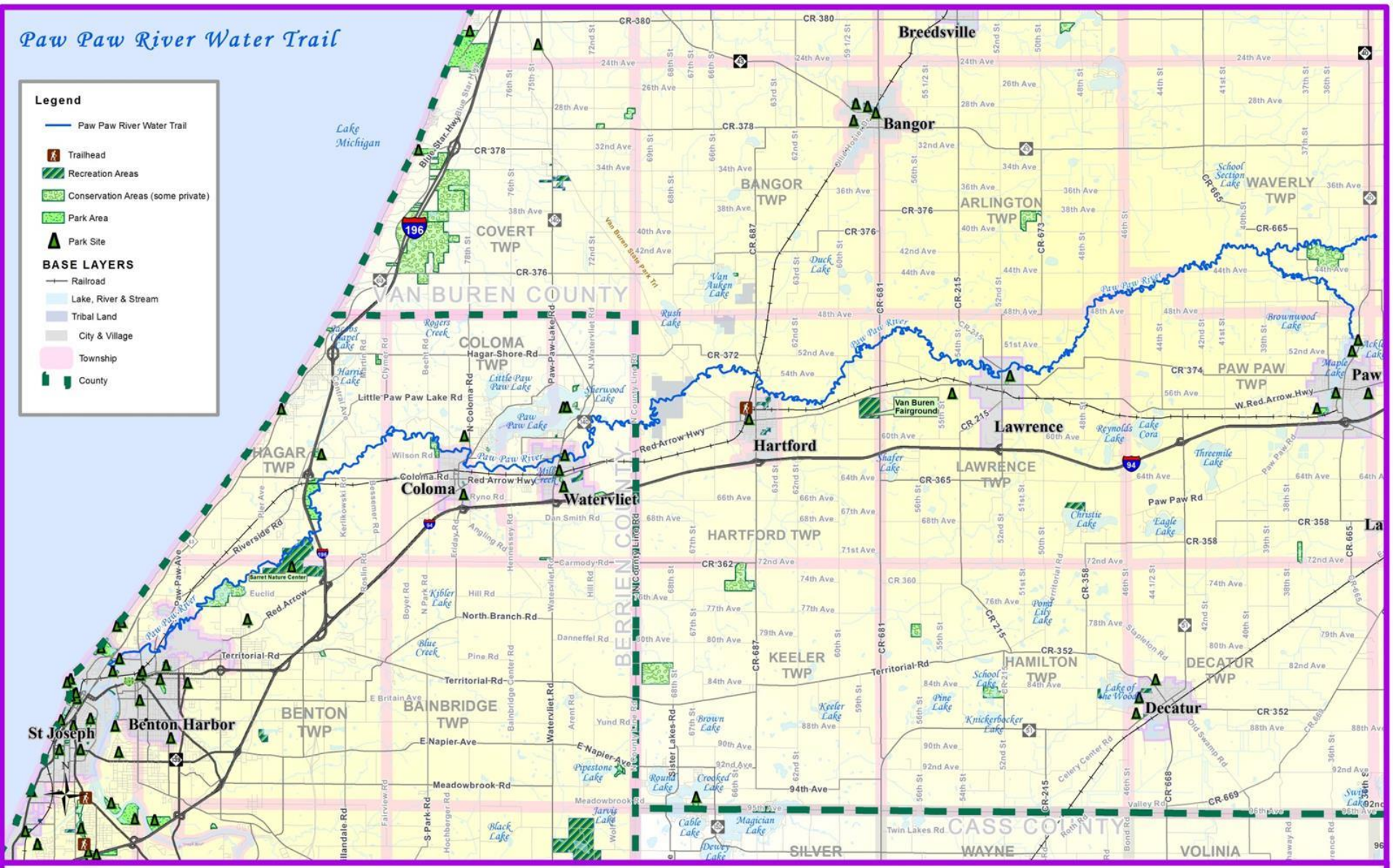
Paw Paw River Water Trail

Legend

- Paw Paw River Water Trail
- Trailhead
- Recreation Areas
- Conservation Areas (some private)
- Park Area
- Park Site

BASE LAYERS

- Railroad
- Lake, River & Stream
- Tribal Land
- City & Village
- Township
- County



Data Sources
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework, Version 14a
 Parks & Recreational Areas: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 2013

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.



10 public access sites(with 2 more planned)



Village of Lawrence public access.



Twenty trail segments from 1 to 9 miles long.



Some segments use a put-in or take-out at bridges.



Some take-outs are easier than others.



No obstructions downstream from Paw Paw (except a few trees...)

River Restoration In Progress



Great Lakes
RESTORATION



Watervliet Dams Removal



Thrilling riffle for beginners at old
Watervliet Dam site.



Community paddles build support for trail.

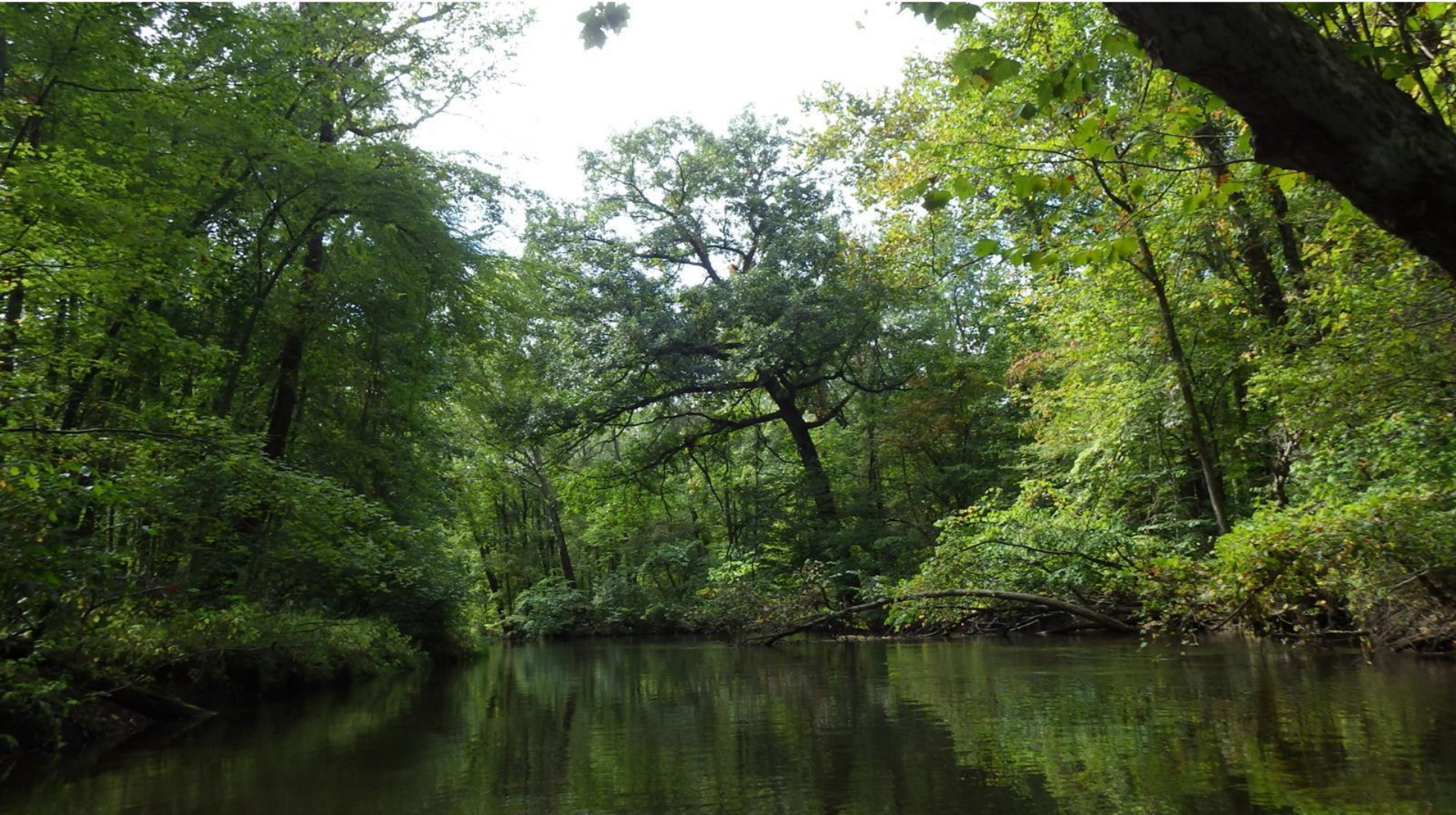




Below Maple Lake Dam in Paw Paw...



...the river flows uninterrupted for 66 miles through a large floodplain forest corridor.



Plant and animal life abounds. This is
Buttonbush.



Lizardtail.



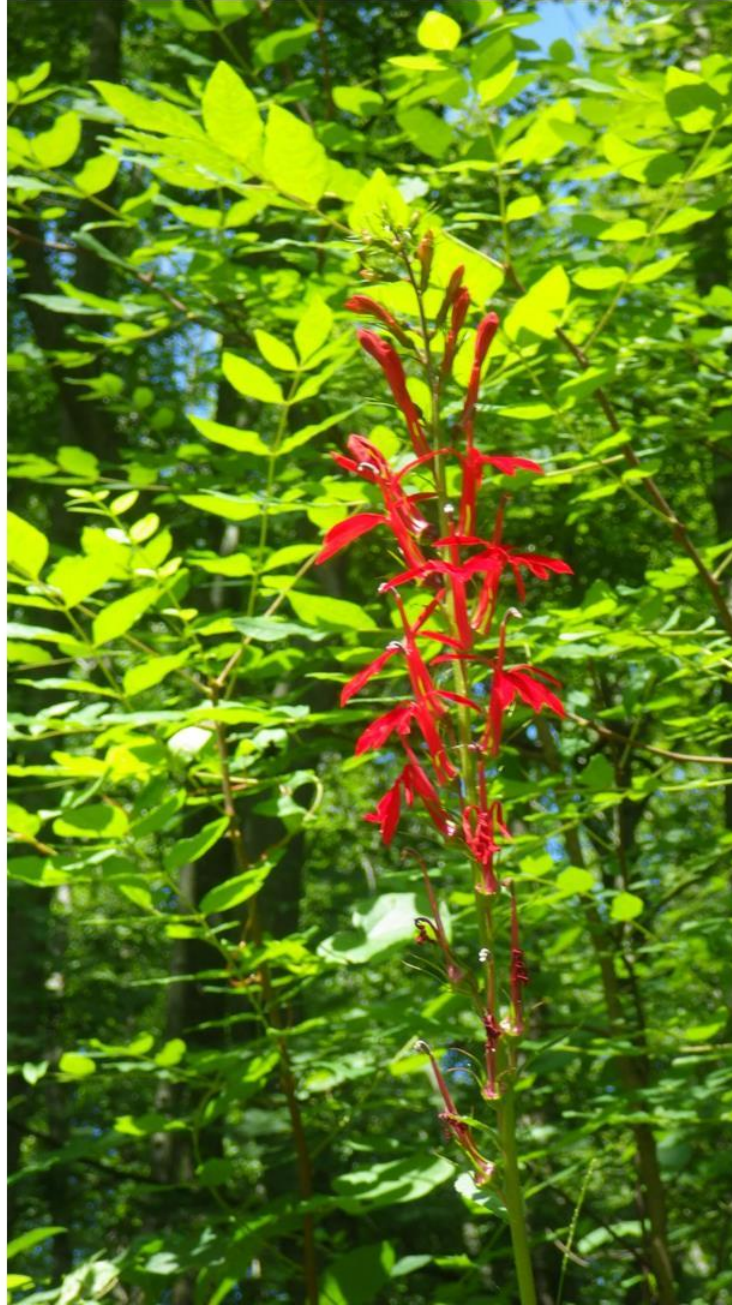
Green Dragon.



Wild Senna.



Cardinal Flower.



And, of course, Paw Paw trees.







This hollow Sycamore used to be home to a nest of Turkey Vulture chicks.



What is she looking at?



One of several Blue Heron rookeries on the river.





Water so clear you can see the gravel
bars...



...and the boulders and cobbles, too.



The Paw Paw has extremely varied topography: from flat, slow and wide...



...to clay banks...



...to high bluffs with groves of
Hemlock.



Water flow varies from quiet ox-bows
teeming with ducks...



...to fast water over gravel and
cobble bars.



We have been working for years on river clean-ups.



You wouldn't believe some of the stuff we have pulled out of the river.





Now the focus is to create a paddle pathway through the many tree falls...



...following the DNR Woody Debris Management Protocol.



Some segments of the trail are already appropriate for beginners.



Boat launch (and kayak rental) in Benton Harbor...



...where you can paddle upstream,
then turn around and float back.



Also Beginner Friendly: 3 mile segment
from Watervliet to Coloma.



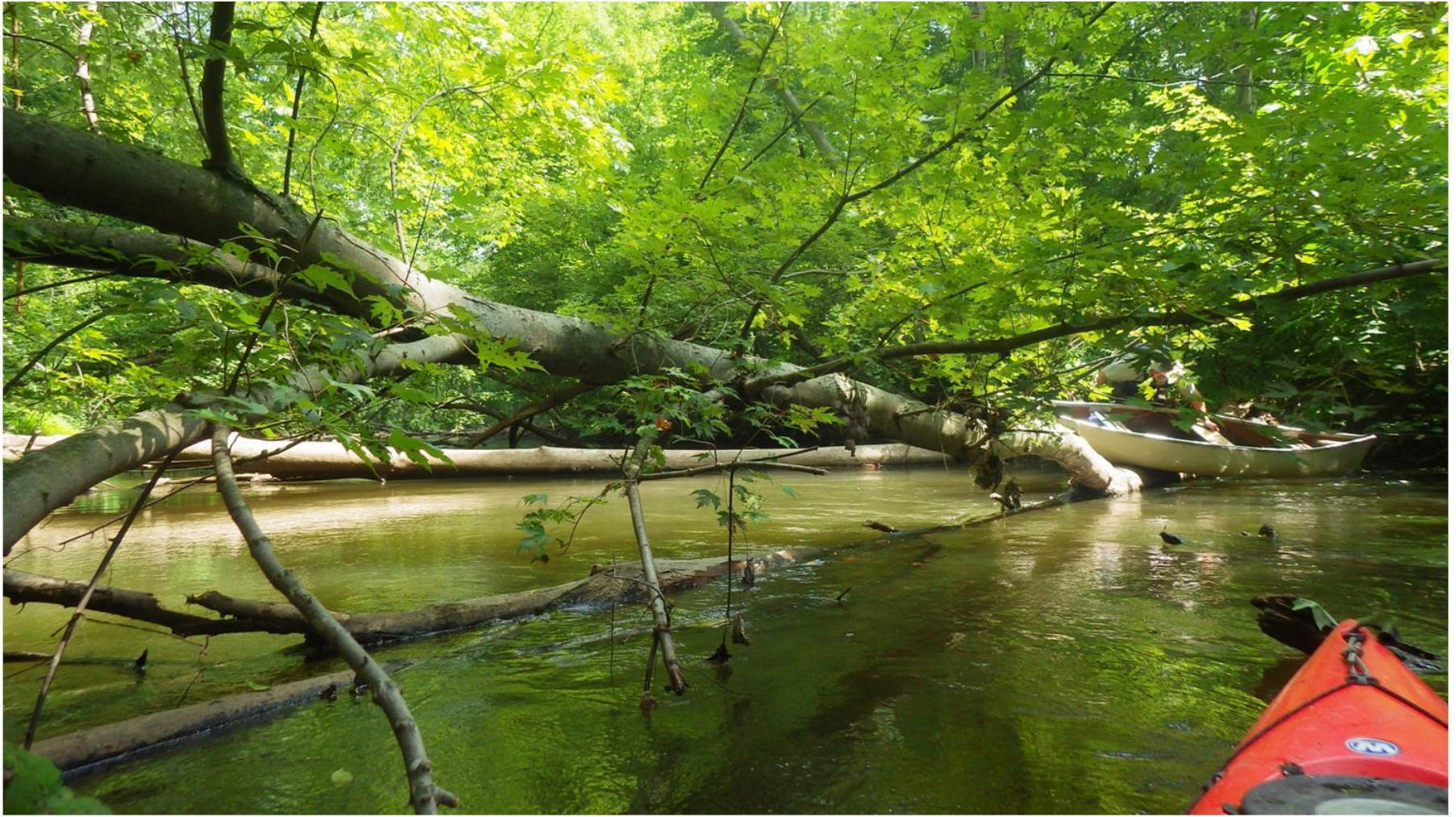
But even beginners like a little challenge.



Village of Coloma Access.



More beginner and intermediate level segments will be ready in 2017 after log removal work.



Some segments of the trail will likely always be Adventure level.



There will always be some places...



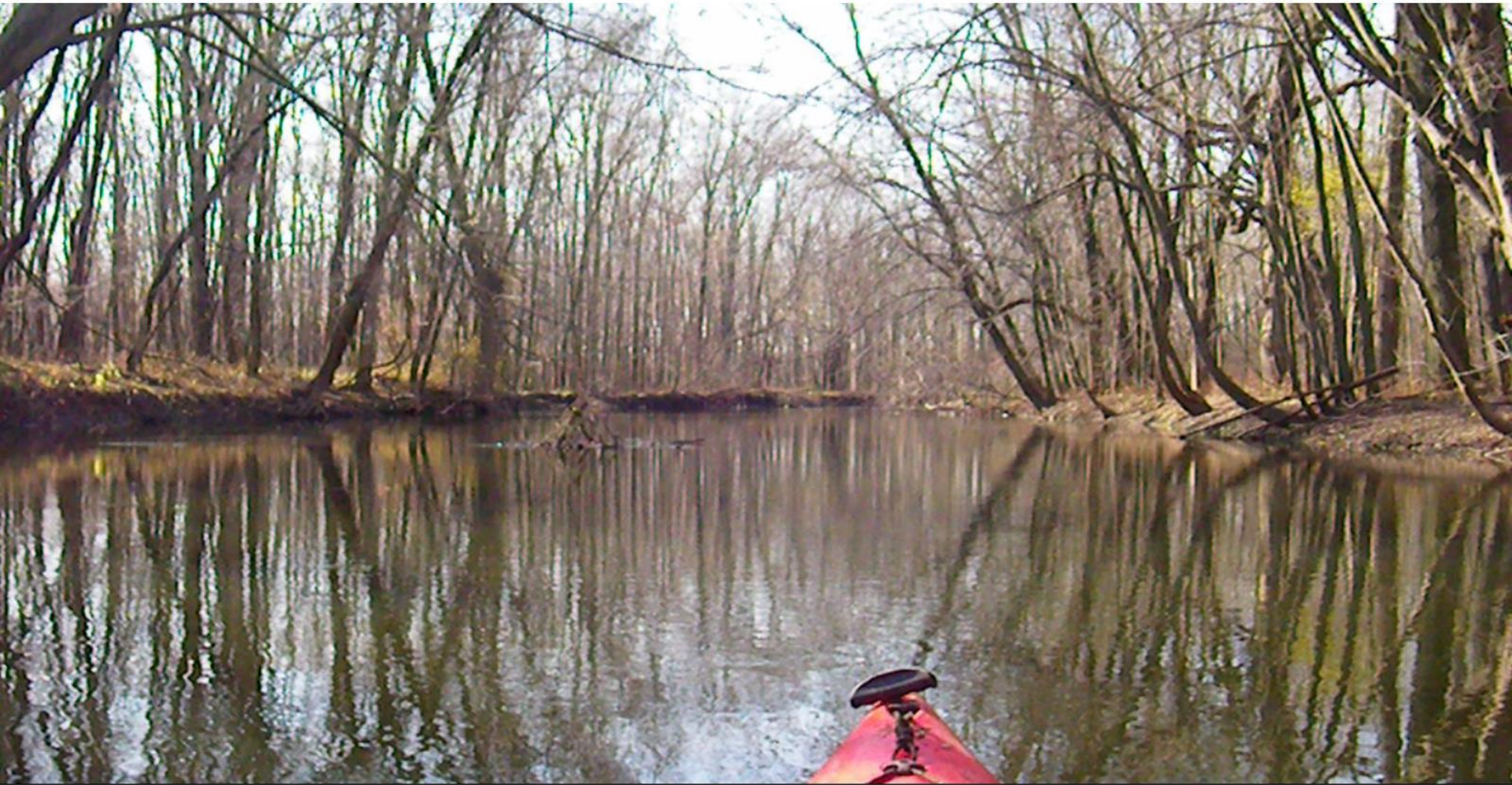
...to play a paddler's favorite game...



...River Limbo!



And some stretches will always be wilderness, like here at Sarett Nature Center.



There is year round paddling on the
Paw Paw.



High water in Spring allows access into flooded wetlands.



Summer brings lower river levels...



...and clearer water...



...and lush plant growth.



Autumn colors are spectacular.





Even late Autumn, after the leaves are gone, has its charm...



...but it helps to have the right
attitude!



But some intrepid paddlers prefer
Winter.









There is a reason it is called “The Purely Peaceful Paw Paw.”

