Creating Inclusive and Universally Accessible Water Trails

We can do it!!

**If**...we make accessibility an up-front consideration that guides our planning & design efforts.

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INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER…

- EASIER TO USE BY EVERYONE TOGETHER…
- ALL PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES…
- ALL AGES…
- ALL SKILLS…
- INDEPENDENT USE…
- SAFE…
- INTUITIVE…
INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER...

• SOME TYPE OF SYSTEM TO STABILIZE THE BOAT AT A TRANSFERABLE HEIGHT

• SOME TYPE OF MECHANISM/ROLLER SYSTEM TO HELP EASILY MOVE THE BOAT INTO/OUT OF THE WATER

• SOME MEANS OF SUPPORT RAILINGS TO HELP STABILIZE AND PULL BOAT INTO AND BACK OUT OF WATER
INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER…

• SOME MEANS OF BOARDING ASSISTANCE SUCH AS A TRANSFER BOARDING BENCH SO SOMEONE CAN WALK/ROLL UP SIT OR TRANSFER ON SLIDE OVER AND POSITION THEMSELVES OVER THE CENTER OF THE BOAT FOR INDEPENDENT, BALANCED, DRY ENTRY/EXIT
GOOD INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL DESIGN EXAMPLES...

- ACCESSIBLE ROUTE TO THE LAUNCH FROM PARKING
- GENTLE SLOPES (UNDER 5%)
- FIRM AND STABLE SEASONAL AND PERMANENT SURFACE

Midland

Greilickville
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A BLUEWAY?
A BLUEWAY IS A WATER PATH OR TRAIL THAT IS DEVELOPED WITH LAUNCH POINTS, CAMPING LOCATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST FOR CANOEISTS AND KAYAKERS.

WHERE CAN I RENT A CANOE OR KAYAK IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY?
The ST. CLAIR CITY MARINA, LOCATED AT 902 S. 2ND STREET, ST. CLAIR, MI 48079. RENTALS: CANOES/KAYAKS $10 PER HOUR, $35 4 HOURS, $60 8 HOURS.

WHERE ARE THE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE LAUNCHES?
THERE ARE FOUR AT THIS TIME. RIVER FRONT PARK OFF NORTH RIVER ROAD IN FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP, THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR MARINA, AND THE MARYSVILLE BOAT LAUNCH NORTH OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, ALL OFFER ADA ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCHES. THE NEWEST ONE IS AT BAKER’S FIELD PARK IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP.
Good clear space for moving around on the dock and at transfer boarding bench.
GREBE PARK ARCADIA TWP.
SANFORD LAKE
SO...
HOW DOES AN UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH WORK??
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES...

ACCESSIBLE PARKING
FOR CARS & BOAT TRAILERS
LOCATED NEAREST THE ROUTE TO
THE WATERS EDGE AND THE
ACCESSIBLE ROUTES TO ALL THE
AMENITIES
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES…

ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS
INCLUDING A SINGLE-USER/UNISEX DESIGN (SO OPPOSITE SEX CARE GIVERS CAN ASSIST & PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES CAN TOO!)
ACCESSIBLE POTABLE WATER

LOCATED ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE WITH ACCESSIBLE OPERATING MECHANISM THAT IS EASILY OPERATED WITH ONE HAND (AND THAT DOESN’T REQUIRE TIGHT PINCH GRASP OR TWIST MOTIONS OR TWO HANDS TO WORK), & MAY HAVE A WATER BOTTLE FILLER TAP AS WELL!
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES…

UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES

(LIKE THE SPYDER TABLE BY WABASH VALLEY) LOCATED ON ACCESSIBLE ROUTE FROM THE WATER LANDING AND FROM THE PARKING LOT
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES…

ACCESSIBLE ROUTES
WITH GENTLE SLOPES (AT LESS THAN 5% SLOPE) TO ALL AMENITIES AND TO THE WATERS EDGE LAUNCH AREA
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES…

UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE
LAUNCH SYSTEM

(EZ-LAUNCH BY EZ-DOCK GOES ABOVE
AND BEYOND MINIMUM ADA DESIGN
GUIDELINES)
SITE DESIGN & AMENITIES...

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURE INFORMATION

AND ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH LOCATIONS ON KIOSKS, WATER TRAIL MAPS, WEB-SITES
IN REVIEW…
A GOOD INCLUSIVE UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH SITE INCLUDES:

- **ACCESSIBLE PARKING** for cars & boat trailers located nearest the route to the waters edge and the accessible routes to all the amenities.

- **ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS** including a single-user/unisex design (so opposite sex care givers can assist & parents of little ones can too!)

- **ACCESSIBLE POTABLE WATER** located on an accessible route with accessible operating mechanism that is easily operated with one hand (and that doesn’t require tight pinch grasp or twist motions or two hand to work), & may have a water bottle filler tap as well.

- **UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES** (like the spider table by Wabash Valley) located on accessible route from the water landing and from the parking lot.

- **ACCESSIBLE ROUTES** with gentle slopes (at less than 5% slope) to all amenities and to the waters edge launch area.

- **UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH SYSTEM** (EZ-launch by EZ-Dock or the hydraulic launch by Great Lakes Lift are two examples that go above and beyond min ADA design guidelines)

- **ACCESSIBILITY FEATURE INFORMATION** and accessible launch locations on kiosks, water trail maps, web-sites
WHAT ACCESSIBLE WATER TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS HAVE YOU SEEN & WHERE?
QUESTIONS??

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