Lake Michigan Water Trail

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Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Common Goals, Coordinated Roles

- 4 states
- 1600 Miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and Connecting Rivers
- Public Access/Bathrooms (every 5 miles)
- Camping (every 10 miles)
- Visitor Amenities (hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, etc.)
- Attractions (large cities, small harbors, quaint towns, museums, parks, natural areas, lighthouses)
Lake Michigan Water Trail

Regional Planning Councils:

- West MI Shoreline Regional Development Commission
- Northwest MI Council of Governments
- Eastern UP Planning & Development Regional Commission
- Southwest MI Planning Commission
PLANNING

- **Lake Michigan Water Trail Plan**
  - **Inventory** Existing Access Sites
  - **Analyze** Gaps
    - access site and bathrooms every 5 miles
    - camping every 10 miles
    - accessible access sites
  - **Recommendations** for enhancement/acquisition
    - Accessibility, Bathrooms, Slopes/Erosion, Boat Storage
  - **GOAL** - Designation as a National Water Trail
Southwest Michigan Lake Michigan Water Trail

- Michigan/Indiana state line to Holland
- Spectacular sand dunes – largest collection of freshwater dunes in world
- Historic lighthouses
- Quaint beach towns - eat, shop, play
  - New Buffalo, Bridgman, St. Joseph
  - South Haven, Saugatuck/Douglas, Holland
Michigan is for paddlers!

Over 3,000 miles of trails on the Great Lakes, Inland Lakes, and Rivers await your canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard!

Choose a region and prepare for your adventure!
Consistent and Comprehensive Information For Each Site
- website (user)
- recommendations for the plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address or Community:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latitude:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miles from Last Access:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Ownership: (City, county, state, etc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location Contact (person):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location Phone:</td>
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<td>Location Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location Website:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location Amenities (add notes if applicable):</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADA Accessible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Storage</td>
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<td>Fee</td>
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<td>Camping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
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<td>Parking</td>
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<td>Picnic Area</td>
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<td>Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelter (not overnight use)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potable Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>WiFi</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat Access Type (if Water Access):</th>
<th>Developed</th>
<th>Carry-In</th>
<th>Alternate</th>
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</thead>
</table>

| Length/Ease: |
|  more than 50 yards |
| less than 50 yards |

Notes on significant encumbrances (hills, sand, vegetation, rocks) from parking area to launch area:

Access Site Sign: in the water/on shore/bank (visible from water) along road (visible from road)

Nearby Local Outfitter: | rentals | rentals including transport of boat rentals and tours |

Please list name of outfitter: 

Your Name:  
Date & Time:  
Your Contact: Phone:  
Email  

Please return form to:  
Marcy Colclough  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
185 E. Main St, Ste 701  
Benton Harbor, MI 49090  
269-925-1137 x25  
colcloughm@svmpec.org
Access Site Inventories

- Over 30 sites
- Need pictures and video
- Need to work with site owners to ensure correct information
- Amenities
- Places to eat, sleep, visit, shop
- Rentals (kayaks, canoes, stand up paddle boards)
- Transportation Options
Plan Your Adventure

What dates are you interested in?
From: [ ]
To: [ ]

What are you interested in?
Type a word, for example swimming or basketball.

Or, choose attractions or activities:
Click one or more items.
[Find My Selections]

Attractions
6 items selected
- Access to River, Lake or Stream
- Art
- Beach
- Birding Sites
- Campground
- Food
- Historic Site
- Industrial Tourism Site
- Land Formation
- Lighthouse
- Maritime History
- Museum
- Natural Area or Preserve
- Other
- Outfitter
- Rest Stop
- Sleep
- Transportation

Activities
- Alternate Boat Access
- Animal Viewing
- Artist Demonstrations
- Arts & Crafts
- ATV
- Bed & Breakfast
- Biking
- Birding
- Boating
- Canoe Rental
- Canoeing
- Carry-In Boat Access
- Convenience Dining
- Convenience Shopping
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Developed Boat Access
- Dining
- Fishing
Challenges

- Gaps (access 5 miles/camping 10 miles)
- Coordinated Promotion - Signage
- Accessibility
- Conflicts (motor boats, swimmers, harbors, etc)
- Parking and bathrooms
- Lake Michigan – safety
- Keep information updated
Next Steps

- **Enhance Existing Sites** - Work with site owners (local/state government; private)
- **Identify** and **acquire new** sites;
- **Incorporate** overall plan into local recreation plans
- **Develop and Coordinate Marketing and Promotion**