Detroit Heritage River Water Trail:
A Regional Vision for Southeast Michigan
Project Goals

- Create a vision for a regional water trail
- Develop a detailed implementation plan for the first phase
- Establish management arrangements and responsibilities

Our Vision

- A regional network of water trails
- Encourage recreation, education, and exercise
- Link to natural and historic resources
- A quality of life attraction
Water Trail Experiences: Character Zones

Lower Huron River

Paddlers will find that Flat Rock’s Huron Park offers plenty of open space for recreation on the river. Until a non-motorized launch is constructed at or near the park, Flat Rock’s Boat Launch east of Telegraph Road is a point of entry for paddlers. Rockwood’s Labo Park has primitive river access, but the city has planned an improved launch area and restroom facility. Restaurants and service plazas are conveniently located. The Huron River slows and widens downstream of the city as the natural shore fills in with private residences. Be prepared to paddle without a pushing current and to explore the wildlife along numerous offshoots on this stretch of river.

Lake Erie Waterfront

On this part of Lake Erie’s shoreline paddlers can enjoy Sterling State Park and over 1,000 acres of recreational opportunities, including camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, and water access via the Jerry C. Bortnick Memorial Boat Launch. The silhouette of the Fermi Nuclear Power Plant dramatically contrasts with the natural shoreline to the north. Certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council, the Fermi site is the largest land parcel within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Paddle with caution and stay near Lake Erie’s shore as wind and current conditions may change abruptly.
Project Partners

• Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative • DTE Energy
• Friends of the Detroit River • Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
• International Wildlife Refuge Alliance • Metropolitan Affairs Coalition
• Michigan Sea Grant • National Parks Service • Riverside Kayak Connection
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Wayne County

Financial Assistance