

WEST MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COUNCIL

LOWER GRAND RIVER WATER TRAIL ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR OTTAWA COUNTY

WMEAC

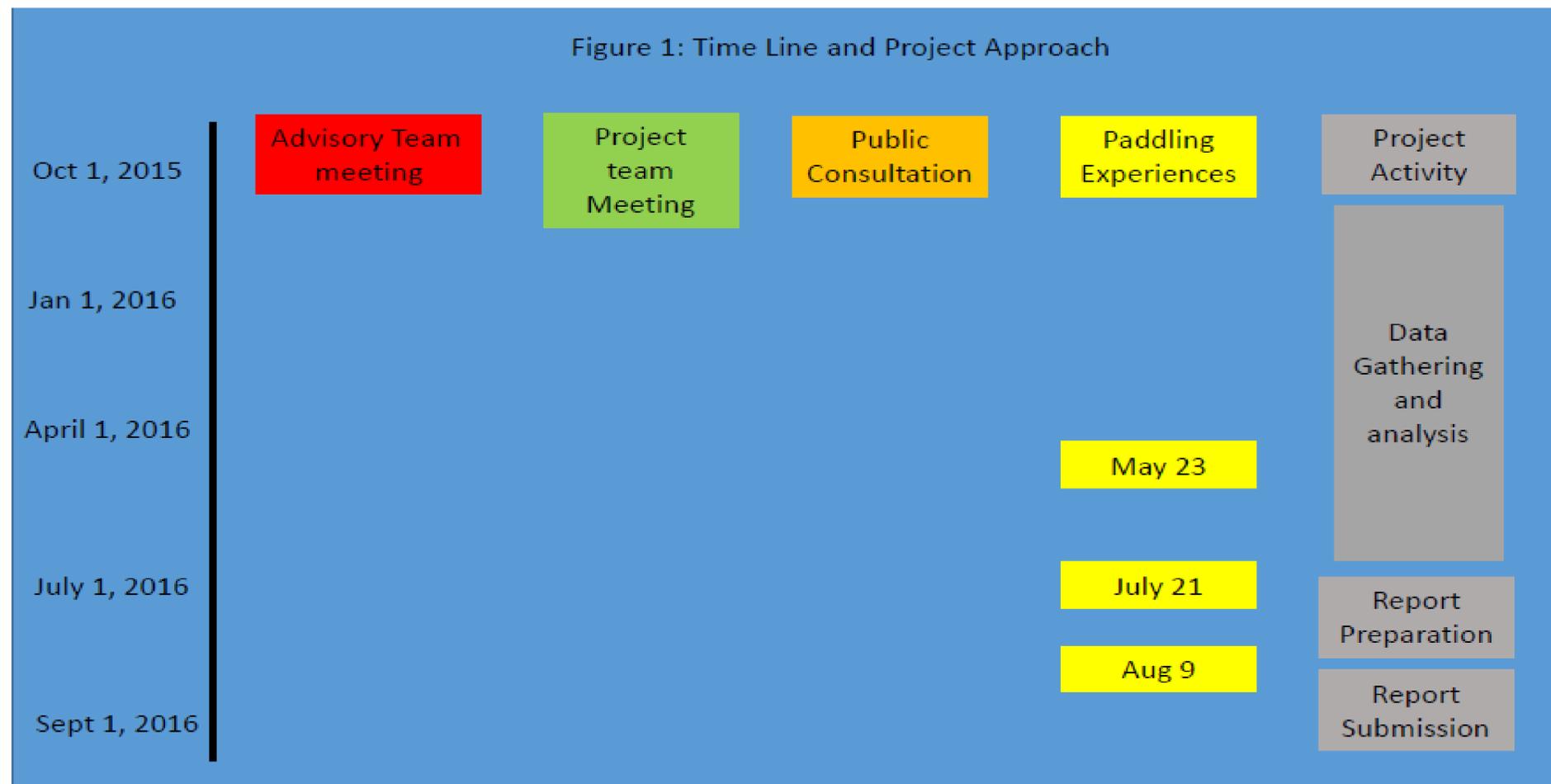
GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL

- Length of Grand River in Ottawa County
- 18 access points; 3 ADA launches
- Printable maps for 6 reaches
- Maps highlight route features



RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION

- Research
- Survey
- Public Meetings
- Experienced the Water Trail



WMEAC Water Trails Asset Record

Location	Johnson Park	Bass River Recreation Area	Pottawattomie Park	Grand River County Park	Harbor Island	Grand Ravines Park	Eastmanville Bayou	Deer Creek County Park	Bruces Bayou	East Grand River Park	Bur Oak Landing	Odawa Battle Point	Riverside Park	Mill Point Park	Indian Channel	Robinson Twp. Boat Access	Grandville City Park
Ada Accessible	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Boat Storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rack																	
Secured rack with lock																	
Boat house																	
Fees	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Parking fee?					N							N	N	N			
Entrance fee?					N							Y	N	N			
Launch fee?					Y							Y	Y	Y			
Camping	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rustic																	
Improved																	
Overnight boat lockup																	
Name																	
Distance																	
Parking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parking lot	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dead end/road end	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
On-street	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
On road shoulder	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Suitable parking for 10 vehicles with trailers	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Amount Available	40-60	15	50	20	300+	50	36	13	30	20	5-10	50	100-200	70	40	40	80+
Handicap Available	0	0	10	1	10	3	2	1	0	2	0	5	7	10	0	1	4
Suitable space for trailer turnaround	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

LAUNCH SITES

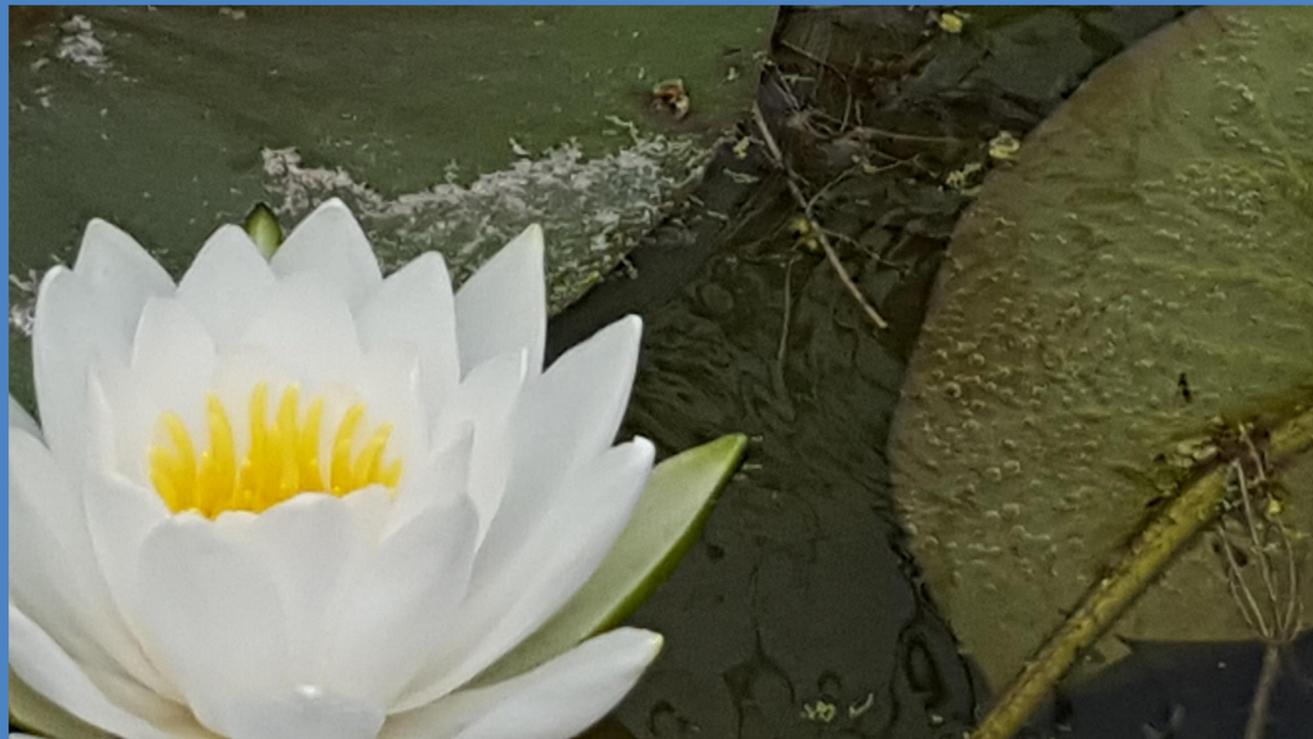
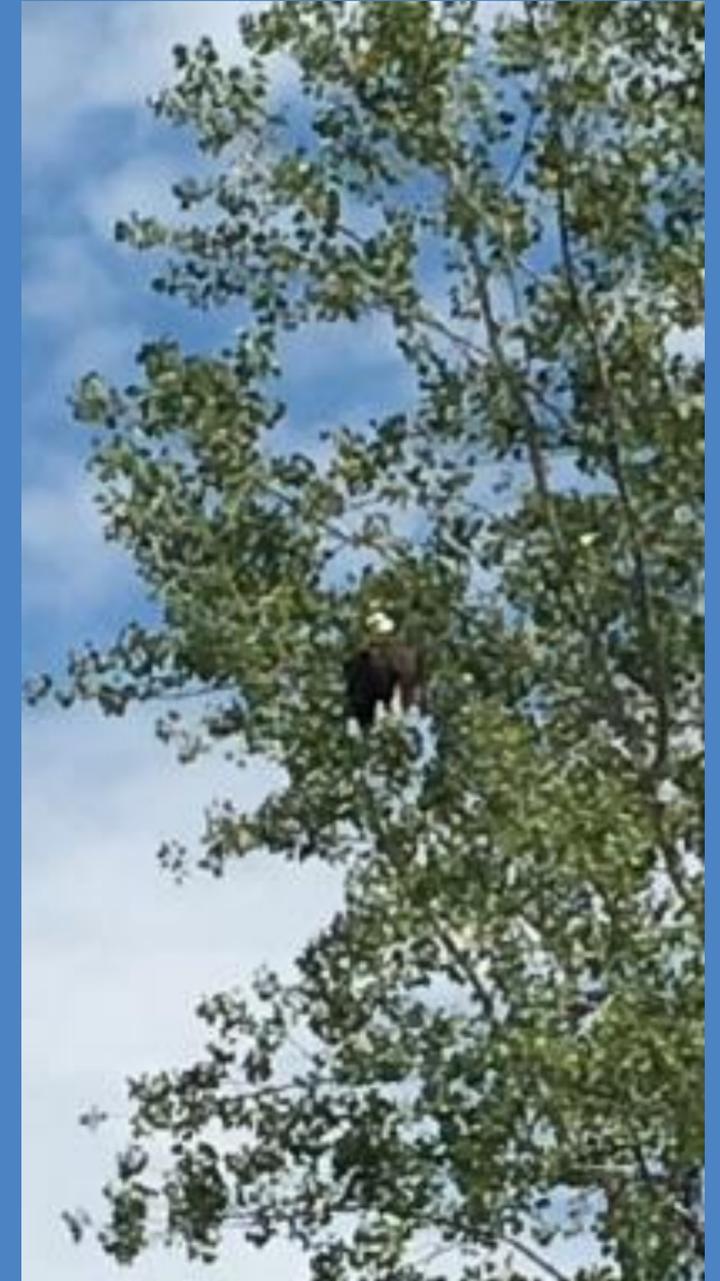
- Ownership
 - Ottawa County (8)
 - Kent County (1)
 - Local Municipalities (7)
- Distance between sites
 - Average: 2.5 miles
 - 10 sites: 2 miles or less
 - 4 sites: 3-4 miles
 - 2 sites: 5 miles or more



PRESENCE & PADDLER-READY TOURISM

	Accommodation	Site Attractions	Food & Beverage	Rentals & other services
1. Allendale <u>Twp</u>	1	2	11	0
2. Crockery <u>Twp</u>	0	2	2	0
3. <u>Ferrysburg</u>	0	2	1	0
4. Georgetown <u>Twp</u>	1	0	10	0
5. Grand Haven	7	3	13+	1
6. Grand Haven <u>Twp</u>	1	1	2	1
7. <u>Polkton Twp</u>	0	0	2	0
8. Robinson <u>Twp</u>	0	0	1	0
9. Spring Lake <u>Twp</u>	1	1	1	0
10. Spring Lake Village	1	1	7	0
11. Tallmadge <u>Twp</u>	0	0	9	0

FLORA & FAUNA



Local Unit Ordinance Assessment Form	
Use to evaluate local unit planning ordinances in order to evaluate relationship with Water Trails Project	
Name of Local Unit:	Date:
Name:	Phone:
Land Use planning in Master Plan	
- Does the community include natural feature maps in its master plan? Y/N	
- Do the land use designations relate to or correspond with the desired development pattern within these areas? Y/N	
- Is Waterfront protection included in the goals, objectives, and implementation sections of the document? Y/N	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Does the ordinance reflect the desired development pattern, density, and form? Y/ N 	
- How is waterfront defined? _____	
- How are principle and accessory buildings regulated by zoning district laws?	

- How do zoning and general law ordinances determine if and how clear cutting and tree removal is handled?	

- How does the Local Unit handle relationships between public property and private property lines?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hard signage o Fence o None o Mixed o Other: _____ 	

12 MUNICIPALITIES

- Land Use Planning
- Critical/High Risk Erosion Ordinances
- Low Impact Development
- Open Space/View Protection
- Future Public Access
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Launch Site Design Considerations

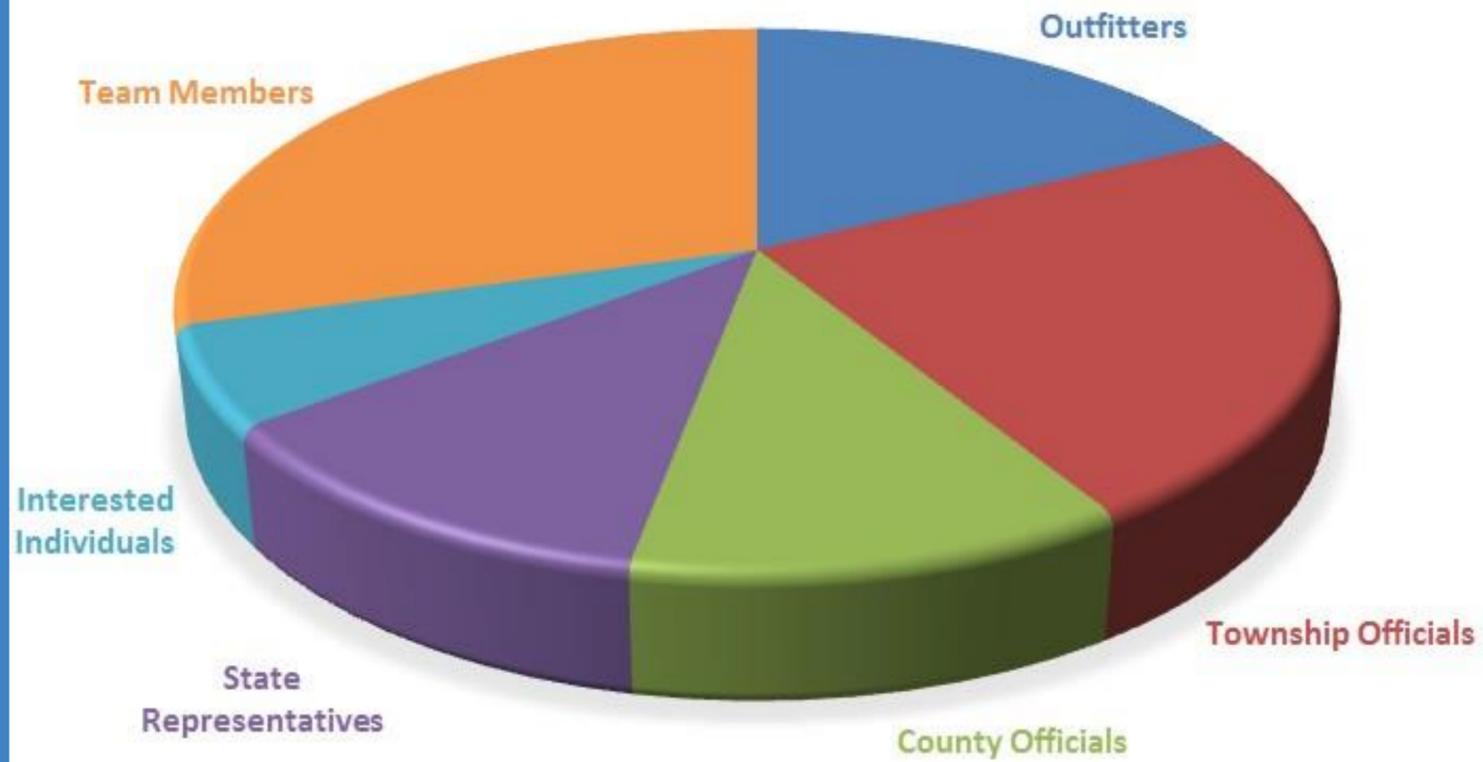


KEY PLANNING & ORDINANCE PROVISIONS

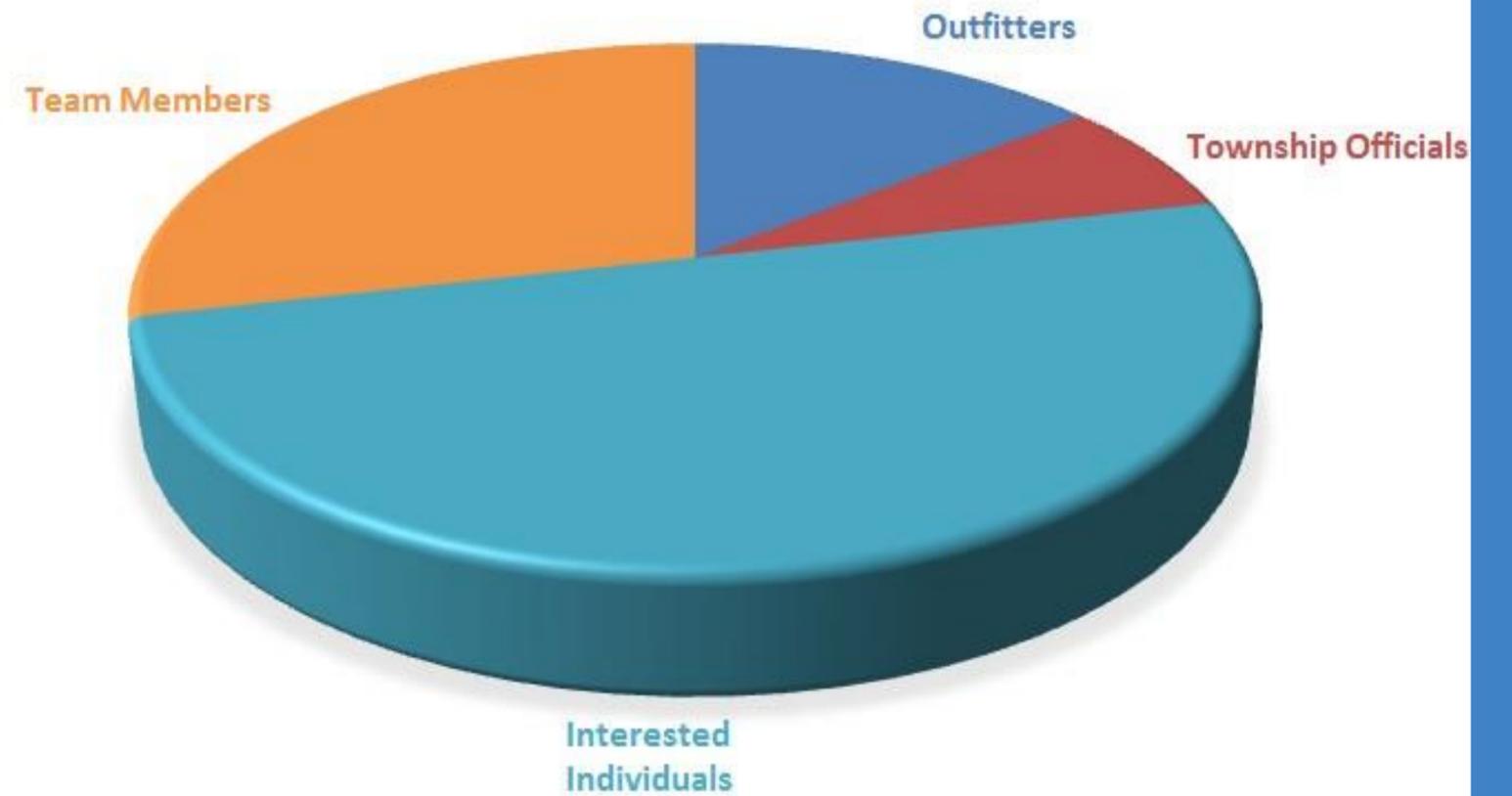
	Protection/ zoning natural features	Improve and/or expand public parks	Improve non- motorized recreational corridor connectivity	Improve, preserve, and/or create green spaces	Improve, create, and/or manage kayak/canoe access points	Promote stakeholder participation in natural preservation	Promote “Blue Water Trail” development
Grand Haven (city)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Lake (village)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Lake (twp)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ferrysburg	X	X	X	X	X		X
Allendale	X	X	X	X		X	
Georgetown	X	X	X	X	X		
Grand Haven (twp)	X	X	X	X	X		
Robinson	X	X	X	X			
Crockery	X	X					
Polkton	X						
Tallmadge	X						

PUBLIC MEETINGS

PUBLIC MEETING 1
12/7/2015



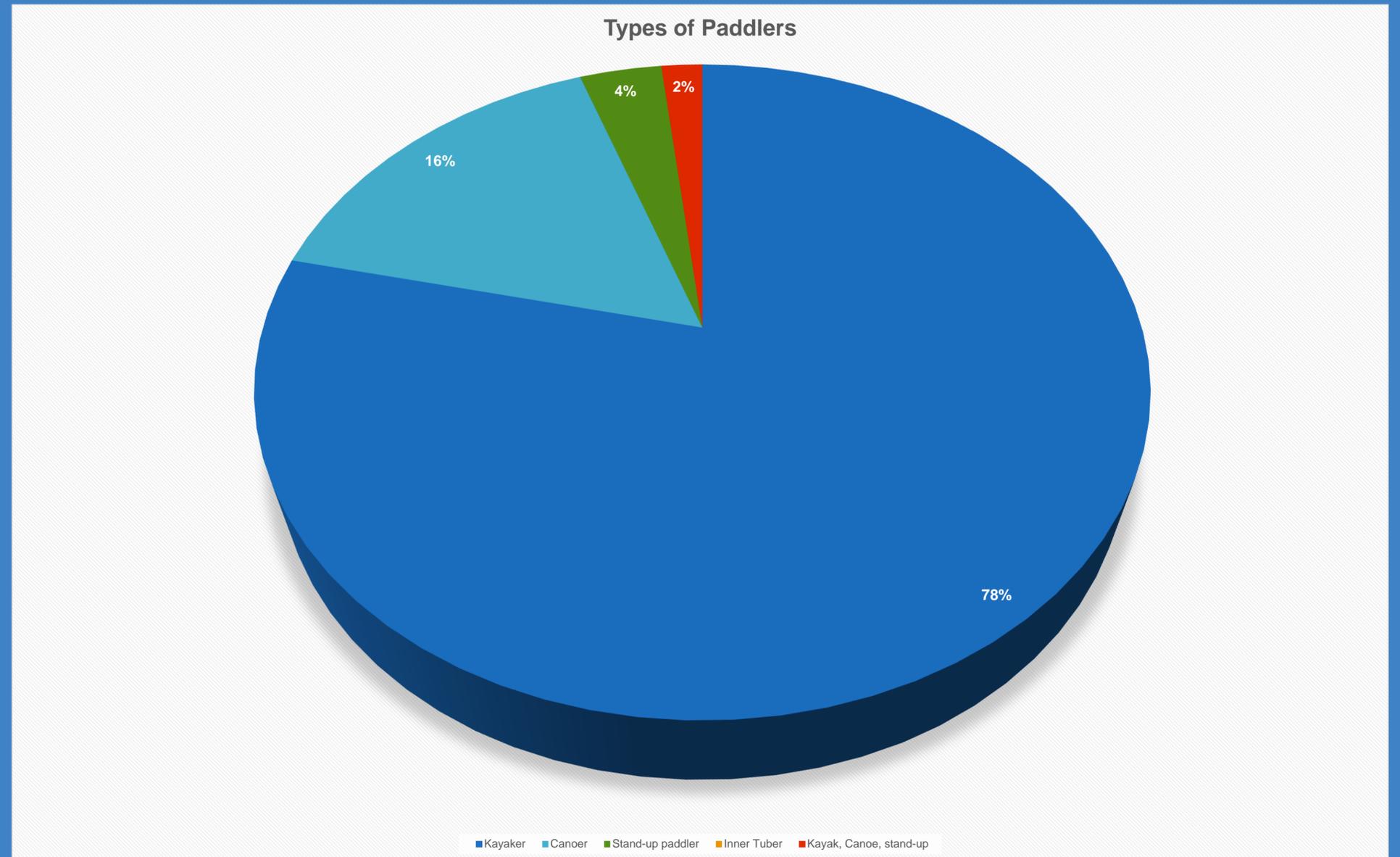
PUBLIC MEETING 2
5/9/2016



SURVEY: TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF PADDLERS

- Quiet Water Symposium
- Ottawa County Grand River Cleanup
- Website

TOTAL RESPONSES: 73





SAFETY CONCERNS

- Lack of knowledge
 - River rules/etiquette
 - Trail conditions/hazards
- Lack of responder access or resources
- Lack of trail markings and wayfinding
- Smart 911
- Costs

SAMPLE BUDGET FOR A TRAINED AND EQUIPPED RESCUE TEAM

Item	Estimated Expense	Frequency
Aluminum Flat-Bottom River Boat (16 foot Jon Boat)	\$1,800 - \$2,200	Single Purchase
40-60 HP Outboard Motor (2016 new)	\$4,000 - \$8,200	Single Purchase
Boat Storage and Maintenance	\$1,000	Annually
Michigan Boating Safety License	\$30 per person	Single Purchase
National Fire Protection Association Reference Book	\$60	Single Purchase
National Fire Protection Association Certification Course	\$200 - \$600 per person	Single Purchase
Surface and Swiftwater Rescue Clothing and Equipment	\$1,000 - \$2,000	Periodic Replacement
Total Start-Up Costs: \$8,000 - \$13,000		

MARKETING BEST PRACTICES

- Marketing Saturation
- Branding
- Assets and Areas of Interest
- Signage
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement and Engagement

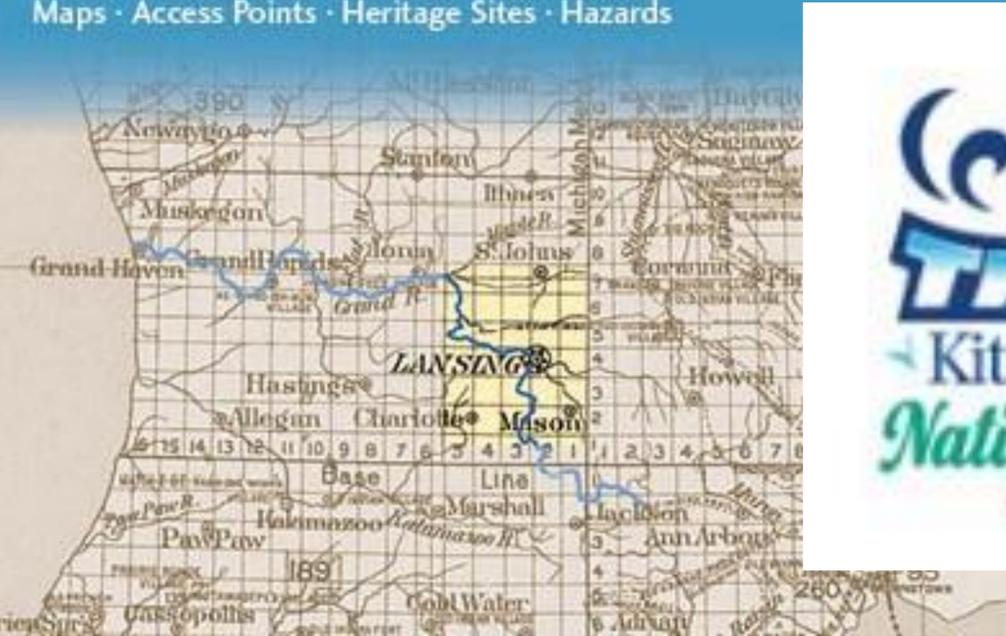


MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK

MGROW
MIDDLE GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION OF WATERSHEDS

Updated 2nd edition!

Paddle Through History from Eaton Rapids to Lyons
Maps · Access Points · Heritage Sites · Hazards



Citovah River WATER TRAIL

RODEO

Sept. 20, 2015 • 1-8 p.m.
Frankie Harris Park in Euharlee

8-Mile Paddle
Barbecue Dinner from Johnny Mitchell's Smokehouse
Coopers Furnace Lager from Anheuser-Busch Cortersville Brewery
Koyak Raffle Courtesy of The Outside World

Sponsored By:

- CRBI
- Euharlee Creek Outfitters
- Johnny Mitchell's Smokehouse

YOU BELONG HERE

2016 June 18

CRIDER THE TIDE

Kitsap Peninsula National Water Trails

CLICK to SIGN-UP

RECOMMENDATIONS

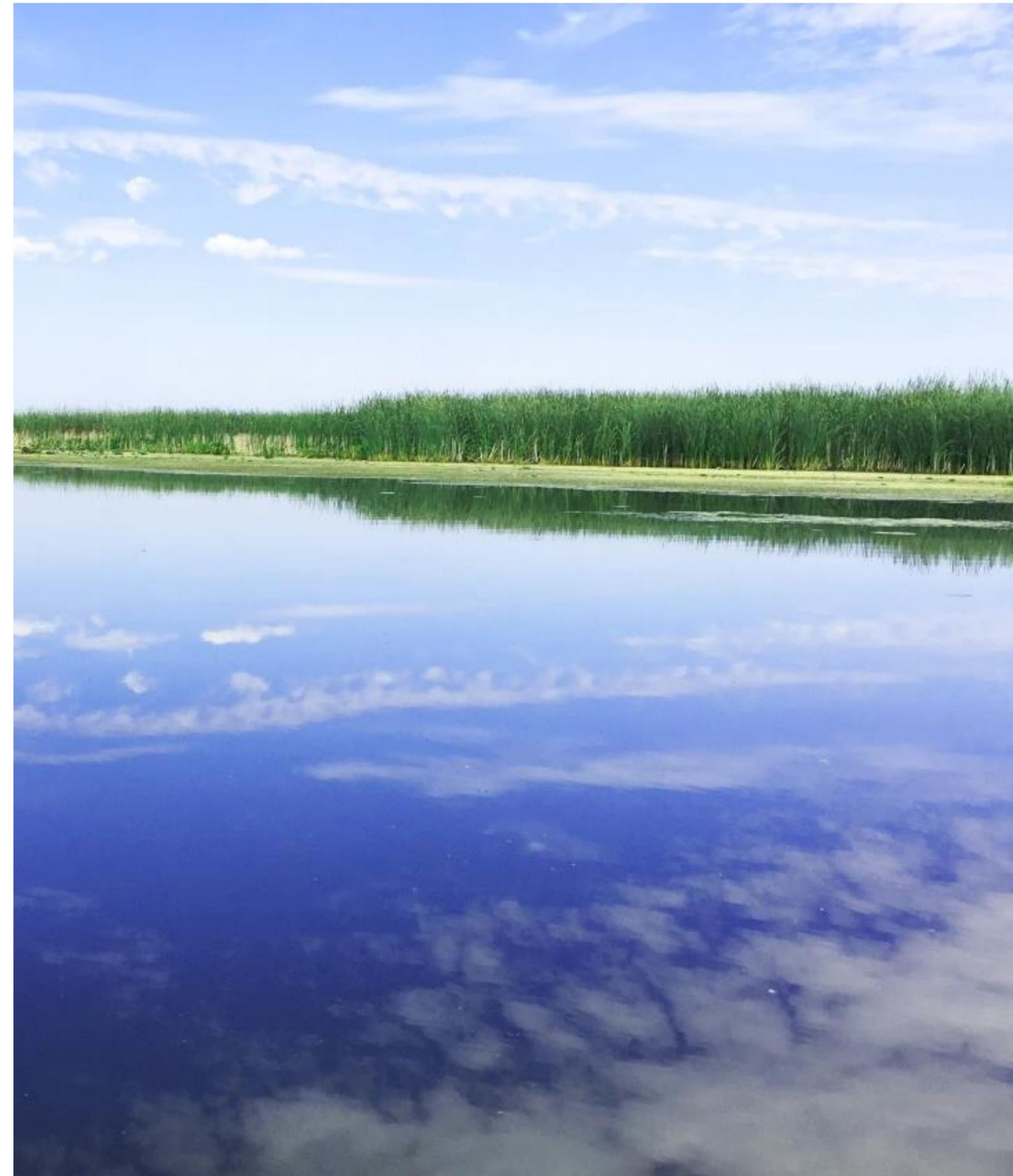
- Improved facilities
 - Boat storage/security
 - Camping facilities
 - Transportation options
 - More food/eateries options
- Include water trails planning and development in master planning, parks and recreation planning, ordinance updates
- Improved signage
 - Visible from waterway
 - Mile markers/wayfinding
 - More information





- Safety
 - Communicate with 1st responders with water trail updates/conditions
 - Update trail markings and mapping information
 - Develop safety protocols with 1st responders
 - Additional funding for additional services needed
- Provide experience and skill-level information
- Website Improvements
 - More information
 - More accessibility
 - More interactive
- Create waterproof guide book

- Community Education
 - Water quality issues and stormwater runoff
 - Water trail information
 - Water safety and river etiquette
 - Property rights
- Establish a water trail coordinator
- Branding and messaging
 - Water trails are the best way to explore Michigan's natural beauty
 - A water trail is just that – made up of 1 or more waterways
 - Grand River Water Trail goes to Lake Michigan
 - Water trails are for everyone



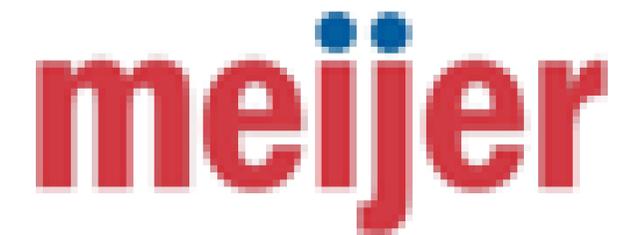


- Develop and maintain partnerships

PROJECT PARTNERS



PROJECT SUPPORT



COMMENTS DUE ON DRAFT REPORT
SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

WMEAC.ORG/WATER/WEST-MICHIGAN-WATER-TRAIL



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