

MGROW PRESENTS THE MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL

Presented by Fred E. Cowles, P.E.

Vice President of the Middle Grand River Organization
of Watersheds

The Middle Grand River Heritage Water Trail is 3 “Things”

- It's a Book of Maps
- It's a Smart Phone App (Android, iPhone soon)
- It's a Web Site

Each share a set of

- Access Points
- Hazard Points
- Heritage Points

QR Codes link the Book to the Web Site

Hot Links on the App link to the Web Site



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MGROW HWT Book of Maps



MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK

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



- The Mapbook provides the typical information that paddlers expect, i.e. Put-ins, Take-outs, Hazards
- Six Featured Trips are included to make planning easy



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- The Featured Trips include photos of important Access Sites
- Detailed information is provided about all of the Access Sites

Trip #1: Lansing's Old Town to Delta Mills

Maps 4b, 5a, 5b (2 to 3 hours, 6.75 miles)

Park on the south side of East Grand River Avenue in the large city-owned lot next to Burchard Park, just downstream of the North Lansing Dam and Brenke Fish Ladder. Carry your boat down the wooden stairs to the river. The stairs and rocks at the launch site are slippery and rough. Do not paddle upstream toward the dam due to its powerful reverse current!

The first bridge is North Grand River Avenue near the Turner-Dodge Mansion on the right.

The second bridge is M-99/Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The third bridge is an old railroad trestle. It occasionally traps fallen trees, so look for the most open route underneath it.

The fourth bridge is Waverly Road.

The fifth bridge is Webster Road. After a long stretch of wooded riverbanks, look for it just downstream of an island and a small rapid that you can easily paddle through. Be ready to make a sharp left turn just past this bridge to stop at Delta Mills Park and end your trip.

Delta Mills Park has picnic tables and restrooms with flush toilets across the sports field from the boat landing. Limited parking is available at the launch site for spotting your vehicle. Ample parking is available across the street.



Dock at Delta Mills Park

overpass for I-69/I-96.

As you reach the outskirts of Grand Ledge, you will start to see more homes along the riverbank. The river has become the backwaters of the Grand Ledge Dam and the current is very slow.

Watch for the boat launch ramp on the left at Jaycee Park. There's a brown and white building up the hill from the river, a primitive restroom, and a playground nearby.

Some paddlers continue downstream through Grand Ledge all the way to the take-out next to the Grand Ledge Dam. This is not recommended for recreational paddlers due to the high elevation of the dock on the left and its close proximity to the dam. If you miss the dock, you may get swept over the dam. The reverse current below the dam is extremely dangerous. Jaycee Park is a much safer place to exit the river.



Put-in at Burchard Park in Lansing's Old Town

Trip #2: Delta Mills to Grand Ledge

Maps 5b, 6a (1.5 to 2.5 hours, 6.15 miles)

See Trip #1 above for put-in information.

The only bridge between Delta Mills Park and the Jaycee Park take-out is a triple

Trip #3: Old Town to Grand Ledge

Maps 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a

(3.5 to 5 hours, 12.9 miles)

Trip #1 and Trip #2 may be combined for one longer trip.



Take-out at Jaycee Park in Grand Ledge

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Middle Grand River Access Sites

Access Site (river miles)	Map No.	Nearest Roads	River Side	Parking	Distance to River	Launch Type	Rest- rooms	Drinking Water	Picnic Tables	Refuse Disposal	User Fee	Comments
Smithville Park (0.0)	1a	Smithville Rd	Right	4 gravel	200'	Beach	No	No	2	Barrels	No	Rocky put-in. Firepit and 2 grills. If entering from the Upper Grand River, mandatory 600' portage on river right.
McArthur Park - Eaton Rapids (1.5)	1a	McArthur River Dr & Forest St	Right	10 street	50'	Ramp & dock	Primitive	No	0	No	No	Dock is wheelchair accessible. No portage at dam. Mandatory portage 1 mile from McArthur Park to Mill St. Exit river right. Enter river left at Mill St.
Mill Street - Eaton Rapids (2.3)	1a	End of Mill St	Left	36 paved	120' 150'	Up - beach Down - beach	Primitive	No	1	Barrels	No	Mandatory portage at dam. Livery.
Bunker Road Landing (6.6)	1b	Bunker Rd	Right	10 gravel	50'	Dock	Primitive	No	0	Barrels	No	
McNamara Landing (10.5)	2a	Columbia Hwy & Waverly Rd	Right	24 gravel	140'	Dock	Primitive	Hand pump	2	Barrels	No	
Riverbend Natural Area (12.6)	2a 2b	Nichols Rd & Kingman Rd	Right	30 gravel	150'	Dock	Primitive	No	0	Barrels	No	
Burchfield Park (13.1)	2b	Grovenburg Rd & Harper Rd	Right	many gravel	375' N 175' S	Dock Dock	Flush	Running	Many	Barrels	Yes	3 launch sites; one is county-run livery; 2 disc golf courses.
Danford Island Park - Dimondale (18.2)	3a	Washington St & Pine St	Right	14 paved	300' N 230' S	Up - dock Down - beach	No	No	3	Barrels	No	If portaging use river right: ~250'. Upstream dock is wheelchair accessible.
Lions Community Park - Dimondale (18.3)	3a	E Jefferson St	Left	20 street	600'	Down - bank	No	No	15	Barrels	No	Access below dam removal only
Fulton Park - Lansing (23.4)	3b	End of Shef- field Blvd, East of S Waverly Rd	Right	12 paved	375'	Dock	No	No	2	Barrels	No	Long stairway to dock
Grand River Park & Boat Launch (26.1)	4a	Lansing Rd & Grand River Park	Left	50+ paved	0-350'	Ramp & dock	Flush	Running	4	Barrels	No	Michigan Princess mooring

North Lansing Dam

Mandatory 700' portage river right

Fish ladder

Rocky put-in

Businesses nearby.



Adado Park – East

Nearest Road(s): N Cedar St, North of E Shiawasse St

Side: Right

Parking: none

Distance to River: Distant

Launch Type: Dock

Restrooms: No

Drinking Water: No

Picnic Tables: 6

Refuse Disposal: Barrels

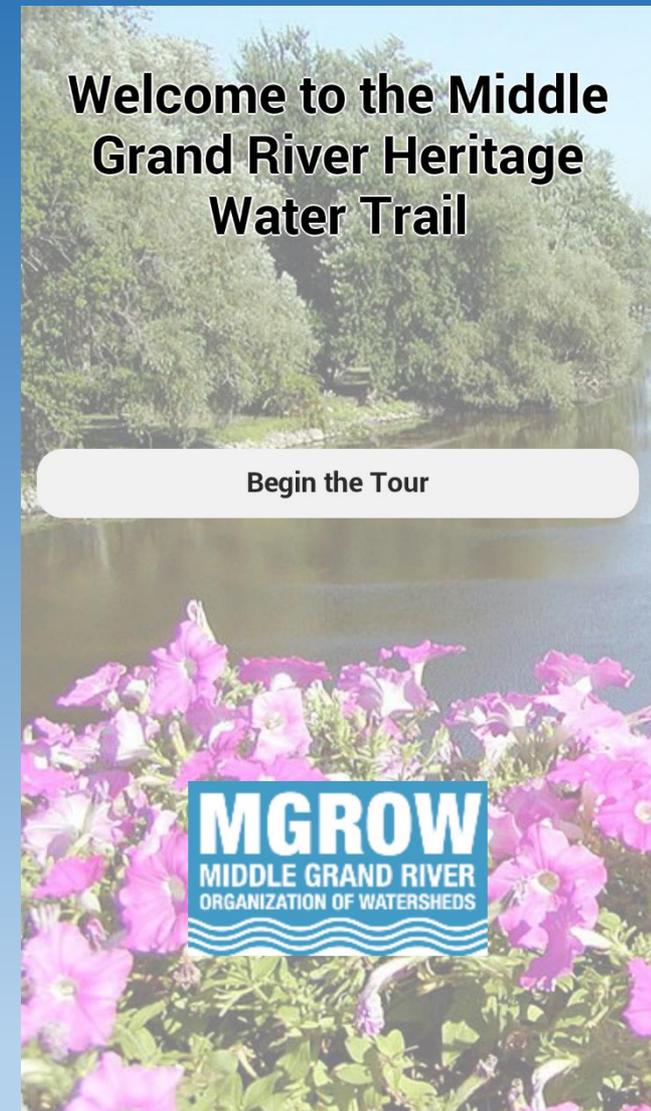
Fee for Use: No

Comments: Pedestrian bridge between East and West



MGROW HWT Smart Phone App

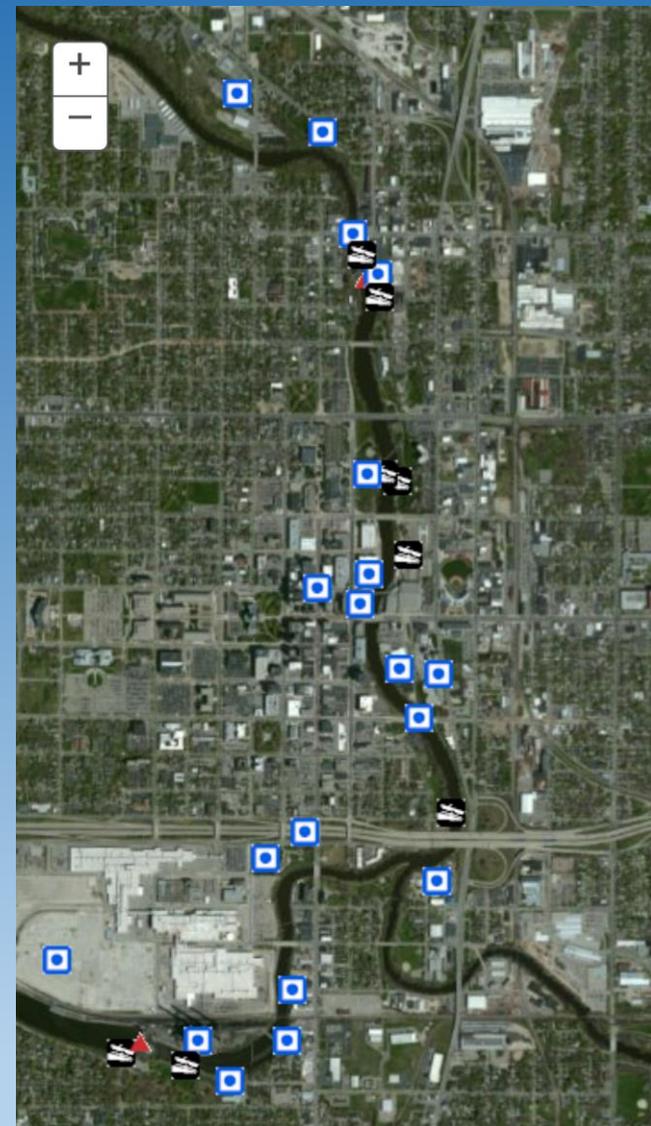
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.MiddleGrandHeritageWaterTrail>
- You can also find the app by searching in the Google Play store with the keywords "Middle Grand Water Trail". It should be the first result that is returned.



Half
Way

MGROW HWT Smart Phone App

As you travel downstream on the Grand River, the app will automatically vibrate as you near either a historical site, access point, or river hazard. It will also display information about that site on your screen.



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Back

Mineral Spring House



LANSING MINERAL SPRING HOUSE.

The hotel was on the east side of River Street on the south side of the Grand River. It was closer to a sanitarium than a traditional hotel, and frequented by people who came to experience the mineral water (which had been discovered while drilling for salt), which was known to treat various diseases.

[More Information](#)



MGROW HWT Web Site

www.mgrow.org

HOME WHAT'S NEW EVENTS PROJECTS **MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL** ABOUT US GET INVOLVED!

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL RIVER

WE ARE A PART OF THE EFFORT TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN! POLLUTIONISNTPRETTY.ORG

POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.

Grand River Expedition 2010 drew over 150 paddlers.

MGROW IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Celebrate Our Rivers on the Michigan Princess

Sept 17th, 2015 Michigan Princess Early Bird Registration Deadline is September 3rd! Boarding/Registration 5:30 Boat departs 6pm River Cruise ends at 8:30 •Explore your rivers •Find out water quality testing results •Discover neighborhood efforts •Connect with local experts

Register by Sep 3 for \$20 (includes dinner, cruise, and goodies)
<http://celebraterivers.eventbrite.com> After Sep 3, Tickets will [...]

Share

CALENDAR

September 2015

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27



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MGROW HWT Web Site

The screenshot shows the MGROW HWT Web Site homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with links: HOME, WHAT'S NEW, EVENTS, PROJECTS, MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL (highlighted), ABOUT US, and GET INVOLVED!. Below the navigation bar is the main heading "Middle Grand River Heritage Water Trail". Underneath is a sub-heading "Paddle Through History from Eaton Rapids to Lyons". A paragraph follows: "This section of our website contains the companion web pages for the *Middle Grand River Heritage Water Trail Guidebook* that you can view from your handheld device or your computer's web browser." Below this is another paragraph: "Use your handheld device to snap one of the QR codes on any map in the *Guidebook*, or click one of the links below and choose a page from the list to learn more." Three blue underlined links are listed: "Access Sites", "Hazard Sites", and "Heritage Sites". A paragraph follows: "You'll find a wealth of information about each of the points highlighted in the *Guidebook*, with detailed descriptions and photos:" followed by a bulleted list: "• How to get on and off the river", "• Hazards to watch out for", and "• Stories about the rich history of settlement and growth along the Middle Grand River". Below the list is the text "Android users: Get the app!" and a paragraph: "With your smartphone's GPS feature on, the app provides you with your exact location on the river. As you near a site of importance, the screen will activate, providing you with an image and a brief description of the site. Click the link to get more details from our website." On the right side of the page is a large image of a river with trees reflected in the water. Below the image is a graphic for the "MIDDLE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK" with the subtitle "Paddle Through History from Eaton Rapids to Lyons" and the MGROW logo. Below the graphic is a map of the Middle Grand River watershed with a yellow line indicating the trail route. At the bottom of the page are four logos: the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Institute of Water Research, the TCRPC (Twin County Regional Planning Commission), the Mississippi Department of Geography, and the MMPGS (Mississippi Mid-American Program for Greater Sustainability).



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Erdman Road End

Nearest Road(s): Erdman Road, south of Portland

Side: Left

Parking: 6 gravel

Distance to River: 50-150'

Launch Type: Beach

Restrooms: No

Drinking Water: No

Picnic Tables: 0

Refuse Disposal: No

Fee for Use: No

Comments: Informal access - at road end in Portland State Game Area



What's it Cost?

- The App was programmed by a graduate level GIS class at MSU
- It needed significant revision
- The GIS is hosted by the Institute of Water Research at MSU about \$10,000 over 2 years
- Cost of volunteer labor is free. If it had been contracted to a consultant, it probably would have been over \$50,000
- Printing only 100 copies cost \$1500
- We had grant assistance for these costs



How to Cover the Cost in the Future

- Don't know
- Questionable Possibilities:
 - Find a benefactor
 - Hope for grants
 - Solicit donations from users
- Collaborate with other Heritage Water Trails
 - The App can add points anywhere in the world
 - Sharing the GIS hosting and App support with 3 or 4 other HWTs would bring the annual cost down to ~\$500



Want a Map Book?

- \$20
- On sale now
- See me later



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Feedback is Solicited

- We are working out some details we have identified
- We expect that many more details need working out that we have not yet identified
- Your help is needed for that
- Contact Fred Cowles at fcowles@mgrow.org or Loretta Crum at lcrum@mgrow.org



Thank You



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The Grand River Watershed Partnership

- **Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance (UGRWA)**
- **Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW)**
- **Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW)**

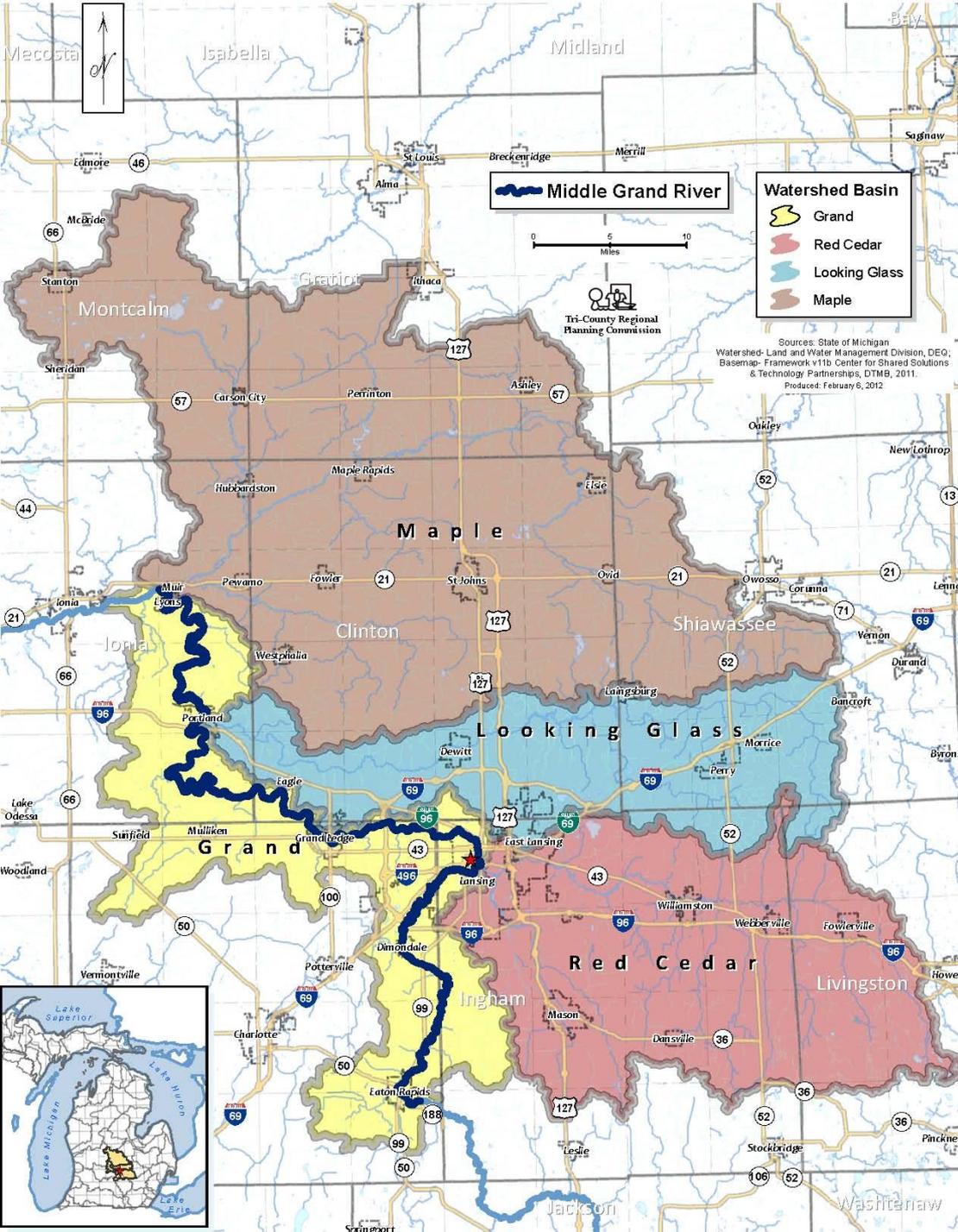


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