

Lake Michigan Water Trail



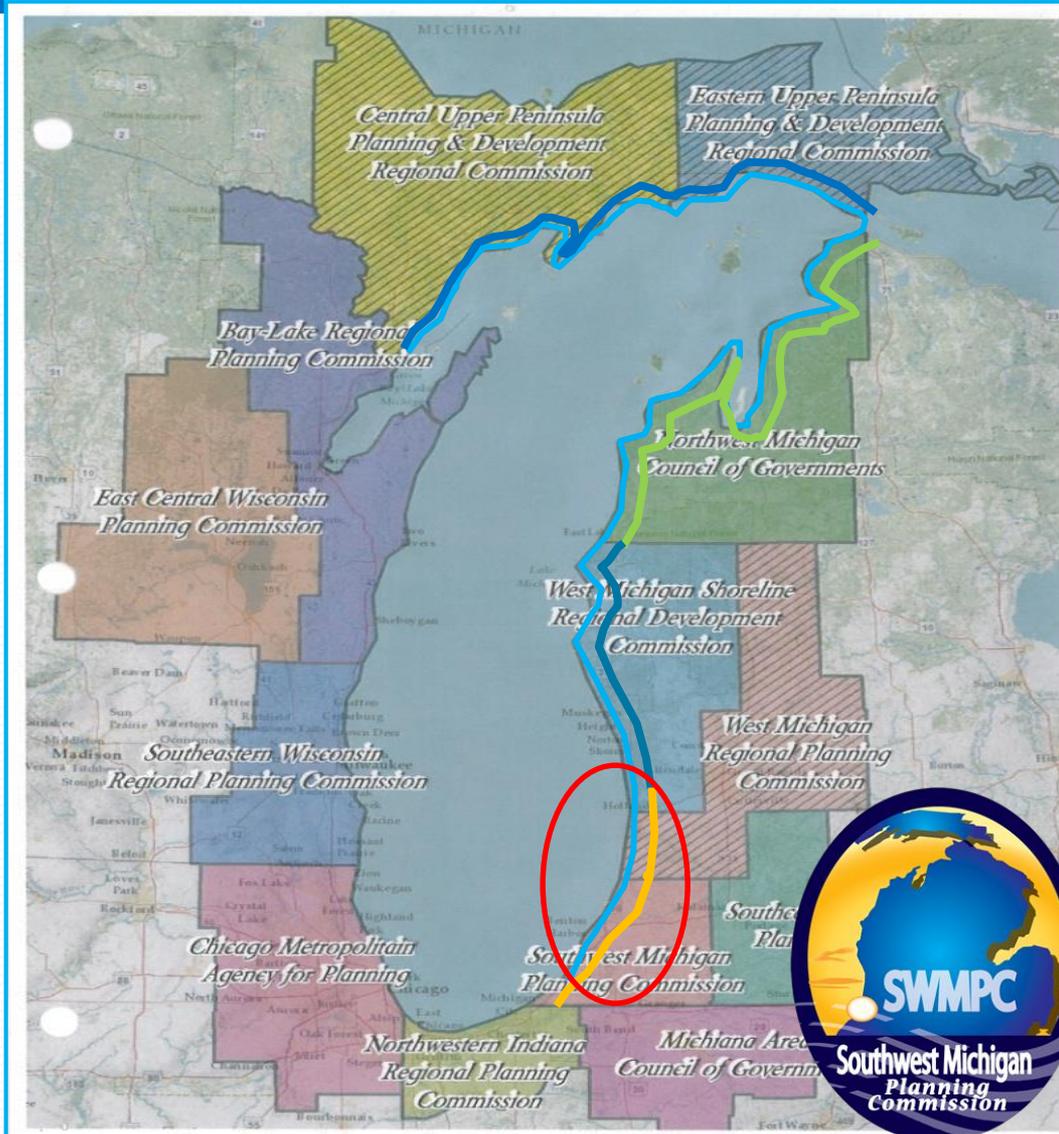
Marcy Hamilton
Senior Planner

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

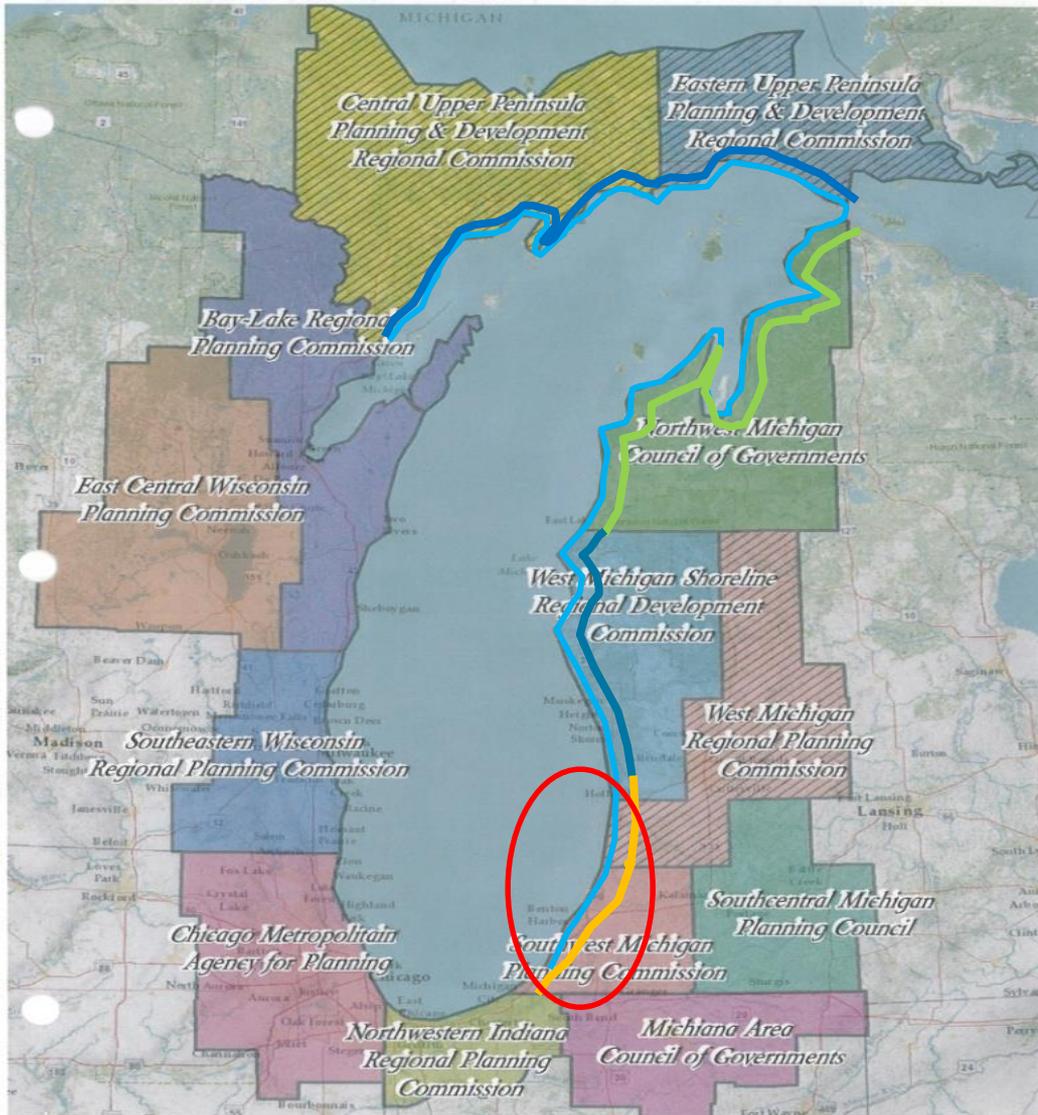


Common Goals, Coordinated Roles

- 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



www.michiganwatertrails.org



[Regions](#) [About](#) [Plan Your Adventure](#) [Weather & Safety](#) [Paddling in Michigan](#) [Video](#) [More Trails](#)



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!

Access Site Record Form

Use this form to record an access site in the field.

Consistent and Comprehensive Information For Each Site

- website (user)
- recommendations for the plan

Location Name:

Address or Community:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Miles from Last Access:

Miles from Start:

Site Ownership: (City, county, state, etc)

Location Contact (person):

Location Phone:

Location Email:

Location Website:

Location Amenities (add notes if applicable):

- ADA Accessible
- Boat Storage ___rack ___secured rack with lock
- Fee ___parking ___entrance/launch Amount?_____
- Camping ___rustic (area for tents and restrooms) ___improved (electric, running water, sho
- Lighting
- Parking ___parking lot ___dead end/road end ___on-street ___ on road shoulder
- Picnic Area
- Power
- Restrooms ___pit ___flush
- Shelter (not overnight use)
- Potable Water
- WiFi

Boat Access Type (if Water Access): Developed Carry-In Alternate

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 ro

Nearby Local Outfitter: ___just rentals ___rentals including transport of boat ___rentals and tours

Please list name of outfitter. _____

Environmental & Conservation Concerns

(e.g., shoreline erosion, phragmites)

Potential Improvements

Your Name:

Date & Time:

Your Contact:

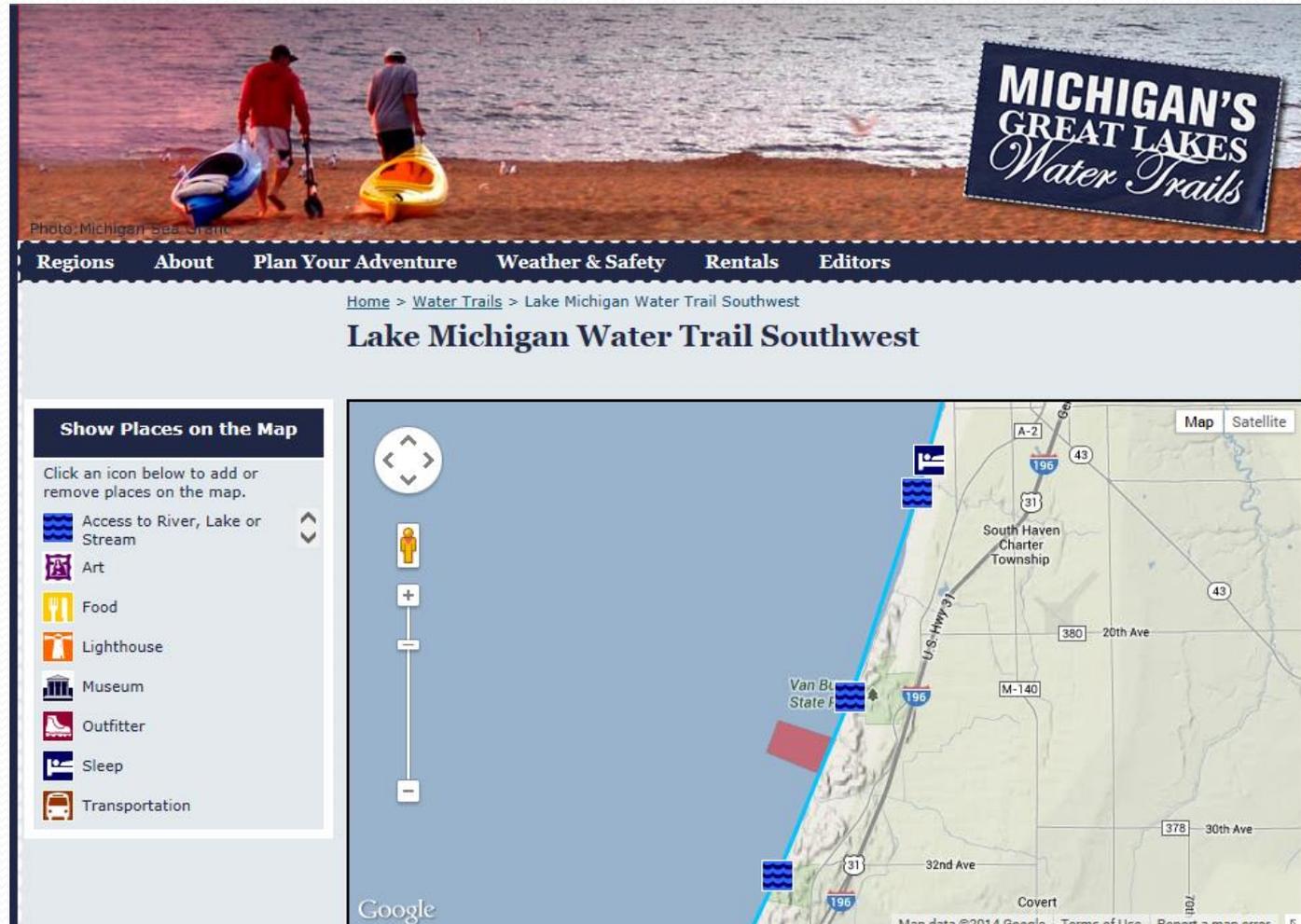
Phone:

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@swmpc.org

Access Site Inventories

- Over 30 sites
- Need pictures and video
- Need to work with site owners to ensure correct information



The screenshot displays the website for Michigan's Great Lakes Water Trails. At the top, there is a banner image of two people with kayaks on a beach, with a logo that reads "MICHIGAN'S GREAT LAKES Water Trails". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: "Regions", "About", "Plan Your Adventure", "Weather & Safety", "Rentals", and "Editors". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Home > Water Trails > Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest" and the title "Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest". On the left, there is a "Show Places on the Map" sidebar with a list of icons and labels: "Access to River, Lake or Stream", "Art", "Food", "Lighthouse", "Museum", "Outfitter", "Sleep", and "Transportation". The main map area shows a map of the Lake Michigan shoreline with various icons and labels, including "Van Buren State Park", "South Haven Charter Township", "U.S. Hwy 31", "I-196", "M-140", "31", "380", "20th Ave", "32nd Ave", "378", "30th Ave", "Covert", and "70th". The map is powered by Google, as indicated by the "Google" logo at the bottom left.

• Amenities

Places to eat, sleep, visit, shop

Rentals (kayaks, canoes, stand up paddle boards)

Transportation Options



Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Regions About Plan Your Adventure Weather & Safety Rentals Editors

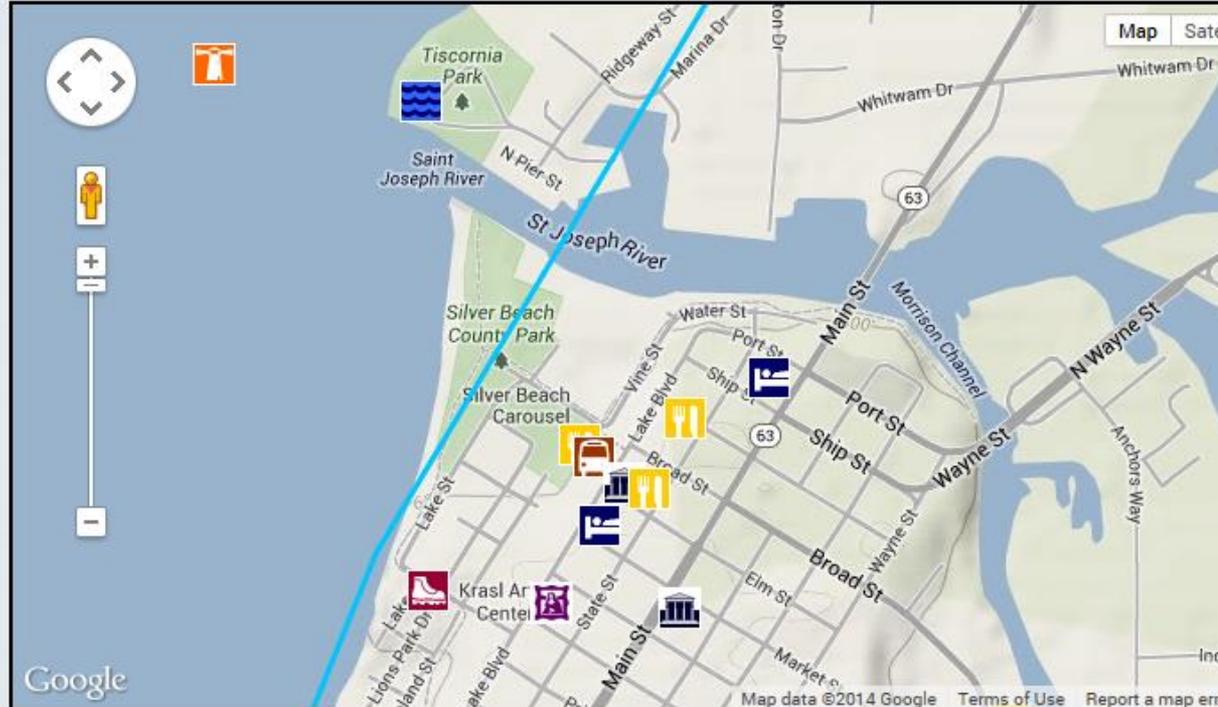
Home > Water Trails > Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest

Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest

Show Places on the Map

Click an icon below to add or remove places on the map.

- Access to River, Lake or Stream
- Art
- Food
- Lighthouse
- Museum
- Outfitter
- Sleep
- Transportation



Google

Map data ©2014 Google Terms of Use Report a map error

[Home](#) > [Plan Your Adventure](#)

Plan Your Adventure

Download All Our Locations for Google Earth

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



Image: Vito Palmisano



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**