



JANUARY 2019 UPDATE

PLANNING THE TRAIL

Paddle Antrim’s vision is thriving communities connected by pristine and well-maintained waterways. We are excited to lead and facilitate the development of the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. Through cooperation and collaboration with public and private partners and landowners, we are creating, managing and maintaining a premier water trail.

A water trail is a designated route along a river, lake, canal, or bay designed for people using small, non-motorized watercraft like kayaks and canoes. Water trails encourage healthy lifestyles, provide a sense of community and place, encourage preservation of waterways, and positively impact local businesses.

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In December 2018, the Chain of Lakes was designated as a State Water Trail by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We continue to follow our water trail plan and make improvements. The water trail plan and additional information can be found at www.paddleantrim.com/water-trail.

PADDLE ANTRIM

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WATER TRAILS IMPACT THE ECONOMY

Water trails have a positive impact on the local economy, especially in communities that incorporate trails. Studies show paddlers spend an average of \$126 on day trips and \$268 on overnight trips. Also, participation in paddle sport activities is on the rise. According the Outdoor Foundation’s 2017 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, the following paddle sports have seen a positive change in the past 3 years: stand up paddle boarding (61.6%), sea/touring 16%, and recreational kayaking 14.9%



BUILDING THE TRAIL

The Chain of Lakes provides wonderful opportunities for non-motorized watercrafts. There are diverse paddling opportunities for all skill levels from short day trips to overnight excursions. We are committed to working with access site owners to develop routes that are barrier free so that facilities and its amenities can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACCESS SITES: Thanks to the support of 17 jurisdictions, 81 access sites have been included on the water trail. Through partnership agreements Paddle Antrim coordinate roles and identify improvements needed at each site.

As part of our management strategy, we designate different levels of access: Trailheads, access sites, and emergency exits. *Trailheads* serve as the primary entrance and exit sites for designated routes.

Paddle Antrim's communications materials will encourage trail users to launch and exit from these sites. *Access sites* are suitable launch and exit sites though some may include longer carry-in launches and limited parking. *Emergency exits* are not ideal for routine access, but do provide a safe haven for individuals who need to get out of the water.

ROUTES: We have identified 14 different routes to date, ranging from three miles to over 30 miles. Beginner and intermediate routes will be found on the Upper Chain while the Lower Chain has an array of intermediate and advanced routes.

MAPPING – Mapping the trail is necessary for identifying routes and gaps in services as well as for water trail users planning trips and while on the water. In partnership with Land Information Access Association, all access sites and routes for the Chain of Lakes Water Trail are mapped and can be found at www.michiganwatertrails.org.

STEWARDSHIP – Stewardship is integral to water trail development. The Chain of Lakes

watershed has a strong conservation and stewardship vision and practice in place through the Watershed Plan and Implementation Team which we participate in. Through our website, at events, at access sites and in print, we promote stewardship of the land and waterways and focus on topics such as water quality protection, leave no trace etiquette, and aquatic invasive species prevention.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Water trail users need information for planning trips as well as for use while on the trail. Information on the water trail, access sites, amenities, and routes are critical for promotion and proper use. Paddle Antrim is developing information to use both online and in print. Signs have been designed and include not only water trail information but information on stewardship, safety, other recreational opportunities and services within the communities. We are actively raising funds to complete the sign installation and other necessary information.

MAINTENANCE – Sustainable development of a water trail also includes planning for future maintenance of the trail and access sites. Consideration of this is done with each improvement undertaken. Our plans include a maintenance fund with an annual revenue stream.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next two years we will develop:

- Install signs at all access sites with an approved agreement
- Develop a paddler's guide for on use while on the water
- Update our website to incorporate the water trail plan and messages.
- Actively market our trail and communities

JOIN US TODAY

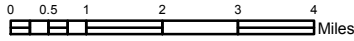
Become part of our great community of volunteers, supporters and champions. Your donation helps us further our mission to protect our lakes and rivers, develop the water trail, and educate waterway users. Find out more at www.paddleantrim.com

PADDLE

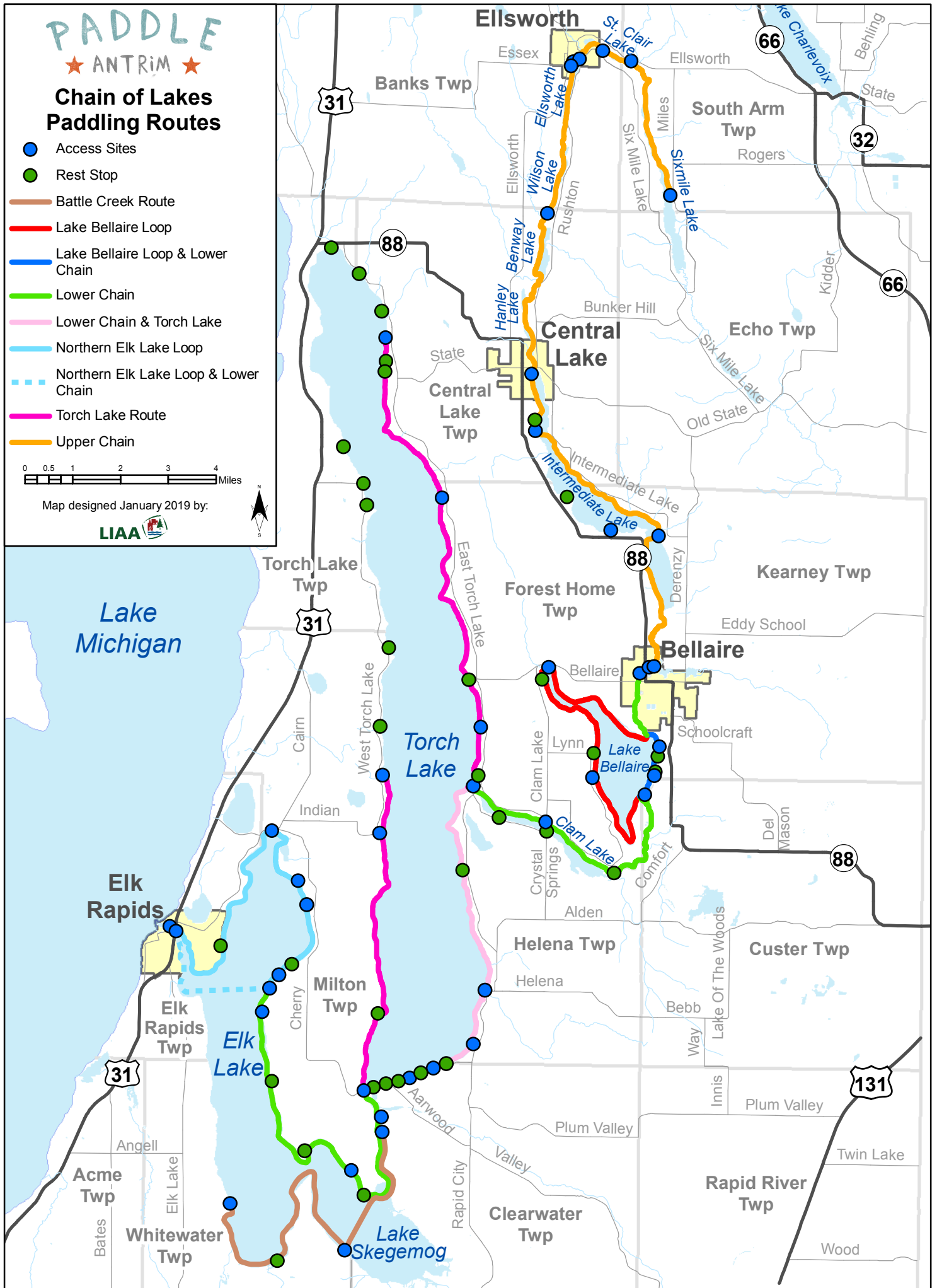
★ ANTRIM ★

Chain of Lakes Paddling Routes

- Access Sites
- Rest Stop
- Battle Creek Route
- Lake Bellaire Loop
- Lake Bellaire Loop & Lower Chain
- Lower Chain
- Lower Chain & Torch Lake
- Northern Elk Lake Loop
- Northern Elk Lake Loop & Lower Chain
- Torch Lake Route
- Upper Chain



Map designed January 2019 by:



SIX MILE LAKE

- Six Mile Lake DNR
- St. Clair Lake – Six Mile Lake Natural Area

ST. CLAIR LAKE

- St. Clair Lake DNR

ELLSWORTH LAKE

- River Park
- Community Park
- Ellsworth Lake DNR

WILSON LAKE

- Wilson Lake DNR

INTERMEDIATE LAKE

- Thurston Park
- South St
- Houghton Rd
- Central Lake DNR
- Snowflake Rd
- Gorham Beach Park
- Openo Rd DNR

INTERMEDIATE RIVER

- River St
- Richardi Park
- Ohio St

LAKE BELLAIRE

- Eckhardt Rd
- Lessard Ln
- Lynn Rd
- Cottage Drive Park
- Notewares Landing
- North Lakes Rd
- Fisherman’s Paradise Rd
- Fisherman’s Paradise DNR
- Willow Day Park

GRASS RIVER

- Grass River Natural Area

CLAM LAKE

- Arrowhead Park
- Crystal Spring Rd
- Clam Lake DNR
- Chapman Rd

TORCH LAKE

- Eastport DNR
- Kruger Rd
- Barnes Rd
- 407 NE Torch Lake Dr
- Sutter Rd
- Campbell Rd

- Waring Rd
- Indian Rd
- Severance Ave
- Torch River Bridge DNR
- Lake St
- Division St
- Pine St
- Cedar St
- Maple St
- Birch St
- Oak St
- Alden Ball Park
- Alden Safe Harbor
- Valleau Landing Park
- Paige Rd
- Old Torch Lake Rd
- Steiner Rd
- Pinnell Rd
- Hwy 612
- Forest Home Family Park
- Lake St
- Alberta St
- Meggison Rd
- Wak-Wing Rd
- Burch Terrace
- Lake Ave

TORCH RIVER

- Torch River DNR
- Aarwood Trail

LAKE SKEGEMOG

- Fairmont Dr
- Quail St
- Chippewa Trail
- Lake Skegemog DNR

ELK LAKE

- Rex Terrace
- Milton Day Park
- Ringler Rd
- Elk Lake DNR
- Schweitzer Ln
- Easley Rd
- Bussa Rd
- Milton Twp Waterfront Park
- E Third St
- Whitewater Twp Park
- Battle Creek Natural Area

ELK RIVER

- Rotary Park

ACCESS SITE OWNERS

Paddle Antrim sincerely thanks the access site owners for formally approving their sites for inclusion on the water trail.

- Antrim County
- Bellaire, Village of
- Central Lake Township
- Central Lake, Village of
- Clearwater Township
- Ellsworth, Village of
- Elk Rapids, Village of
- Forest Home Township
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Grass River Natural Area, Inc.
- Helena Township
- Kearney Township
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- MI Department of Natural Resources
- Milton Township
- Torch Lake Township
- Whitewater Township

SUPPORTERS

Many have provided funding and significant input to our water trail development including:

- Antrim Conservation District
- Bellaire Area Chamber of Commerce
- Central Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Charlevoix County Community Foundation
- East Jordan Chamber of Commerce
- Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- Elk Rapids, Village of
- Elk Skegemog Lake Association
- ERCOL Watershed Implementation Team
- Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- Rotary Charities of Traverse City
- Three Lakes Association
- Short’s Brewing Company