Many Voices, One River…
Creating Community Through People, Parks & Programs

Greenways

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Greenways - Reconnecting People and Places Through Cooperative Conservation
Master Plan Elements

Planning Process
Recommended System
Design Guidelines
Implementation Strategy
Project Readiness
5 Year Update
Greenways – Building Bridges of Partnerships

- Intergovernmental
- Schools
- Businesses
- Conservation Groups
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Health Organizations
- Private Foundations
Let’s Find Our Way and Tell Our Story
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Blueways
Water Trails
Detroit Heritage River Water Trail
Our Vision

- A regional network of water trails
- Encourage recreation, education, and exercise
- Link to natural and historic resources
- A quality of life attraction
- Connection to Greenways
Project Goals

- Create a vision for a regional water trail
- Develop a detailed implementation plan for the first phase
- Establish management arrangements and responsibilities
The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail meanders through the rich natural and cultural history of the Detroit, Huron, Rouge and Raisin Rivers and offers new opportunities for canoeing and kayaking. Paddle through time along rivers that sustained Native Americans and fostered the industrial revolution. Experience from the water, our region's natural beauty and amazing variety of wildlife – the marshes, coastal wetlands, islands, fish, ducks, herons, eagles, and more!

"a timeless inspiration, an invitation to journey, to adventure..."

Author unknown

LEGEND

- Existing Access Point
- Potential Access Point
- Campsite
- Dam/Barrier
- Lighthouse
- Boating
- Fishing
- Wetland/Marsh
- American Lotus Bed
- Forkland

Water Trail Discovery Key

- Historic
- Industrial Infrastructure
- Downtown Detroit
- City/Residential
- Mixed Development
- Natural

Legend Notes:
- Water Trail: Blue line indicates a permanent path or trail. The severity upon this determination is subjective and may vary from place to place.
- Existing/Closed Access Points: Orange dots indicate existing or closed access points.
- Potential Access Points: Green dots indicate potential access points.
- Campsite: Black dots indicate campsite locations.
- Dam/Barrier: Black dots with red lines indicate dam or barrier locations.
- Lighthouse: Blue dots indicate lighthouse locations.
- Boating: Blue dots indicate boating locations.
- Fishing: Blue dots indicate fishing locations.
- Wetland/Marsh: Blue dots indicate wetland and marsh locations.
- American Lotus Bed: Blue dots indicate American Lotus Bed locations.
- Forkland: Blue dots indicate forkland locations.

Map Credits:
- Map created by Detroit Heritage River Water Trail.
Our Resources and Attractions
The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail meanders through the rich natural and cultural history of the Detroit, Huron, Rouge and Raisin Rivers and offers new opportunities for canoeing and kayaking. Paddle through time along rivers that sustained Native Americans and fostered the industrial revolution. Experience from the water, our region’s natural beauty and amazing variety of wildlife – the marshes, coastal wetlands, islands, fish, ducks, herons, eagles, and more!

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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 LaSalle 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. Bartnick 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.
Phase A: Huron River from Ford Lake east to the City of Flat Rock

Phase B: Detroit River/Lake Erie waterfront from Pointe Mouille to Sterling State Park

Phase C: Detroit River from Rouge River south to Elizabeth Park

Phase D: Rouge River from U of M Dearborn to the Detroit River

Phase E: Detroit River from Belle Isle south to the Rouge River

First Phase Development Plan
Phase I Development Plan

The first phase flows along the Huron River from Flat Rock to its mouth, up the west shoreline of Lake Erie and into the mouth of the Detroit River to Trenton. This route was selected based on mounting enthusiasm to explore the wide diversity of paddling experiences found along these rivers. The area's abundant natural beauty and rich wildlife resources include the jewel of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge – Humbug Marsh and Island.
5% slope in ideal sites for accessibility, 10% max.

Material of launch to be determined based on site specific criteria. Various surfaces may include lawn, crushed stone, geotech fabric, or porous pavers.

Native plant material for slope stabilization beyond.
“Paddle By Your Refuge”

Elizabeth Park, Trenton MI
Celebrating Community Down By the River

- 3 Communities common natural resources
- International Wildlife Refuge
- Pulled resources for cooperative effort for event
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