Michigan' Water Trails

Michigan's New Frontier

August 31, 2016

Water Trails are defined as…

- Recreational routes on waterways
- With a network of public access points
- Supported by broad based community partnerships
- Provide both conservation and recreation
- opportunities

Michigan's Water Resources

- 63 navigable rivers
- 3,288 mi. of shoreline

Total Miles of Water Trails: 4,119

- Coastal Water Trails : 2,844 miles
- Inland Water Trails: 1,274 miles

Detroit Heritage River Trail

Thumb Heritage Water Trail

Hiawatha Water Trail

Blueways of St. Clair

Planning a Water Trail

Understand that people may have been using the river/lake for many years

Organize a coalition of stakeholders (likely multi-jurisdictional)

- Watershed agencies
- Other water advocate organizations
- Local and regional planning agencies
- State agencies
- Parks and Recreation Depts.
- Coast Guard - Fire and Rescue
- Chamber of Commerce - Local Businesses
- Outfitters
- Water-Based Organizations (e.g. fly-fisherman association)

Planning a Water Trail

Identify and assess existing access sites

				Location and Contact Information				
			Site	Municipality	Lat.	Long.	Miles from the Last Access	Miles from Start (west to east)
Clinton River Watertrail	Oakland County	Segment I	1 Maceday Lake (DNR)	Waterford Twp.	42.6813001	-83.42979801	NA	NA
		Segment II	2 Lake Oakland (DNR)	Waterford Twp.	42.69838538	-83.36428594	NA	4.1
			3 Loon Lake (DNR)	Waterford Twp.	42.68135881	-83.36683796	2.2	6.3
			4 Fish Hatchery Park	Waterford Twp.	42.67566362	-83.3767745	0.9	7.2
			5 Clinton River Canoe Site	Waterford Twp.	42.64564447	-83.40295735	3.3	10.5
			6 Gerundigat Bay (DNR)	Waterford Twp.	42.61499741	-83.37361629	4.7	15.2
		Segment III	7 Riverside Park	Auburn Hills	42.63494607	-83.222951	NA	3.2
			8 River Woods Park	Auburn Hills	42.639546	-83.218032	0.5	3.7
			9 Rochester Hills Education Center	Rochester Hills	42.663914	-83.155199	6.9	10.6
			10 Yates Cider Mill	Rochester Hills	42.673002	-83.096781	5	15.6
	Macomb County		11 Riverbends Park	Shelby Twp.	42.656752	-83.073242	2.5	18.1
			12 Riverbends Park Nature Preserve	Shelby Twp.	42.653133	-83.064745	0.7	18.8
			13 Heritage Park	Utica	42.621248	-83.033845	3.9	22.7
			14 Nature Center	Sterling Heights	42.608016	-83.027366	1.7	24.4
			15 Shady Park	Mount Clemons	42.582168	-82.879938	14	38.4
			16 MacAuthur Park	Mount Clemons	42.597295	-82.871586	1.9	40.3
			17 Macomb YMCA	Mount Clemons	42.597579	-82.873242	0.1	40.4
			18 Harley Ensign (DNR)	Harrison Twp.	42.5936	-82.774822	7.2	47.6

Identify possible “segments”

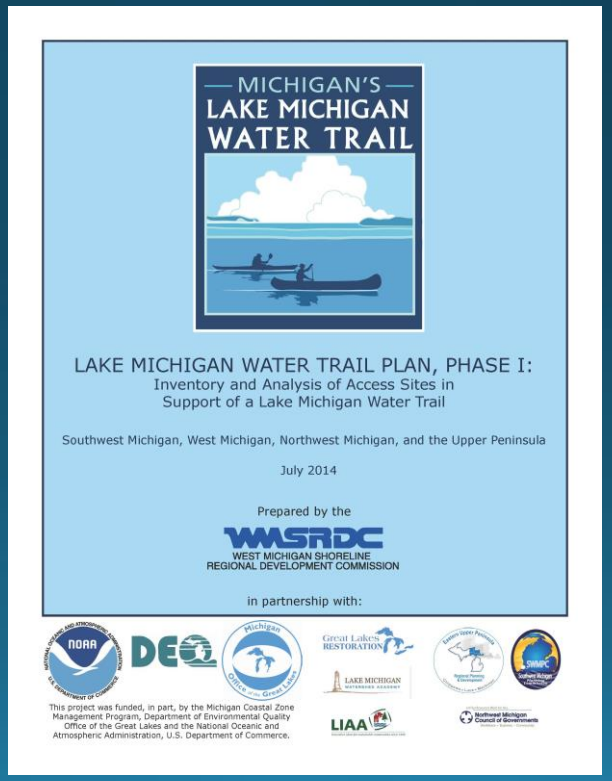
- Consider obstacles & hazards
- Access Sites (politically acceptable)
- Accompanying connections and resources

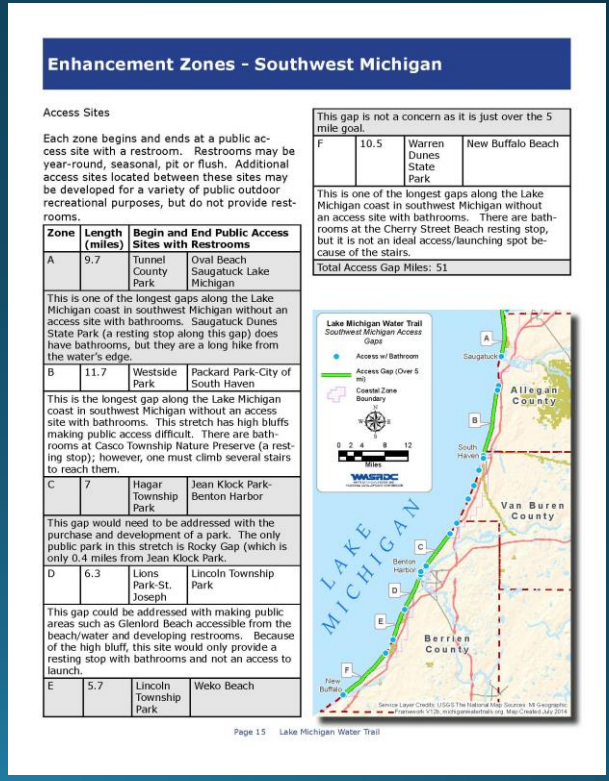
Identify Gaps, Standards and Priorities

- Access site every 5 miles
- Accommodation every 10 miles

Signage, Public Engagement, Promotions

Create Master Plan





Enhancement Zones - Southwest Michigan

Access Sites

Each zone begins and ends at a public access site with a restroom. Restrooms may be year-round, seasonal, pit or flush. Additional access sites located between these sites may be developed for a variety of public outdoor recreational purposes, but do not provide restrooms.

Zone	Length (miles)	Begin and End Public Access Sites with Restrooms	
A	9.7	Tunnel County Park	Oval Beach Saugatuck Lake Michigan
This is one of the longest gaps along the Lake Michigan coast in southwest Michigan without an access site with bathrooms. Saugatuck Dunes State Park (a resting stop along this gap) does have bathrooms, but they are a long hike from the water's edge.			
B	11.7	Westside Park	Packard Park-City of South Haven
This is the longest gap along the Lake Michigan coast in southwest Michigan without an access site with bathrooms. This stretch has high bluffs making public access difficult. There are bathrooms at Casco Township Nature Preserve (a resting stop); however, one must climb several stairs to reach them.			
C	7	Hagar Township Park	Jean Klock Park-Benton Harbor
This gap would need to be addressed with the purchase and development of a park. The only public park in this stretch is Rocky Gap (which is only 0.4 miles from Jean Klock Park.			
D	6.3	Lions Park-St. Joseph	Lincoln Township Park
This gap could be addressed with making public areas such as Glenlord Beach accessible from the beach/water and developing restrooms. Because of the high bluff, this site would only provide a resting stop with bathrooms and not an access to launch.			
E	5.7	Lincoln Township Park	Weko Beach
This gap is not a concern as it is just over the 5 mile goal.			
F	10.5	Warren Dunes State Park	New Buffalo Beach
This is one of the longest gaps along the Lake Michigan coast in southwest Michigan without an access site with bathrooms. There are bathrooms at the Cherry Street Beach resting stop, but it is not an ideal access/launching spot because of the stairs.			
Total Access Gap Miles: 51			

Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

Coastal Zone Management Program

2013 - 2014

Awarded $342, 141 in grants to ten organizations involved in developing water trails along Michigan's Great Lakes

2015 - 2016

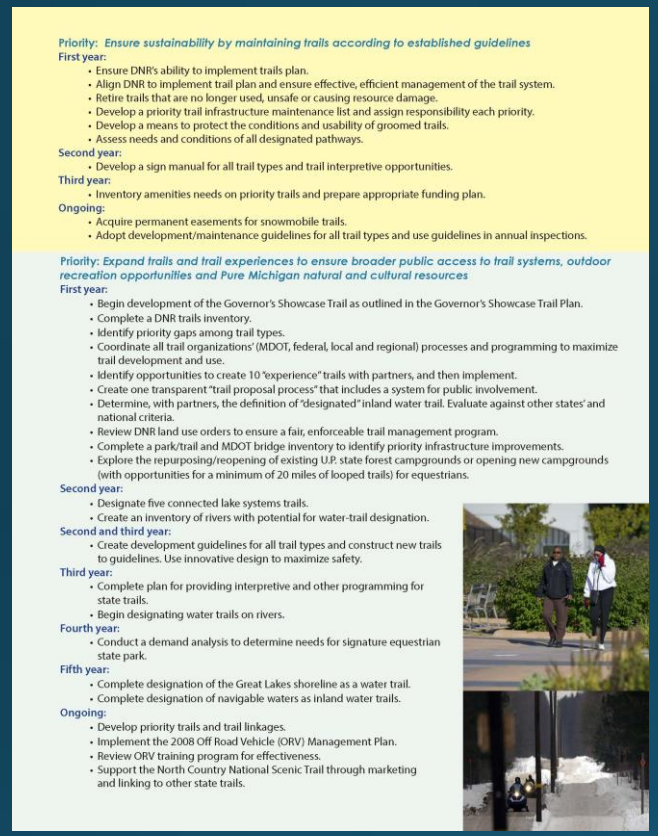
Awarded $285,000 to help implement the recommendations outlined in the planning efforts completed the previous year, including a **Water Trail Manual**

Quiet Water Symposium

Opportunities to Convene and Exchange Information

- State-Wide Water Trail Summits (2)
- Great Lakes Coastal Trails Conference (Saugatuck)
- Quiet Water Symposium
- Mid-America Trails Conference
- Lake Michigan Trails Network

Michigan Water Trails



Priority: *Ensure sustainability by maintaining trails according to established guidelines*

First year:
- Ensure DNR's ability to implement trails plan.
- Align DNR to implement trail plan and ensure effective, efficient management of the trail system.
- Retire trails that are no longer used, unsafe or causing resource damage.
- Develop a priority trail infrastructure maintenance list and assign responsibility each priority.
- Develop a means to protect the conditions and usability of groomed trails.
- Assess needs and conditions of all designated pathways.

Second year:
- Develop a sign manual for all trail types and trail interpretive opportunities.

Third year:
- Inventory amenities needs on priority trails and prepare appropriate funding plan.

Ongoing:
- Acquire permanent easements for snowmobile trails.
- Adopt development/maintenance guidelines for all trail types and use guidelines in annual inspections.

Priority: *Expand trails and trail experiences to ensure broader public access to trail systems, outdoor recreation opportunities and Pure Michigan natural and cultural resources*

First year:
- Begin development of the Governor's Showcase Trail as outlined in the Governor's Showcase Trail Plan.
- Complete a DNR trails inventory.
- Identify priority gaps among trail types.
- Coordinate all trail organizations' (MDOT, federal, local and regional) processes and programming to maximize trail development and use.
- Identify opportunities to create 10 "experience" trails with partners, and then implement.
- Create one transparent "trail proposal process" that includes a system for public involvement.
- Determine, with partners, the definition of "designated" inland water trail. Evaluate against other states' and national criteria.
- Review DNR land use orders to ensure a fair, enforceable trail management program.
- Complete a park/trail and MDOT bridge inventory to identify priority infrastructure improvements.
- Explore the repurposing/reopening of existing U.P. state forest campgrounds or opening new campgrounds (with opportunities for a minimum of 20 miles of looped trails) for equestrians.

Second year:
- Designate five connected lake systems trails.
- Create an inventory of rivers with potential for water-trail designation.

Second and third year:
- Create development guidelines for all trail types and construct new trails to guidelines. Use innovative design to maximize safety.

Third year:
- Complete plan for providing interpretive and other programming for state trails.
- Begin designating water trails on rivers.

Fourth year:
- Conduct a demand analysis to determine needs for signature equestrian state park.

Fifth year:
- Complete designation of the Great Lakes shoreline as a water trail.
- Complete designation of navigable waters as inland water trails.

Ongoing:
- Develop priority trails and trail linkages.
- Implement the 2008 Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan.
- Review ORV training program for effectiveness.
- Support the North Country National Scenic Trail through marketing and linking to other state trails.

A Water trail can be (draft)

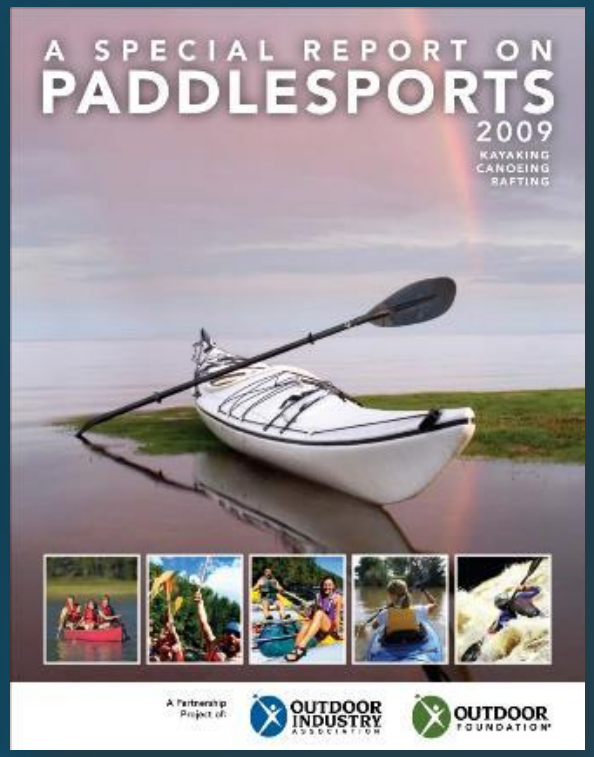
Water Trail - Locally led and self-designated recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points.

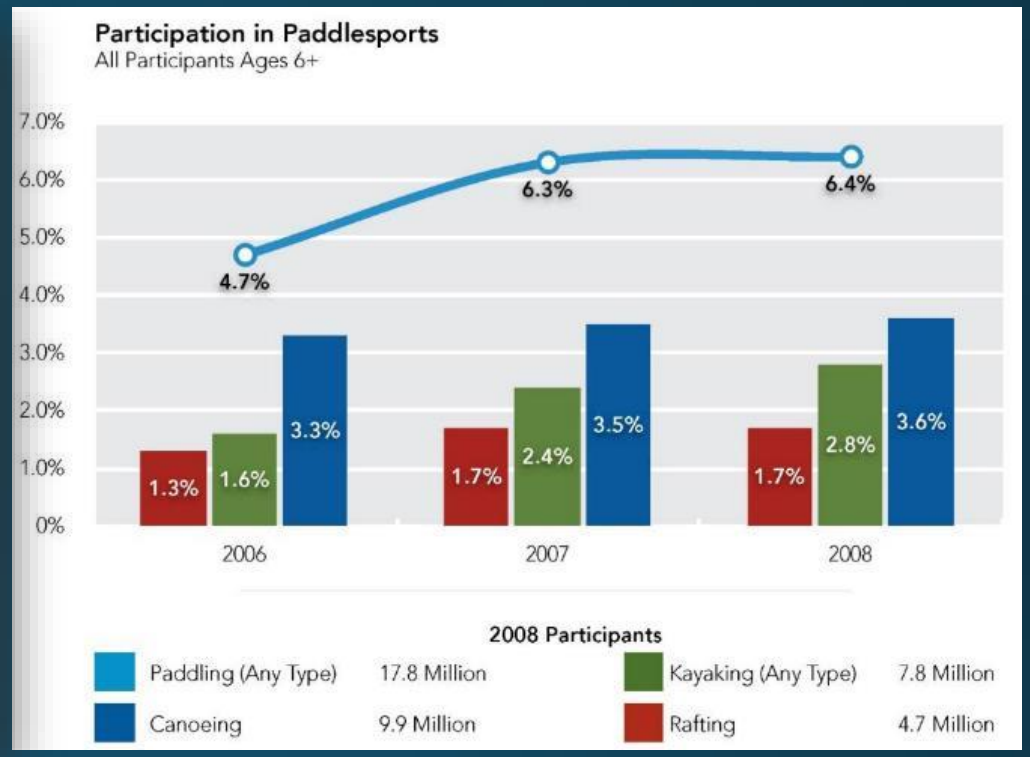
State Designated Water Trails - water trails that are supported by broad-based community partnerships, have applied for designation, have been granted that status by the DNR. The trail provides conservation, heritage and recreation opportunities. State Designated water trails can be for either motorized or non-motorized use.

Pure Michigan Water Trails - are exceptional Michigan water trails designated under public law, and developed under a separate section of rules. Will require state designation as a first step.

National Water Trails - are a subset of the national recreation trail program and meet the national water trail designation criteria found at the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program at the National Park Service.

Michigan Water Trails





The Michigan canoe and kayak industry contributes $140 million a year to the states economy

Estimated Annual Impact of all Paddlers in the Midwest

Participants	4.6 million
Trip Related Spending	$1.78 billion
Gear Related Spending	$433 million
Total Tax Revenue	$396 million
Jobs Supported	34,999

Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Water Trails

Traverse City

South Haven

Holland

National Water Trails

National Water Assets

CONCEPTUAL COLOR SCHEME
(REFLECTS WATER TRAIL LOGO)

CMYK: 65-40-0-0
RGB: 95-138-199

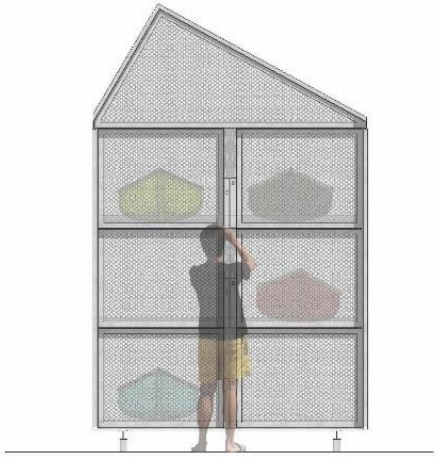
CMYK: 0-50-100-0
RGB: 247-148-30

CMYK: 0-100-100-5
RGB: 225-27-34

CMYK: 50-0-100-0
RGB: 141-198-63

CMYK: 100-60-0-20
RGB: 0-85-150

HR WATER TRAIL



Universal Access & Design

- All people of all abilities
- All ages
- All skills
- Independent Use
- Safe
- Intuitive
- Easier to use by everyone together

St. Clair, Mi

Wyandotte, Mi

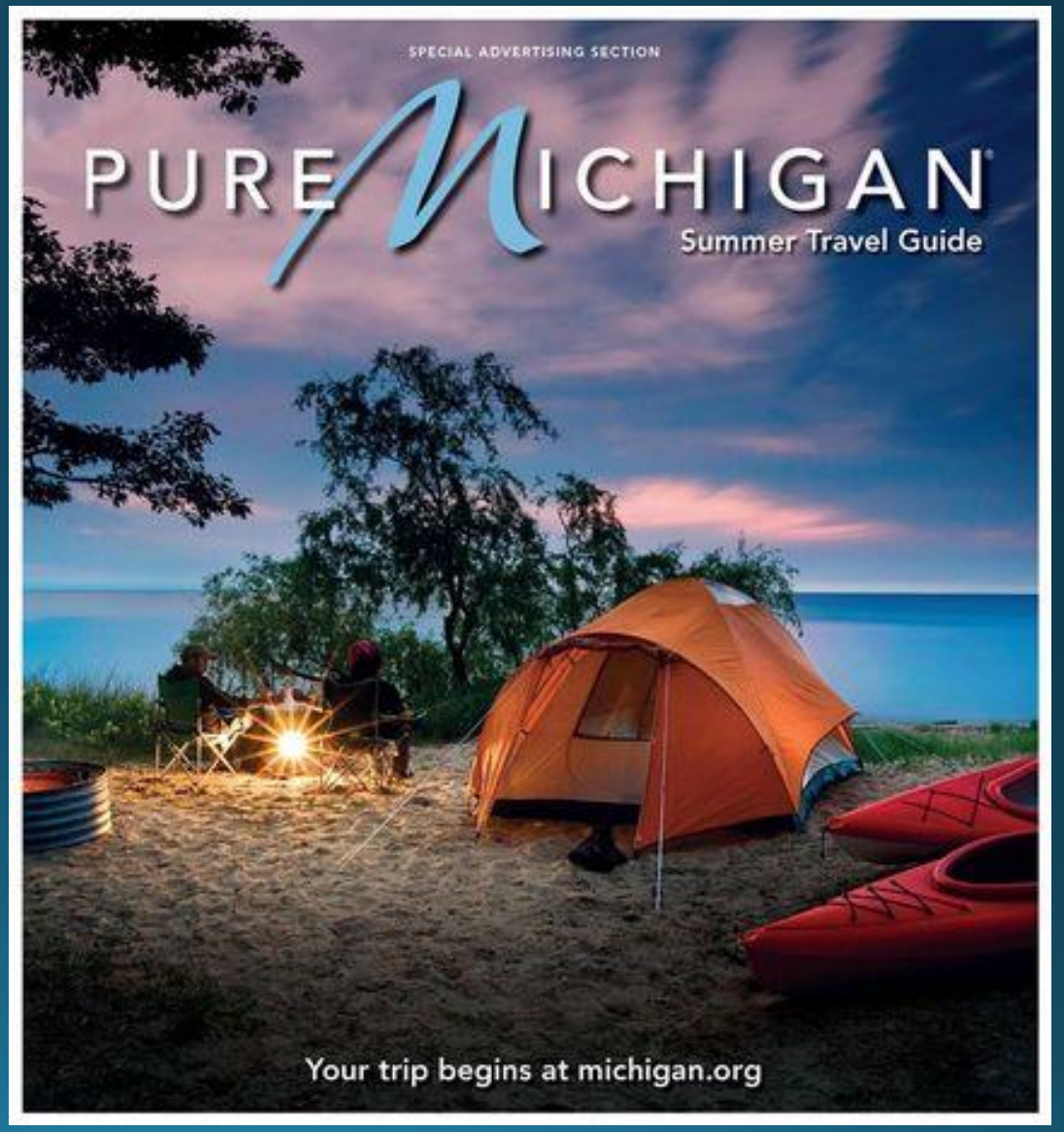
Michigan Water Trail Database and Website

Access Sites

- Name
- Access Type (developed, carry-in or alternate)
- Water Trail
- Community
- Location (lat./long.)
- Mileage to Next Access Site
- Mileage from Origin
- ADA Launch
- Shelter
- Lighting
- Picnic Area
- Potable Water
- Fees & Ownership
- Power
- WiFi
- Restrooms (flush or pit)
- Signs
- Camping
- Outfitter
- Vehicle Parking (road end, parking lot, on-street, or road shoulder)
- Length & Ease from parking to Launch (< 50 yards or > 50 years)
- Kayak Storage

State Parks

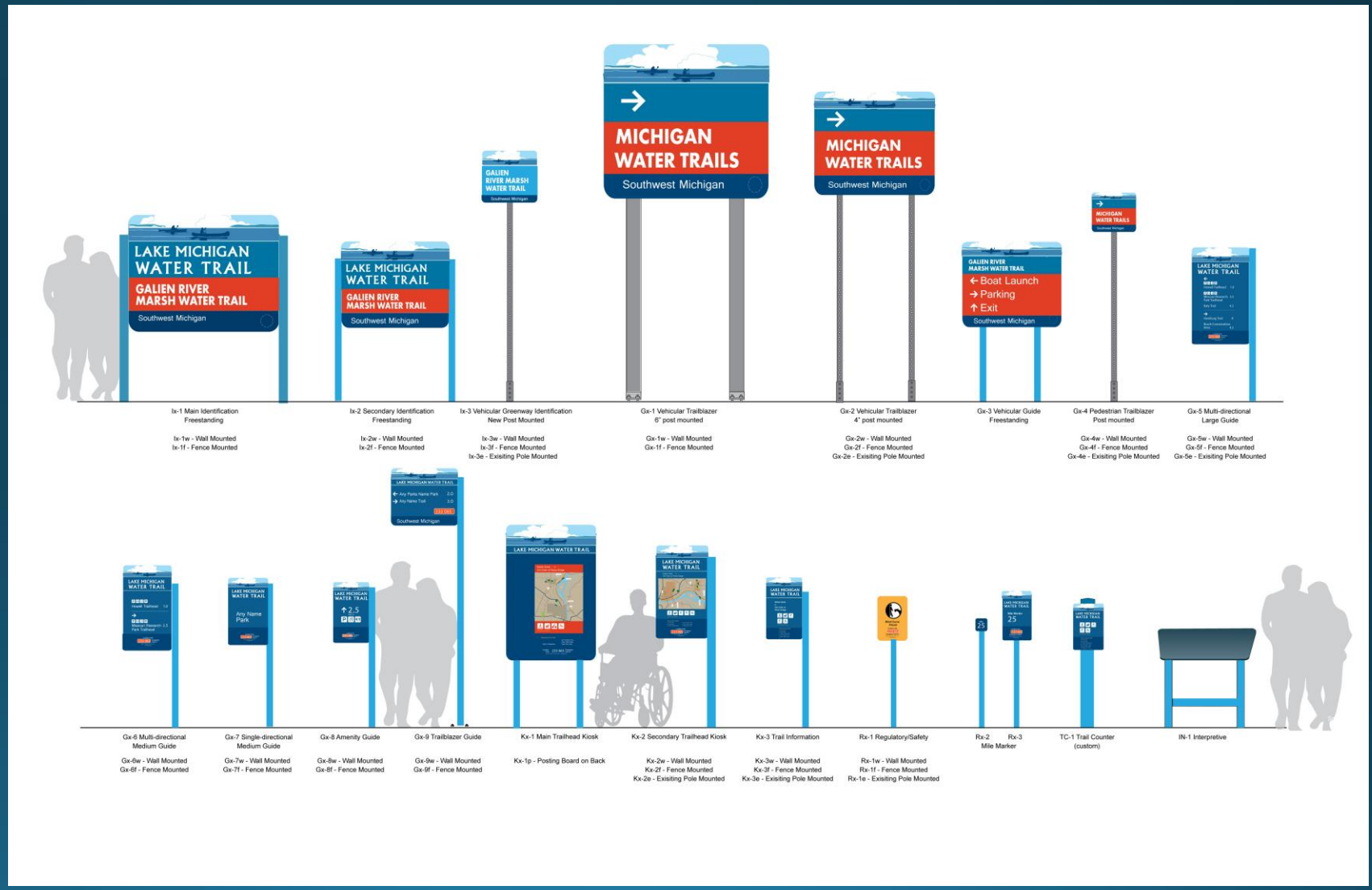
If you paddle into a state park, you will be provided a campsite (overflow) even if you don't have a reservation



Signage

H-34.8
BIRD CREEK
CO. PARK

THE LAKE ST. CLAIR
coastal water trail
lake st. clair
what you should know
share the shoreline
safety tips
welcome to
insert community
160
miles of coastline to explore
CLOSE TO HOME, BUT FAR FROM ORDINARY


LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TRAIL
GALIEN RIVER MARSH WATER TRAIL
Southwest Michigan
MICHIGAN WATER TRAILS
Southwest Michigan
Boat Launch
Parking
Exit
Ix-1 Main Identification Freestanding
Ix-1w - Wall Mounted
Ix-1f - Fence Mounted
Ix-2 Secondary Identification Freestanding
Ix-2w - Wall Mounted
Ix-2f - Fence Mounted
Ix-3 Vehicular Greenway Identification New Post Mounted
Ix-3w - Wall Mounted
Ix-3f - Fence Mounted
Ix-3e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Gx-1 Vehicular Trailblazer 6" post mounted
Gx-1w - Wall Mounted
Gx-1f - Fence Mounted
Gx-2 Vehicular Trailblazer 4" post mounted
Gx-2w - Wall Mounted
Gx-2f - Fence Mounted
Gx-2e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Gx-3 Vehicular Guide Freestanding
Gx-4 Pedestrian Trailblazer Post mounted
Gx-4w - Wall Mounted
Gx-4f - Fence Mounted
Gx-4e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Gx-5 Multi-directional Large Guide
Gx-5w - Wall Mounted
Gx-5f - Fence Mounted
Gx-5e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Gx-6 Multi-directional Medium Guide
Gx-6w - Wall Mounted
Gx-6f - Fence Mounted
Gx-7 Single-directional Medium Guide
Gx-7w - Wall Mounted
Gx-7f - Fence Mounted
Gx-8 Amenity Guide
Gx-8w - Wall Mounted
Gx-8f - Fence Mounted
Gx-9 Trailblazer Guide
Gx-9w - Wall Mounted
Gx-9f - Fence Mounted
Kx-1 Main Trailhead Kiosk
Kx-1p - Posting Board on Back
Kx-2 Secondary Trailhead Kiosk
Kx-2w - Wall Mounted
Kx-2f - Fence Mounted
Kx-2e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Kx-3 Trail Information
Kx-3w - Wall Mounted
Kx-3f - Fence Mounted
Kx-3e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Rx-1 Regulatory/Safety
Rx-1w - Wall Mounted
Rx-1f - Fence Mounted
Rx-1e - Exisiting Pole Mounted
Rx-2 Rx-3 Mile Marker
TC-1 Trail Counter (custom)
IN-1 Interpretive

Trail Towns

Clinton River Watershed Council
Recently launched it's *Water Towns* Program

Huron River Watershed Council
Recently launched its Trail Towns Program

St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola Counties
8 communities along the coastline

Lake Michigan COG's
10 communities along the Lake Michigan coastline

www.michiganwatertrails.com

Harry Burkholder
Executive Director – LIAA
burkholder@liaa.org