



City Council Agenda Item Report

FROM: Ryan Cummins, City Manager

MEETING DATE: August 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Kalamazoo River Greenway - Request for Funding and Kayak Launch Donation

DESCRIPTION:

In 2018, in partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) and municipalities throughout the County, a lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan was created. In 2019, City Council endorsed the plan as an advisory document to guide a comprehensive approach to restoring the Kalamazoo River and its tributaries and help engage public involvement to determine financial feasibility of any proposed projects. A copy of the plan can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/ry4r7s>

In June 2025, the City of Saugatuck, along with City of the Village of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, City of Fennville and Saugatuck-Douglas Rotary Club each approved \$5,000 in funding to the ODC for Kalamazoo River Greenway plan projects.

Annual Report

The ODC has prepared the attached annual report summarizing work completed over the past year. Representatives from the ODC provided a presentation on these efforts during the August 5 City Council workshop meeting.

Funding Request

The ODC has requested a \$5,000 contribution from the City for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to continue implementation of the Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan.

Kayak Launch Donation

As part of the work to implement a water trail, the ODC secured a kayak launch donation from the Saugatuck-Douglas Rotary Club. After the workshop, the ODC advised of a rapidly approaching deadline to use the funds from Rotary to make the purchase. They are requesting

that Council consider accepting the donation and have the Parks and Public Works Committee work to recommend an appropriate location to City Council.

Staff recommends approval of the funding request and acceptance of the kayak launch donation.

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:

There are sufficient contractual dollars appropriated in the Harbor Department to cover the expense.

BOARD/COMMITTEE REVIEW:

The Parks and Public Works Committee will review and recommend a location for the kayak launch.

The Historic District Commission will have to review/approve any installation within the district.

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A at this time. Legal will be at your meeting if you have any questions.

SAMPLE MOTION:

Motion to approve a \$5,000 contribution to the Outdoor Discovery Center for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to support continued implementation of the Lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan and accept the kayak launch donation from the Saugatuck-Douglas Rotary Club.

July 30, 2026

Ryan Cummins, City Manager
Holly Anderson, Mayor
102 Butler St
Saugatuck, MI 49453



Dear Ryan and Holly,

On behalf of ODC Network, I would like to express our gratitude to Saugatuck for collaborating with us on many community initiatives. We would like to thank Saugatuck for your interest in partnering with us in the important work to implement a greenway corridor along the Kalamazoo River addressing environmental restoration, recreation, conservation and education.

The Kalamazoo River Greenway plan was completed in 2018 with the goal to bring communities together with a shared interest in environmental stewardship and economic vitality. In the past year, we have provided programming, restored and installed over a dozen native gardens, treated invasive species, held volunteer cleanups at area parks and along the river, and brought 13 different organizations together at four meetings to collaborate on greenway work.

With Saugatuck's support of the Kalamazoo River Greenway, the ODC Network will be able to continue working on issues of importance to Saugatuck, including but not limited to:

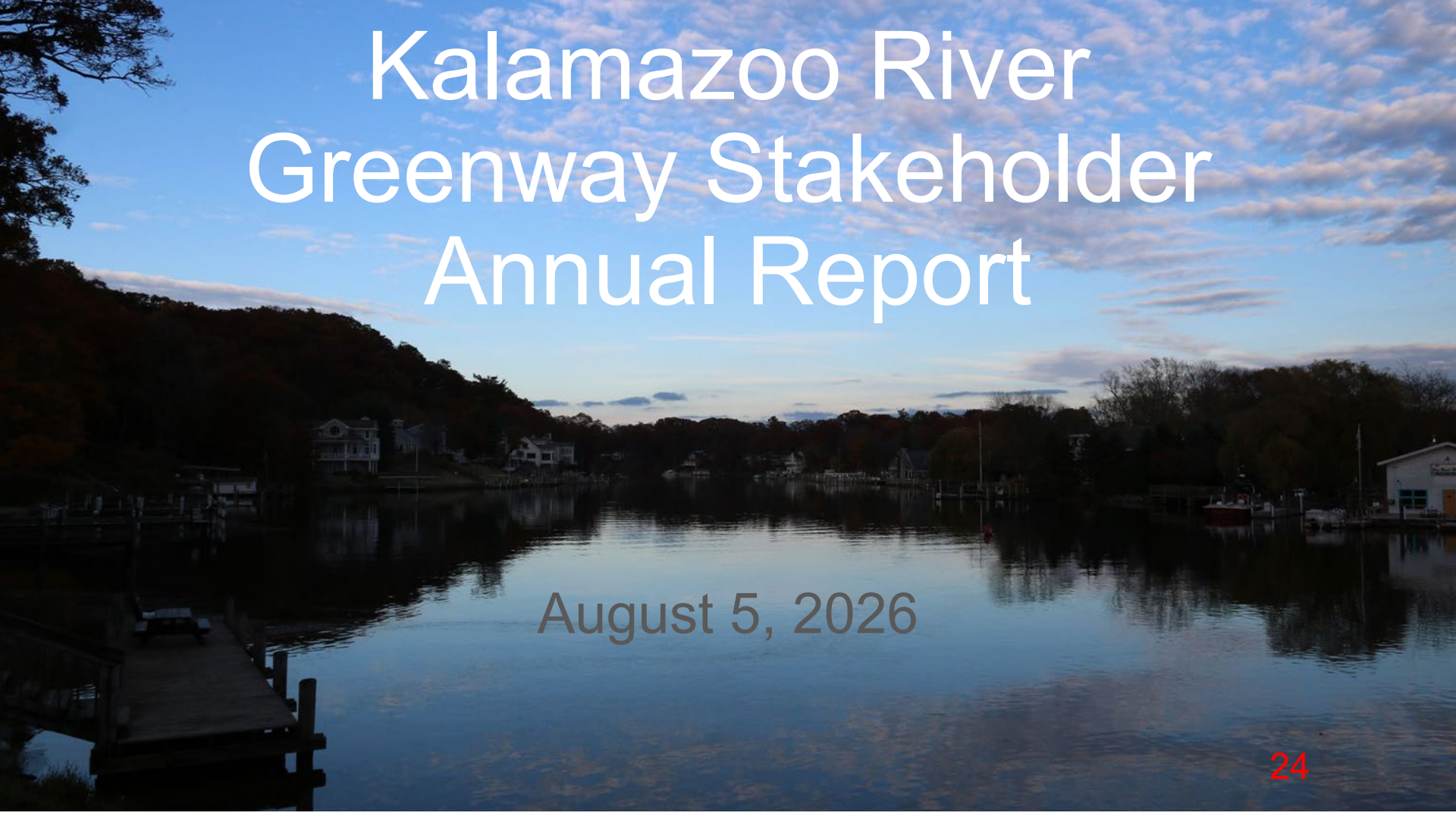
- Habitat conservation
- Invasive species consultation
- Recreation programming
- Project management
- Grant writing for the KRG Mission
- Inter-park pathway planning/development
- Trail development & review
- EPA Superfund coordination
- Educational programs
- Water trail establishment
- Property acquisition planning
- Community/school collaboration

Our continued partnership with Saugatuck is very important for our organization and the community. In light of this, **we respectfully request a 2027 financial investment of \$5,000 for the Kalamazoo River Greenway.**

By collaborating with local units of government, corporations, foundations and individuals, we can create a vibrant community for people to live, work, play and learn. Thank you again for your support and leadership in our community. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Callam, ODC Greenways Manager



Kalamazoo River Greenway Stakeholder Annual Report

August 5, 2026

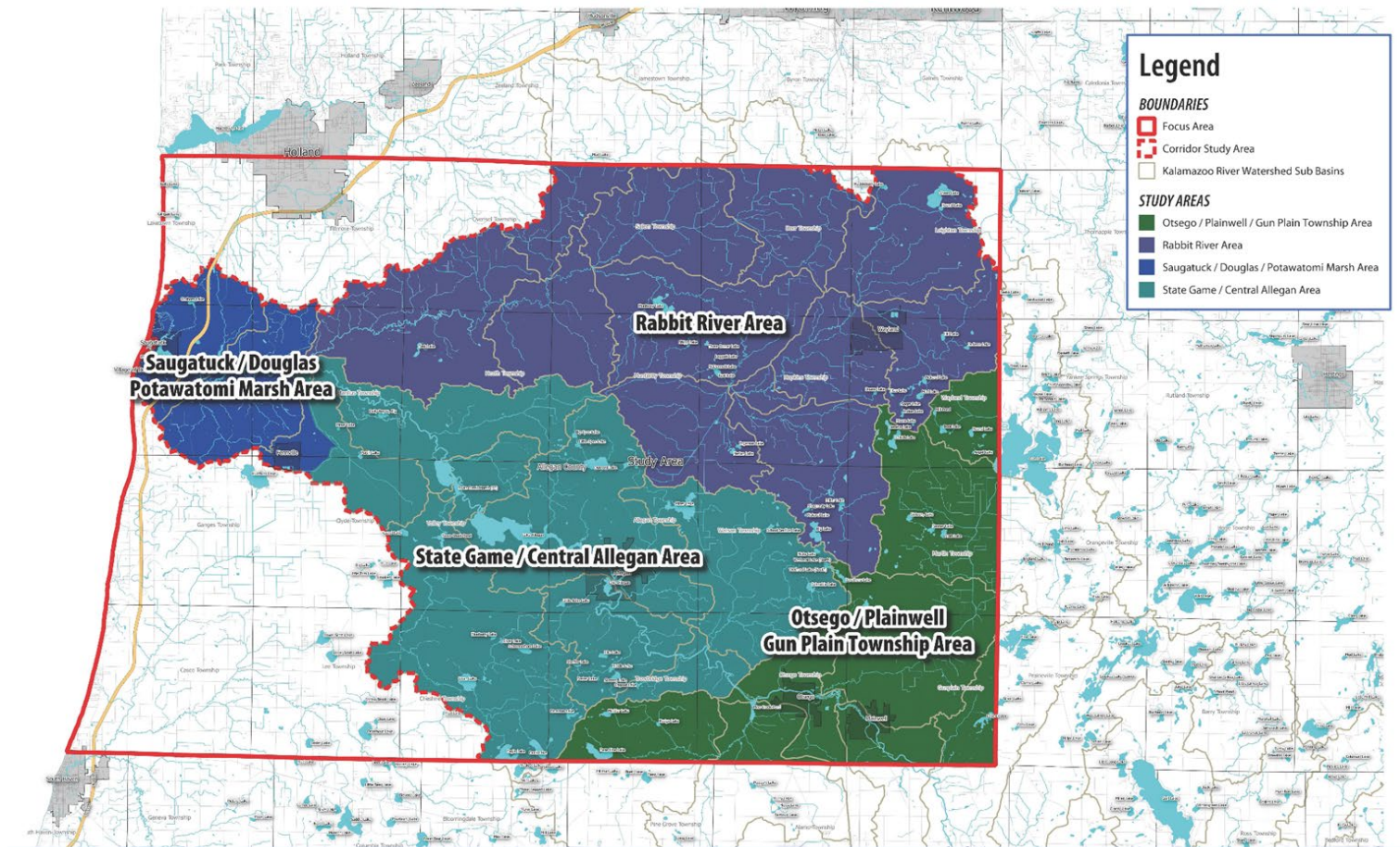


Kalamazoo River Greenway Overview

Mission Statement of Kalamazoo River Greenway

“The purpose of the plan is to implement a greenway corridor along the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County addressing environmental restoration, recreation, conservation and education.”

- This includes rivers, greenspaces, trails, connectivity, infrastructure, access, collaboration



TYPES OF PRACTICES AND IMPROVEMENTS

This planning report identifies a variety of improvements and practices that are both specifically and generally applied throughout the greenway. The broad categories are listed here to provide a context and understanding of the possibilities of how they might be employed.



AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

On farmland within these areas, encourage the adoption of practices that will help to minimize the amount of sediment and nutrients reaching the streams while mimicking natural flow of water to that of pre-settlement conditions. These may include, but not be limited to, no-till and conservation tillage farming, cover crops, buffer strips, tile drain control structures, and two-stage channel construction.



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilizing techniques to manage urban runoff from hard surfaces to infiltrate rainwater. This will especially help in the areas that are upstream of Lake Allegan to help address phosphorus levels. This can include things such as rain gardens, porous pavement, and stormwater detention areas.



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION (I&E) OPPORTUNITIES

These can be tailored based on a specific site, but the goal would be to increase appreciation and awareness for the river and stops along it. These can include interpretive signage, safety information, river monitoring and conditions, fishing guidelines, wayfinding maps, or educational programs. An increase in signage - informational, interpretive, and wayfinding - can provide visitors with a better experience. Signs can provide an increased sense of safety, guidelines for site use, better understanding of sites of ecological or cultural importance, and direct them to other nearby parks and greenspaces for further exploration. Unifying parks and communities through collaborative marketing efforts can also generate benefit all partners.



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Important all along the corridor, monitoring for and rapid response to invasive species threats along the corridor will help to minimize efforts. A great deal of work has been done at numerous locations already, and the focus should be to identify new threats quickly and help to keep the areas of highest quality in such a condition. Species of concern already found along or near the greenway corridor include phragmites, narrow leaf cattail, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed.



PRESERVE EXISTING HIGH QUALITY HABITAT

Chief among the priorities along the greenway corridor should be preserving the areas that are rare and hold high ecological value. This can include habitats such as interdunal wetlands, fens, and bogs, or larger tracts of marshes, forest, and dunes that are highly contiguous. This should include invasive species monitoring and carefully preventing overuse of these sites.



ACCESSIBLE LAUNCHES

While there are already a good number of access point along the river for both motorized boats and non-motorized vessels, additional sites and clarification of site use were repeated as wants during input sessions. This should include additional access sites at locations where there are large gaps between locations, better defining the type of vessel utilized for each location (fishing boat, outboard, kayak, canoe, etc), and incorporate handicap accessible launches at those locations that do not already have them.



NON-MOTORIZED PATH CONNECTIONS

While likely impractical to implement across the entire length of the greenway, adding trails and pathways in select locations can improve interconnectivity between communities and be an attraction for walkers, joggers, and cyclists who seek short to moderate length trips. These can connect to existing pathways and sidewalks, as well as other trail networks that pass through the greenway corridor, such as the Blue Star Trail and River to River Trail.



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

This is a broad category that can include a number of additions to existing sites to make them more user friendly. This can include a number of improvements, including restroom facilities, parking, shelters and picnic areas, defined launches, maps, and signage.



CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Due to the PCB contamination of sediment within the Kalamazoo River channel, the river sediments will need to be cleaned up to safe levels. The EPA effort is systematic and ongoing, working from upstream areas to downstream areas. While this effort will not be directly managed as part of the KRG project, the restoration work that does take place will provide opportunities to create high quality habitat and have infrastructure in place to greatly improve recreational activities.



Kalamazoo River Greenway

Year at a Glance:

- 240+ lbs of trash and invasives species removed in community led efforts
- 222 Participants in 16 programs
- 20 Sites managed for invasive species
- 10 Restoration projects completed
- 9 Native plant gardens
- 4 Rain barrels installed
- 4 KRG Stakeholder Meetings bringing 13 organizations together
- 3 Digital educational campaigns reaching 7500+ community members
- 2 Grants received with more pending
- 1 Environmental Stewardship Day for SPS 8th grade class
- 1 Krazy for the Kazoo River Stewardship Day (1st ever!)

Restoration & Conservation

ODC Conservation Services

- Township
 - ecological assessment for Dowd property
 - 9-acre prairie restoration at Douglas Cemetery
- Saugatuck
 - Harbor Natural Area invasive species management
 - City-wide invasives survey
 - Mt Baldy restoration project in progress
- Private landowners
 - 6 small-scale restorations in 2025
 - 10+ restorations in 2026
 - 2 pond shoreline restorations
 - Invasive species management
- Pottawattomie Marsh invasive species and general management





Restoration & Conservation

- Conservation Map - Proposal for Connectivity in Saugatuck Township
- Land Acquisition
 - Due diligence being completed on significant area property for potential acquisition/preservation
 - Have met with 7+ landowners about help preserving or designating easements on their property
- Macatawa Greenway/Regional Connectivity Planning



Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

What is a water trail?

- Guiding water users between sites, usually aimed at paddlers

What are the benefits?

- Recreational
- Economic
- Safety
- Ecological





Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

Monthly Working Group to vet project

- Research, mentorship & development

Community-wide Open House on April 28

- Great attendance, feedback

Next steps:

- Make final determinations on budget spend
- ***Present & receive approvals on MOU to access owners***
- Development Plan
- Finalize map and website
- Finalize logos for marketing materials
- Phase 2 & 3



Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

- No cost
- Fee charged
- Landing only, no launching

Launch and Landing

- Accessible
- Paved Ramp
- Natural surface
- Launch Fee
- MI Rec Passport
- Landing Only

Amenities

- Free parking
- Pit toilet
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Picnic table
- Trash receptacle
- Free parking, but not close
- Pit toilet, but not close
- Hiking trail
- Interpretive signage
- Fishing area
- Potable water

DRAFT - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION



1. Spear Street - Paved Ramp - \$7 fee
Corner of Water Street, by The Star of Saugatuck. Wick's Park has rest room, shelter, tables, interpretive signage, and fishing area. [City of Saugatuck]



2. Union Street - Paved Ramp - \$10 fee
End of Union St., near Red Dock [City of Douglas]



3. Wade's Bayou - Dock - Accessible to all
East end of Center Street. Restrooms, fishing dock, and interpretive signage. Beery Field has shelter, tables, water, playground. [City of Douglas]



4. Schultz Park - Paved Ramp - \$10 fee
66th Street, off Wiley Road, west of I-196. Restrooms, shelter, fishing area, picnic tables, dog walking. [City of Douglas]



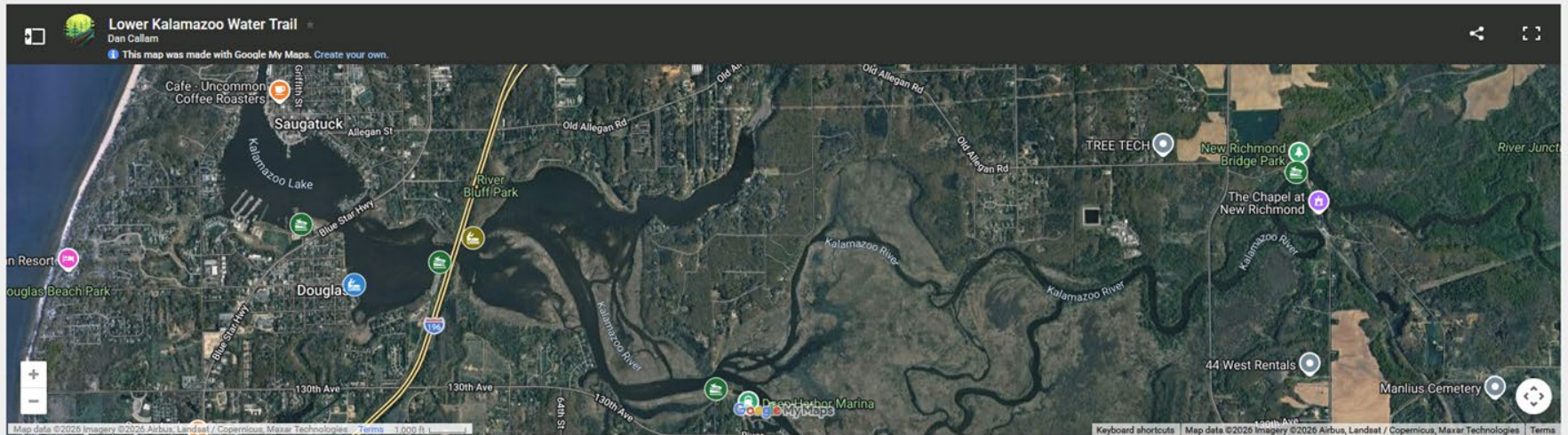
5. River Bluff Park - Landing only
Old Allegan Road, east of I-196. Landing, fishing dock, picnic table, shelter. Parking lot and pit toilet one mile away. [Saugatuck Township]



6. Hacklander Boat Launch - Paved Ramp
Michigan Recreation Passport required
North of Riverside Drive at 63rd Street. Pit toilet, picnic table. [Michigan DNR]



7. New Richmond Bridge - Paved Ramp - \$6 fee
Old Allegan Road, east of 60th Street. Restrooms, shelter, picnic tables, fishing dock, nature trail, interpretive signage. [Allegan County]





Partner Project Highlights

- Douglas – Union Street dock improvements
- Saugatuck – Spear Street boat ramp improvements
- Saugatuck Township – secured Dowd property, final fundraising for Riverfront Park
- Fennville – applied for Rural Readiness grant to plan for future trail connections
- Rotary – have received two matching grants for greenway initiatives



Fixed Dock Installation

Large metal fixed dock installation using Wave Armor fixed-dock mounting kit with guide poles and brackets. 2 poles with be 3ft into the lake bottom

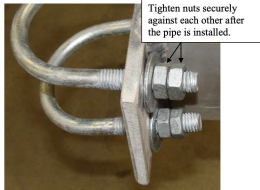


Item # | Product Name: 300281 300282 Wave Port to Fixed Dock (Z-bracket) Instructions

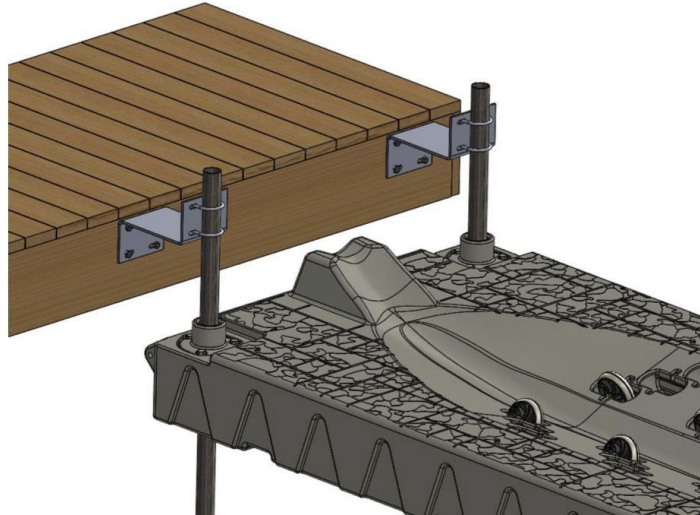
Parts List:	Tools or Hardware Needed:
1. Z-Brackets Galvanized qty 2	1. 1/2" wrench qty 2
2. U-bolts Galvanized qty 4	2. Screws or bolts to attach Z-brackets to the fixed dock (this hardware is not supplied)
3. 1/2" Galvanized Nuts qty 16	3. Anchoring pipe
4. 1/2" Galvanized Washers qty 8	4.
5.	5.

Assembly Instructions:

1. Determine where the Z-brackets will be mounted on the dock. Measure the distance from center to center of the anchoring holes at the front of the port. The Z-brackets will then be mounted to the dock this same distance apart.
2. Attach the U-bolts loosely to the Z-brackets using the washers and 2 nuts on each U-bolt. Position the PVC Port so the anchoring holes are aligned with the Z-brackets and U-bolts. Slide the anchoring pipe down through the U-bolts and through the anchoring holes. Secure pipe to the bottom of the waterway.
3. Evenly tighten the U-bolts against the anchoring pipe. Once the U-bolts are tight a second nut should be threaded onto the U-bolt as shown below. Securely tighten the nuts against each other. This will prevent the nuts and U-bolts from working loose.



4. Finished installation is shown below.



Floating Dock Installation

Large floating dock installation using C-channel adapters, receiver blocks, and knuckle connections.



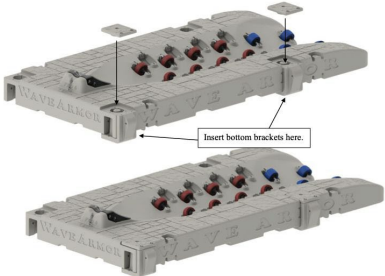
PRODUCT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

Item # | Product Name: 302507 Connector Kit Floating Dock to Pro Port Side

Parts List:	Tools Needed:
1. Plastic Bottom Connector qty 2	1. Ratchet and 9/16" socket
2. Plastic Top Connector qty 2	2. 1/2" wrench and 3/4" socket with ratchet
3. Galvanized Long Steel Bracket qty 2	3.
4. 1/2 x 7" bolt qty 2, 1/2 nylock nut qty 2, 1/2" washers qty 4	4.
5. 3/8 x 2" bolt qty 6, 3/8" lock washer qty 6, 3/8" heavy washer qty 6	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.

Assembly Instructions:

1. Insert bottom connector into the port as shown below. Insert top connector into the same hole and fasten securely with the 3/8 x 2 bolts, lock washers and heavy washers.



2. Attach galvanized steel bracket to the dock using at least four of the holes in each bracket if possible. Use the necessary hardware for the dock (not supplied). The brackets need to be placed the correct distance apart so they line up with the plastic brackets on the port.
3. Slide port up against the dock so it aligns with the steel brackets. Secure port to the brackets using the 1/2 x 7" bolts, washers and nylock nuts.



Safety Benefits

Stable entry and exit, improved accessibility, slip-resistant surfaces, and safer launching. Accessible by all!





Krazy for the Kazoo - May 30

- 240 pounds of trash and invasive species removed
- 37 volunteers worked at six locations
- Major organizational support by Saugatuck/Douglas and Kalamazoo Rotaries, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, and Allegan Conservation District
- Planning to work with Yacht Club for 2027 event





Water Smart Landscaping- Green Stormwater

- Green stormwater helps keep water clean by minimizing runoff and maximizing groundwater recharge
- ODC provides education and guidance that can be implemented by homeowners, businesses, schools, and other landowners





Education and Program Outreach Summary

- 222 participants in 16 programs with Allegan Parks
- 2 workshops for Water-smart landscaping
- 2 additional hikes with ODC Conservation staff
- 3 Digital educational campaigns reaching 7500+ community members





Grant Applications

Approved/Pending

- **Bell's Brewery Native Gardens**
- **Mi Water Corp- Stream Monitoring program**
- **Rotary Foundation – water trail support grant**
- Michigan Coastal Management Plan- 10/26- positive feedback on application
- MDARD Regen Farmer Network Grant
- Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL)

Denied

- Rural Readiness
- Michigan Health Endowment
- DTE Tree Planting
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant
- Consumers Energy Planet Grant

Keep them coming!



Sediment and Watershed Health

- The health of the watershed → health of the river
- Gathering baseline data thru MiCorps monitoring grant
 - Macroinvertebrate and habitat assessments beginning this fall in the Rabbit River watershed





Kalamazoo River Greenway-Priorities

- Grants for infrastructure
- Ag Best Management Practices
- Connectivity of spaces
- Land acquisition
- Sediment/dredging
- Watershed health assessments



Kalamazoo River Greenway- Investment

What's Next?

- Launch Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail
- Education
- Greenway activation
- Greenway expansion
- Focus on the pillars
- Create a vision for long term growth + investment
- Funding partner request



Thank you Partners!



Wave Armor Kayak Launch Proposal



Blue Vista Marine Services | Parker Lammers | 616-840-2016

Assembly & Delivery

- Blue Vista Marine Services will fully assemble the kayak launch, and install railings.
- Installation can be done by your crew or ours. Instructions will be given for install if not done by us.
- Estimated Install Time (1-2 hrs)

Fixed Dock Installation

Large metal fixed dock installation using Wave Armor fixed-dock mounting kit with guide poles and brackets. 2 poles with be 3ft into the lake bottom

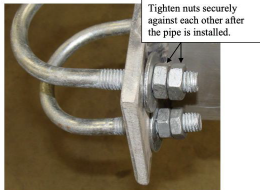


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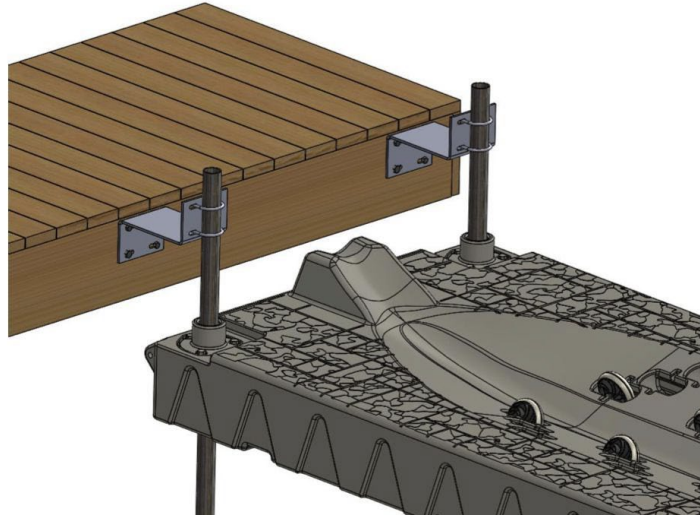
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Wave Armor
PRODUCT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS: www.wavearmor.com

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1

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Safety Benefits

Stable entry and exit, improved accessibility, slip-resistant surfaces, and safer launching. Accessible by all!



Maintenance & Cleaning

-Clean using a light pressure washer setting, or scrub brush, mild detergent, CLR Calcium/Lime Remover, or all-purpose cleaner.

Dawn Dish Soap is also a great cleaner

Brush and rinse as needed.

Long-Term Ownership

- UV-resistant polyethylene, corrosion-resistant hardware, low maintenance, and long service life.
- Industry leading 8 year warranty on the port.

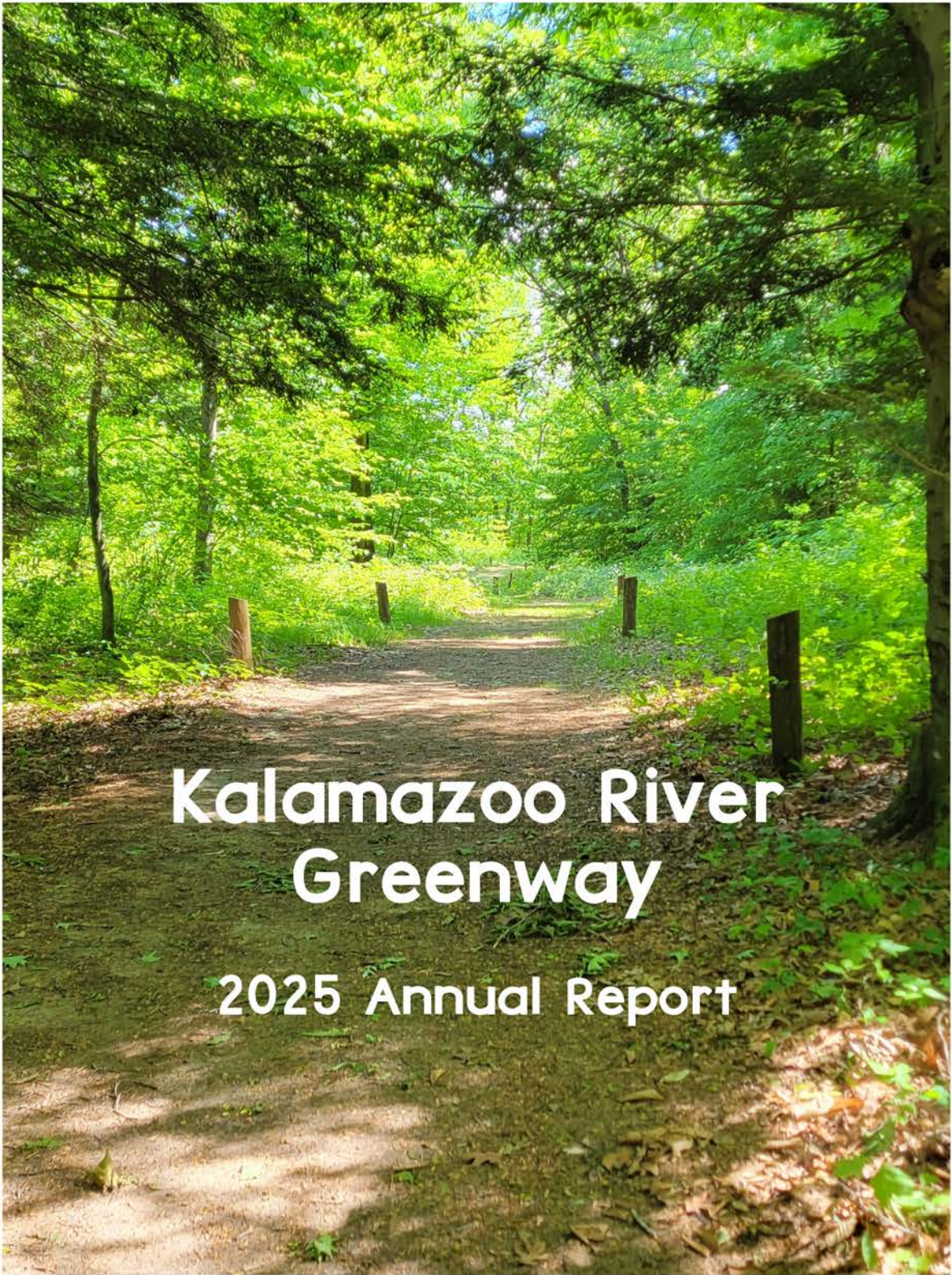
Why Blue Vista Marine Services

Professional installation, waterfront expertise, ongoing support, and local service.

Michigan's Largest Wave Armor Dealer

Questions

Parker Lammers, Owner
Blue Vista Marine Services
616-840-2016
www.bluevistamarine.com



Kalamazoo River Greenway

2025 Annual Report





The Kalamazoo River Greenway (KRG) is a collaborative effort to implement a greenway corridor along the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County, addressing environmental restoration, recreation, conservation, and education. This includes rivers, green spaces, trails, connectivity, infrastructure, access, and collaboration.

Since the formation of the Lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan (KRG Plan) in 2018, there has been extensive research into the river’s existing water quality, wildlife, and habitat. This work has enabled key community stakeholders to maximize the incredible efforts underway, promoting the safe use of the river, enhancing connectivity along it, and bolstering conservation and outreach efforts across the entire region.

Major accomplishments of the KRG include the preservation and opening of over 250 acres at River Junction Preserve in Manlius Township and 169 acres at Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve in Saugatuck. The initiative has also revived the Lake Allegan Carp Derby, creating a prominent public touchpoint for aquatic invasive species education.

Additional work includes ongoing Township Conservation Strategy Mapping, land preservation, the establishment of conservation easements, and the development of the Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail. The KRG has received the Bell’s Brewery Grassroots Grant and the MI Water Corp Stream Monitoring Grant, and two grants are pending with Sustain Our Great Lakes and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Ongoing habitat restoration projects, programming, and collaboration on future trails have contributed to increased engagement. This annual report provides an overview of the work that has taken place since August 2025 and sets a course for work to come.

We’re grateful to all KRG partners for their commitment to this cause. As work within the KRG continues, each partner will have a guiding hand in how environmental restoration, recreation, conservation, and education initiatives come to life.

Kalamazoo River Greenway Partners





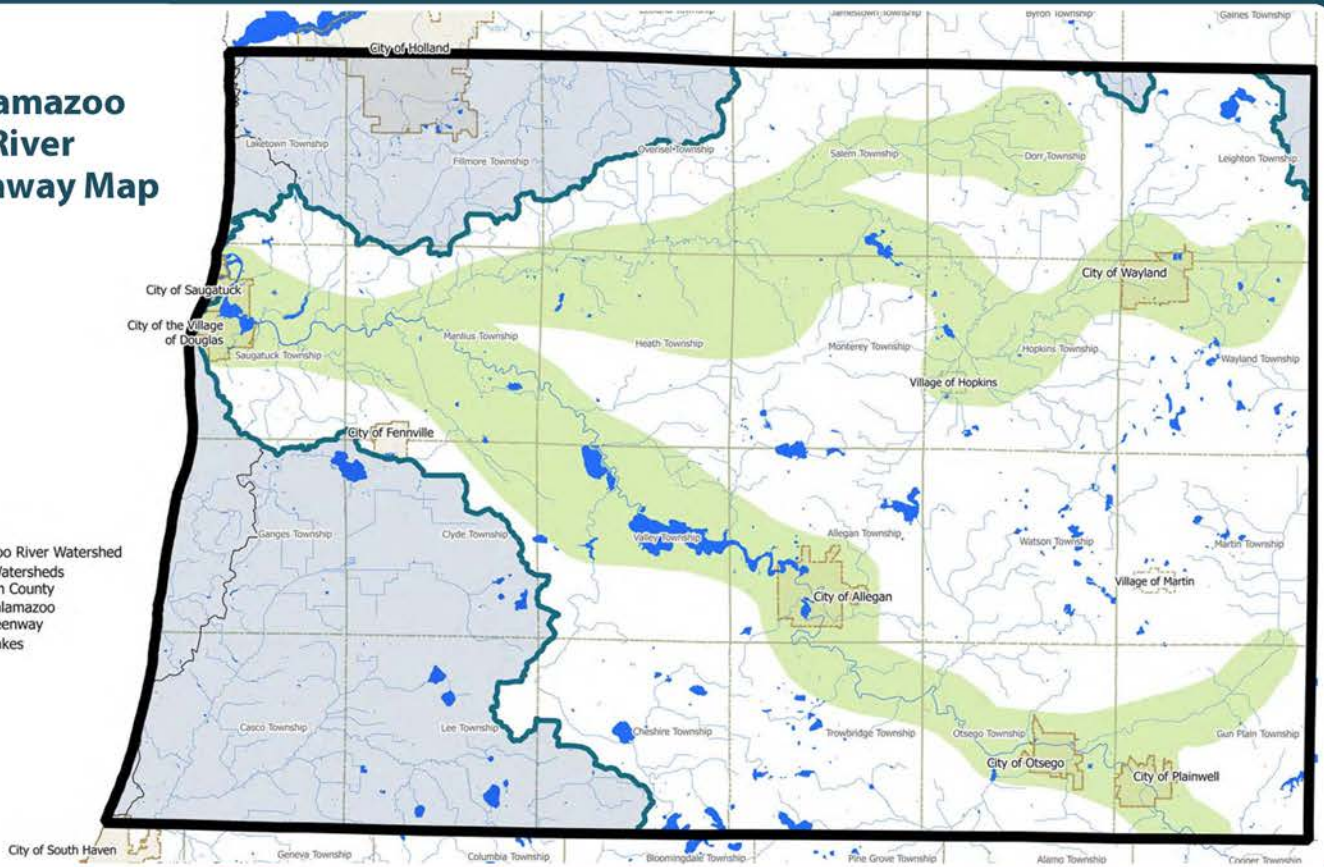




Kalamazoo River Greenway Map

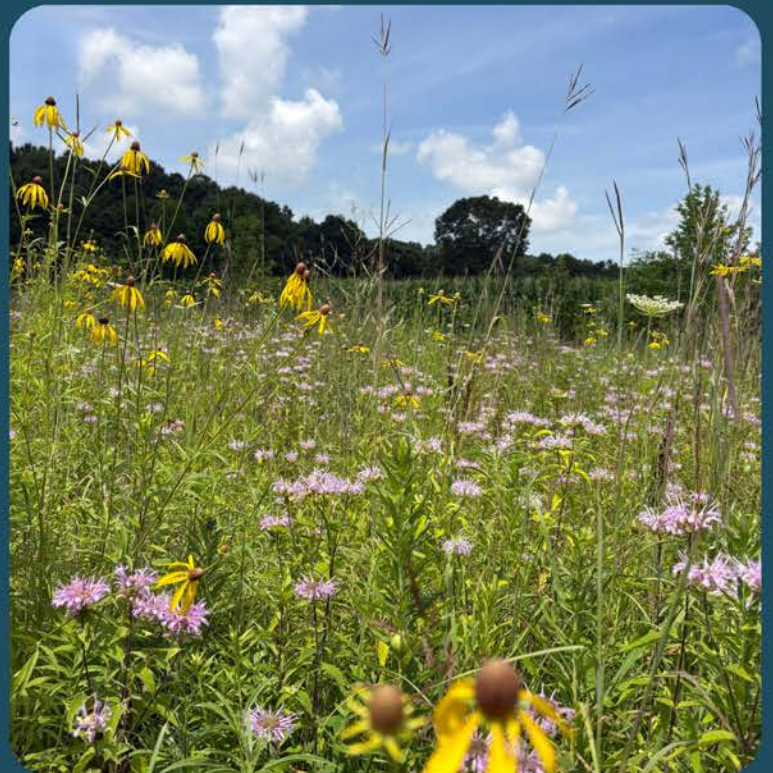
Legend

-  Kalamazoo River Watershed
-  Others Watersheds in Allegan County
-  Lower Kalamazoo River Greenway
-  Inland Lakes



Year at a Glance:

- 222 participants in 16 programs with Allegan Parks, Recreation, & Tourism
- 20 sites managed for invasive species
- 240 pounds of trash and invasive species removed
- 7500+ residents reached with digital outreach campaigns
- 10 restoration projects completed
- 4 stakeholder meetings bringing 13 organizations together
- 4 rain barrels installed
- 2 grants received
- 1 Environmental Stewardship day hosted with Saugatuck Public Schools



Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

Notable progress has been made on the Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail. A water trail is a designated, navigable route along a waterway, intended for recreational use.

The Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail is guided by a set of interconnected goals:

- **Safety:** Helping paddlers of varied experience levels and abilities navigate the river through identified mapping, launch and landing points, and digital access.
- **Recreation:** Improving opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy one of our most remarkable natural corridors.
- **Natural Resource Preservation:** Protecting forested floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and scenic beauty through responsible stewardship and land protection.
- **Communication:** Connecting people to the trail through outreach and marketing with a long-term goal of interpretive signage.
- **Education:** Illuminating the river's ecology, cultural history, and the communities that have depended on it for generations.
- **Tourism & Regional Recognition:** Drawing visitors to Allegan County and the Kalamazoo River corridor while strengthening economic vitality and community identity.

An official working group produced a Development Plan, created a map showing access points and amenities, developed a digital landing page and web map, and designed a logo and signage to be installed during future phases of water trail development.

The Rotary Club of Saugatuck-Douglas has provided a grant to support the Phase 1 launch. The working goals of Phases 2 and 3 are outlined, with an intended launch date of late summer 2026.



Two native plant gardens installed in the KRG.

Water Smart Landscaping

ODC Network received a 2025 Bell's Brewery Grassroots Grant to implement Water Smart Landscaping in the KRG. Two educational workshops were held at the Allegan Conservation District and the Fennville District Library to discuss the importance of water smart landscaping practices and the various ways homeowners can implement these practices on their properties.

In the spring of 2026, ODC Network and the Allegan Conservation District installed native plant gardens for nine homeowners, rain barrels for four homeowners, and two public demonstration gardens. The gardens and rain barrels were completely free for Greenway residents and included all necessary supplies, along with preparation and maintenance guides.

ODC Network will leverage this positive community response and sustained interest to secure additional grant funding for no- or low-cost work with residents.

Community Outreach

An important aspect of the KRG is engaging community members in learning about the watershed's challenges and solutions. ODC Network led educational efforts both in person and digitally to create as many touchpoints as possible for residents. In the last year, through eleven in-person workshops, ODC Network has reached over 350 people, helping them learn about water-smart landscaping, rainscaping practices, and land restoration techniques. These workshops were free to attend for residents of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

ODC Network created three digital campaigns for partners to disperse. The first campaign included an overview of chloride pollution and tips for applying de-icing salt to keep residents safe while reducing overuse. The second campaign focused on common terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, with tips on identification, reporting, and removal resources. Most recently, partners received campaign materials on watershed stewardship practices such as keeping leaves and grass out of drains, properly washing vehicles, and reducing sediment erosion. Through municipal partners, this education reached over 7500+ community members.



Conservation Technician Will Hofmann leads an educational hike.



Clean-up volunteers at Krazy for the Kazoo.

Krazy for the Kazoo

This May, KRG partners collaborated on a weekend-long river stewardship celebration, Krazy for the Kazoo. This event engaged the community in ongoing restoration efforts, recreational opportunities, and the beauty that the watershed provides to our region.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council held an interactive reading of the newly published picture book "I Love MI Watershed", about the Kalamazoo River Watershed. Additional programming included kayaking, water-safety activities, an invasive-species pull, and a river cleanup.

Over 35 volunteers removed an impressive 240 pounds of trash and invasive species! This event made the water within the Greenway cleaner and safer, while helping the community learn about their watershed, the incredible natural resources present, and how to care for it all through practical, attainable stewardship tips.

Looking Forward

Several broad goals were identified in the KRG Plan, including:

- Provide the means and opportunities to improve recreational assets and access along the river corridor
- Create opportunities for active and passive interpretation and education to inform visitors about safety, cultural history, natural history, and recreation
- Work on improving environmental quality along the rivers and their watersheds, and address key ecological issues
- Implement best practices to reduce stormwater, sediment, and nutrient issues within the Kalamazoo Watershed
- Enhance regional economic development
- Protect and preserve existing areas of high-quality habitat

To accomplish these goals, ODC Network will continue to assist and guide each community to form a collaborative partnership. Units of government and other local organizations will be positioned to be eligible and more competitive in seeking state and federal funding for their communities. They will also continue to receive technical knowledge to support decision-making and community education efforts.



Trailhead at River Junction Preserve.

About ODC Network

ODC Network (ODC) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan. Since its founding in 2000, ODC has preserved thousands of acres of native habitat and connected more than 1.5 million people to nature through outdoor learning, hands-on programs, and a network of free trails and preserves open year-round.

With a commitment to providing meaningful outdoor learning opportunities for all ages, ODC operates five nature-based early childhood sites, partners with K–12 schools, and delivers community engagement programming throughout the region.

ODC is building a nature-rich community where people and nature thrive, creating the best place to live, work, play, and learn.

Scan here to view the full Greenway Plan:



Scan here to visit the KRG webpage:



A young steward at Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve.





odcnetwork.org