



BEAVER ISLAND WATER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



December 2017

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF THE WATER TRAIL INITIATIVE

Beaver Island has participated in a number of exciting collaborative planning efforts in recent years to better identify the vision and future needs of the Island. Within these conversations, a growing desire to develop a water trail around the Island was established.

In 2016, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), working with a diverse partnership, developed a Management Plan for state-owned lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands. Among other things, the plan identified ways to manage state-owned land in the archipelago more effectively. The *Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative* is a network of many stakeholders and organizations and is an outcome of the DNR planning effort. This network provides an important venue to continue land management discussions with a wide range of interested parties.

In 2015, the *Great Lakes Unbridged Island Communities* project began in collaboration with the Beaver Island Association, the Northland College Center for Rural Communities, and the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. This project connected Beaver Island to the Island Institute, an organization that works to sustain Maine's many remote coastal islands. This ongoing project has allowed for continued learning between Beaver Island and the Maine islands and sparked the creation of the 2015-2016 *Beaver Island Asset Summary*, a document that inventories many of the public and private services and amenities on Beaver Island, including recreational and water access amenities.

In the early part of 2017, through funding provided by the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, St. James Township and Peaine Township worked together to develop and adopt a new municipal Master Plan. Among other things, the Master Plan identifies the need to “develop a water trail around the Island with access points and safe refuges for kayakers and paddlers.”

Later in 2017, in an effort to harness the energy and excitement of the previous collaborative planning efforts and move forward with the creation of a water trail, an active group of citizens and stakeholders worked together to apply for, and was eventually awarded, a grant from the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes to develop a formal development plan for a water trail around Beaver Island. The grant also included funding to develop a paddler's guidebook for the Island. Beginning in October of 2016 and following extensive discussions with Island stakeholders and the general public, the planning process culminated with this Water Trail Development Plan in December of 2017.

Community Support

The Beaver Island Water Trail Development Plan was made possible through a grant from the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. Local match dollars and letters of support to secure the grant were provided by:

- Beaver Island Association
- Beaver Island Boat Company
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce
- Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation
- St. James Boat Shop
- Charlevoix County Community Foundation
- Fresh Air Aviation
- The Preservation Association of Beaver Island
- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- St. James Township
- Peaine Township

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Beaver Island Water Trail Development Plan is to establish a safe and sustainable water trail around Beaver Island for years to come. Within that context, the Development Plan also has a number of complementary goals, including:

- To inventory and identify needs for each access site;
- To establish branding and aesthetic standards for directional and interpretative signage;
- To raise public awareness of the water trail and market the trail for recreational paddling and tourism;
- To establish goals for safety and emergency response;
- To provide for an expected and reliable level of maintenance; and
- To establish a framework and responsibilities for implementation and funding.

The actions described in this Development Plan also seek to build upon and complement ongoing conservation and environmental initiatives around the Island, complement ongoing trail development and trail-based tourism initiatives on the Island; and raise awareness of the unique and valuable natural and cultural resources of the Island.

What is a Water Trail?

A water trail, sometimes referred to as a “blueway,” is the aquatic equivalent of a hiking trail or “greenway.”



WHAT IS A WATER TRAIL?

A water trail is a designated route on a navigable waterway (such as a river, lake, bay or canal) that is designed, implemented and managed to foster educational and recreational experiences for the user. Water trails are intended primarily for non-motorized uses such as kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding. However, in some circumstances, water trails may be used by wind-powered vessels (e.g., sailboat, windsurfing) or motorboats.

Water trails can be classified by experience (e.g., urban, natural, historic, industrial) and/or by skill level (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced). For some water trails, experience classifications may vary from one section of the trail to another. In addition, skill-level classifications can vary depending upon weather, water conditions and impediments (e.g., woody debris, concrete). The quality of trail assets (such as access points, maps, signage and facilities) can impact the use and success of a water trail. Furthermore, the proximity to nearby amenities (e.g., hotels, camping, restaurants) can also impact the use and success of a water trail.

WHAT IS THE BEAVER ISLAND WATER TRAIL?

The Beaver Island Water Trail is a 42-mile (68 km) paddling trail that circumnavigates the entire Island. While some areas of the Island (e.g., Paradise Bay and the inland lakes) are more family-friendly areas to paddle, the water trail is primarily geared toward more experienced paddlers who are comfortable paddling in the unpredictable conditions of the Great Lakes and accustomed to “adventure” paddling, with minimal support amenities, rustic access sites and overnight beach camping. As stated in the goals and objectives of this document, over time, the water trail will feature access site and directional signs, accessible launches, tent platforms and other support amenities.

WHAT ABOUT THE INLAND LAKES?

Five of the larger inland lakes on Beaver Island (Font, Geneserath, Barney’s, Fox, Greene’s) were included in the assessment and evaluation efforts of this Development Plan. However, at this time, development efforts should be primarily focused on a water trail along the coast of Lake Michigan. That said, improvements to access sites on the inland lakes should not be excluded if opportunities and resources arise. In addition, paddling opportunities, as well as unique natural features (e.g., Big Birch) on and around the inland lakes should be included in all marketing and promotional materials (e.g., the Paddle Guide).

Inland Lakes

Barney’s Lake

Font Lake

Lake Geneserath



WHO IS LEADING THE WATER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT?

The development of the Beaver Island Water Trail will be led by the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA). BIATA is a 501(c)(3) organization that was established in 2017 to oversee the development and enhancement of trails throughout Beaver Island, including the water trail.

However, BIATA will need to work with several public and private partners to oversee and manage the development, maintenance and promotion of the Beaver Island Water Trail. Potential partners that have expressed interest in helping to develop the water trail are listed below, along with a list of proposed responsibilities. A formal *Partnership Agreement for Trail Governance and Management* (see Appendix A.), which commits these agencies to the listed responsibilities should be adopted.

Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association

- Evaluate and assess access sites
- Identify and prioritize infrastructure and stewardship projects
- Estimate cost of improvements
- Recommend implementation activities and partners
- Maintain sites owned by partners
- Recruit, train and coordinate volunteers
- Develop and update marketing materials

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative

- Convene partners
- Coordinate annual and long-term planning
- Facilitate processes for annual project evaluation and feedback

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

- Consult and inform on development of water trail
- Approve water trail access sites
- Approve desired site uses
- Maintain sites, signs and amenities
- Assess impact of uses

Peaine and St. James Townships

- Consult and inform on development of the water trail plan
- Approve access sites

- Approve desired sites uses
- Maintain sites, signs and amenities
- Assess impact of uses

Preservation Association of Beaver Island

- Host the primary “check-in” point for the water trail at the Community Center
- Distribute communications, maps and marketing materials

Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce

- Distribute communications, maps and marketing materials
- Use website to promote the water trail

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

- Consult and inform on development of the water trail plan
- Help inform directional and interpretive signage

The Archipelago

The State of Michigan has ownership over many islands in the Archipelago due to the variety of threatened, endangered, and rare plants and animals that live on them.

Garden Island. Once fished, farmed and logged by the Anishinaabe and other groups, Garden Island has a Native American cemetery, an abandoned sawmill and several standing structures.

High Island. The island was originally named after a mountainous sand dune on its western edge. In the past, Native American and settlers lived on the island in small numbers.

Hog Island. Hog Island is characterized by a number of wetland areas that are home to a variety of rare plants and animals. The island also provides vital spawning ground for perch.

Whiskey Island. Whiskey Island is home to one of the most visible shipwrecks in the Archipelago, the wreck of the Chandler J. Wells.

THE BEAVER ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO

The Beaver Island Archipelago includes 14 islands that vary in size, biodiversity and ownership. Located about 30 miles offshore from the City of Charlevoix, Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan, with approximately 56 square miles of land. Beaver Island is unique for many reasons, including a beautiful natural environment with plentiful sand dunes, beaches and wetlands, a distinctively diverse ecology, and a close-knit community with a proud Island heritage. Beaver Island is the only island in the archipelago home to a permanent population and scheduled ferry and airline services. While several of the 13 islands that surround Beaver Island seem nearby, they are in fact several miles away. This Development Plan does not include plans for a water trail throughout the Archipelago and paddling should be discouraged between islands.



CHAPTER TWO – THE PLANNING PROCESS

BACKGROUND

The creation of this Development Plan required comprehensive data collection and analysis, community and stakeholder input, research and review of existing planning initiatives, and site visits. Ultimately, all this information was used to address and provide recommendations regarding the development of a water trail around the Island. While the review of existing planning documents and some site visits occurred early in the planning process, community outreach activities continued throughout the development of this Plan.

INVENTORY

Organizations

In order to develop appropriate goals for the long-term management, oversight and funding of a water trail around Beaver Island, it is important to understand which agencies and organizations are currently involved with or working on local trail, development and tourism initiatives. The following local units of government, agencies and organizations currently play a prominent role in moving projects forward on the Island.

Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association. Trail development, planning and public awareness.

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative. Land-use management and collaboration.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Land-use management, shoreline restoration and habitat restoration.

Little Traverse Conservancy. Land-use management, shoreline restoration and habitat restoration.

Preservation Association of Beaver Island. Management of the Beaver Island Community Center, public awareness, advocacy and promotions.

Beaver Island Association. Education, advocacy, awareness and support.

Outfitters. Equipment rental businesses.

Tribal Governments. Community development, support activities and natural resource protection.

Private Enterprises. Accommodations and services.

Networks Northwest. Comprehensive, local and regional planning.

Department of Natural Resources Water Trail Criteria

In 2016, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources developed draft criteria for a statewide water trail classification system. Elements of the draft criteria were studied and used to guide some of the recommendations described later in this Plan.

Local Jurisdictions. Access-site management, land-use management and recreational development.

PUBLIC INPUT

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from the two townships, the State of Michigan and community organizations, helped to guide the planning process and frame the issues and opportunities related to the water trail.



Beaver Island Water Trail Steering Committee

A Steering Committee was established at the onset of the project to provide overall guidance of the planning process, help frame the issues and opportunities related to the water trail, discuss potential management options, and make recommendations for the Development Plan. The Steering Committee consisted of representatives from Peaine and St. James townships as well as state agencies, business owners and community organizations:

- Peaine Township
- St. James Township
- Happy Paddle
- Beaver Island Boat Company
- Fresh Air Aviation
- Beaver Island Music Festival
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Stakeholder Interviews

In an effort to get more in-depth information about how the Beaver Island Water Trail could be managed and what activities are currently underway that might contribute to or impact the development of a water trail, the Project Team met with and conducted interviews with staff members and public officials from the two townships and local organizations.

Local Units of Government

- Peaine Township
- St. James Township

Community Stakeholders

- Charlevoix County Sheriff
- Beaver Island Emergency Medical Service
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Preservation Association of Beaver Island
- Beaver Island Association

Public Meeting

In an effort to get feedback and responses on what elements the water trail should include and to secure community buy-in and support, the Project Team facilitated a public meeting on June 19, 2017. The public meeting introduced the project, solicited information and opinions about the proposed water trail, and identified concerns and opportunities related to elements of the proposed water trail. The meeting also included a series *red dot/green dot* exercise at dedicated “stations” to gauge public response to a variety of themed images. All the results of the exercises can be found in Appendix B.

ACCESS SITE ASSESSMENT

At the onset of the planning process, the Steering Committee identified approximately 25 potential access sites for the water trail. Some of the access sites were located in clearly delineated places (e.g., Jewel Gillespie Park), whereas others were located in unmarked areas along the shoreline. After some discussion about the appropriate distance between the proposed access sites, as well as a quick assessment of current amenities, the Steering Committee trimmed the number of access sites to 19.

In June 2017, a couple of members from the Steering Committee, staff from LIAA and Access to Recreation LLC, and Beth and Ed Leuck performed site visits at each proposed access site along the coastline as well as on a handful of inland lakes. These visits included field documentation of site conditions, available amenities, accessibility limitations and opportunities, threatened and endangered species, and a variety of other characteristics that typically support water trails. Additional assessments were conducted using aerial imagery and discussions with community stakeholders. A full accessibility report can be found in Appendix C.

LAND USE ORDER

Of the 19 access sites identified in the planning process, nine are owned by the State of Michigan and managed by the Wildlife Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In order to provide amenities on these nine access sites, BIATA had to secure permission through a *Land Use Order* from the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In doing so, BIATA had to submit to the NRC a legal description of the site where activities will occur; the proposed physical amenities planned for each site; a list of threatened and endangered species for each site; and an indication of how the Land Use Order would be carried out. In addition, the Project Team worked with Wes Andrews, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Officer from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, to be sure there were no cultural or historic conflicts with the sites. After some consideration, the NRC approved the Land Use Order in October 2017. A copy of the Land Use Order can be found in Appendix D.

Public Meeting

The public meeting provided an opportunity for citizens to share their concerns and discuss opportunities for a water trail around the Island.



Access Site Assessment

Site visits were conducted to assess existing and potential access sites, using methodology created by the nonprofit Land Information Access Association (LIAA) and the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP).







STATION 3

WATER TRAIL EXPERIENCE

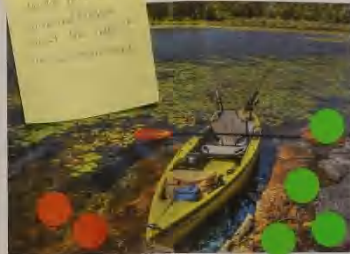
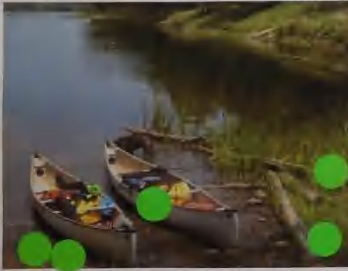
Michigan Water Trails offer paddlers and recreationalists unique experiences based on geography, natural landscapes, water features, cultural and heritage features, and community character. What kind of unique experiences do you envision on the Beaver Island Water Trail?

These are all possible experiences. Pick 10.

Lighting is beautiful along lake.

PARTICIPATE

Consider the type of experiences you would like the future Beaver Island Water Trail to offer. Using a green sticker, please indicate which water trail experiences you prefer the most, and using a red sticker which experiences you would not be likely to engage in. Using a sticky note, write where you think these experiences would be best enjoyed.

 KAYAK AND SHORE CAMPING	 <i>Make this the central focus of the trail.</i> ENJOYING WILDLIFE AND FISHING	 <i>Beaver Island Light House complex & boats end of island</i> STAY IN A PADDLERS VILLAGE
 SEA KAYAKING	 STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING	 MULTI-DAY CAMP/PADDLING TRIPS
 EXPLORING SHIPWRECKS	 BIRD WATCHING	 NIGHT PADDLING

Public Meeting: "Station 3" Results

CHAPTER THREE – RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The development of a sustainable water trail around Beaver Island will require investments in physical improvements to access sites, marketing and promotional materials, programming, and long-term maintenance. The development of a water trail will also require a great deal of public buy-in as well as collaboration between local stakeholders, civic organizations and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These efforts and investments will require time, money and most of all, patience. It is important for local leaders and stakeholders to understand that this Development Plan is just the first step in helping to realize a water trail around Beaver Island. Not everything described in this plan will be implemented over the course of one summer. Projects and activities will likely be implemented in phases, over several years, as funding and resources allow.

The following recommendations for the Beaver Island Water Trail are grouped under three predominant themes: (1) *Operations* (e.g., oversight, collaboration, funding and maintenance); (2) *Physical Improvements* (e.g., access sites, signage), and (3) *Marketing* (e.g., signage, programming, promotions).

OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following operational recommendations provide a framework and help formalize how decisions concerning the development of the water trail are made and who is making them. In addition, direction about maintenance needs and responsibilities are addressed.

Secure Jurisdictional and Stakeholder Support

In order to move forward, it is essential for the Island to secure support and formal commitments from local officials and community stakeholders, many of whom worked on this planning effort. BIATA has assumed the leadership role for development of the water trail. However, BIATA will need to work very closely with public officials from the two townships, community organizations and the DNR to implement trail development goals. In addition, BIATA and local leaders should continue to explore and reach out to new and/or untapped stakeholders (e.g., local, regional, state, federal) to help implement this Development Plan where appropriate, and as the scope and responsibilities of the water trail expand. As previously noted, BIATA and other local leaders should confirm their commitment and responsibilities by signing the Governance and Management Partnership Agreement included in *Appendix A*.

Furthermore, it will be important to secure formal resolutions of support from the boards of Peaine and St. James townships. The resolutions should list each access site in which each township will provide oversight and support. In addition, it will be important to determine and secure a minimum level of funding support for development efforts for access sites under the purview of each township. Additional funding (if available) could be used for Island-wide development efforts (e.g., marketing materials, signage).

References about the water trail and improvements to access sites should also be included in the recreation plan for the two townships (note: the establishment of a water trail is already included in the recently adopted master plan for the two townships).

In addition, BIATA and local leaders should continue to seek support from Island agencies, organizations and businesses (e.g., public safety, the boat company, the two airlines) that are able to support and contribute to development efforts of the water trail.

Continue to Work with Regional and State Partners on the Development of the Water Trail

Due to the number of access sites that are owned and managed by the DNR, BIATA and officials from Peaine and St. James townships will need to work very closely with DNR staff to coordinate development projects (e.g., signage, rustic campsites, etc.) and marketing opportunities. BIATA and local officials should also continue to talk with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation, and Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes about funding future development efforts for the water trail.

Formalize Maintenance Standards and Responsibilities

As previously mentioned, the responsible entities for the water trail, including maintenance at access sites, have been articulated in the Governance and Management Partnership Agreement included in Appendix A. However, in some instances, there might be a difference in the "commonly-accepted" levels of maintenance standard that most stakeholders expect for the Beaver Island Water Trail. What follows are a set of maintenance standards that describe optimal conditions for access sites (please note: not every access site on the Island will include all the following amenities).

Parking. Parking lots at access sites in which there is an ADA kayak launch should have at least one well-marked barrier-free parking space, on an accessible surface. Informal parking areas (e.g., road-endings or open lawn) at access sites should be regularly mowed and signed to reduce haphazard parking on natural vegetation.

Restroom Facility. Any formal restroom facility constructed near an access site must pass all public health requirements for public use and be barrier-free. Routine cleaning is the greatest challenge for restrooms and is an essential responsibility of the site owner.

Porta-Johns. A routine maintenance schedule should be established, consistent with the level of use. Be sure there is always at least one roll of toilet paper in the porta-john at all times. A porta-john is best located on a paved surface to avoid rutting and tilting from repeat servicing. A porta-john should also be barrier-free.

Vault Toilets. Similar to the porta-john, a routine maintenance schedule should be established. The most important criteria is removing all forms of odor-causing material, including removing excess water from the floor. Using pleasant-smelling deodorants placed in a container on the wall is preferred. In addition, all cobwebs should be removed from the interior, and the door should shut flush with a locking mechanism.

Tent Platform. All boards should be level and in good condition, without any sharp protruding nails or pieces of wood.

Fire Rings. Fire rings should be in good condition, without holes and/or other discernable cracks. In addition, it will be important to remove excessive layers of ash from the fire ring.

Trash Receptacles. Trash is a common byproduct of trail users (and complaint from trail and non-trail users alike). The presence of litter, when not addressed routinely, sets a low-expectation standard for trail users inclined to disregard other aspects of site care and is anathema to the “Leave No Trace” ethic. A routine maintenance schedule should be established for each access site.

Picnic Facilities and Benches. These experience-enhancement site improvements are encouraged at some access sites, along with the obligation to maintain these amenities in good condition and clean these amenities as part of routine maintenance.

Signs. While sign components, colors and placement relative to the sun are design considerations that can help alleviate premature deterioration, signs do age. A worn, damaged or illegible sign is a must-replace item for maintenance providers to maintain the utility of the sign’s original intent and to signify that the access site is attended to.

Vandalism and Repairs. Although rare on Beaver Island, it is important to expect some degree of vandalism at access sites. Site owners should be prepared to address vandalism as quickly as possible and be sure to budget for it.

In addition to these “amenity” maintenance standards, BIATA should also continue to work with its partners to address the restoration of the associated natural resources. Restoration includes repairs to the human impacts on the natural environment. Restoration efforts might address a handful of important issues, including soil erosion on embankments, deforested embankments, the spread of invasive species, and general disturbing of sites.

Transportation Partners

Assistance from the Island's transportation entities will be important in helping paddlers get to and around the Island.



Universal Design

Launch sites that consider universal design (including accessible launches) will ensure that people with all types of abilities are able to safely access the water trail.



Work with Local Transportation Partners to Help Paddlers Get To and Around the Island

A healthy transportation system provides a number of ways for paddlers to get to and move around a community. For many communities, this simply requires a traditional system of roads, but on Beaver Island, vital transportation modes include airplanes, ferries, buses and cars.

Public Transportation. Public transportation is provided by *Charlevoix County Transit*. The transit system operates a handful of large vans on an on-call basis within its posted hours. BIATA should work with Charlevoix County Transit to determine if a kayak rack or trailer could be outfitted on at least one van to help paddlers get to different access sites around the Island.

Air Transportation. There are two airports on Beaver Island (Beaver Island Airport and Welke Airport). Each provides regular, year-round passenger flights from the City of Charlevoix and chartered locations elsewhere in Michigan and the Midwest. Fresh Air Aviation operates out of Beaver Island Airport, providing year-round passenger flight service. Island Airways operates out of Welke Airport, providing passenger and freight service (as well as emergency medical transportation) between Beaver Island and Charlevoix. BIATA should continue to work with the two airlines to be sure at least one plane can accommodate large sea kayaks (between 12-24 feet long) and associated gear. Island Airways already has transported smaller kayaks to the Island.

Ferry Transportation. Ferry service has long been the most common (and critical) mode of transportation to and from the mainland for people, vehicles and goods (especially large goods). BIATA should continue to work with the Beaver Island Boat Company to be sure large kayaks (as freight) can be easily accepted on the ferry. In most cases, kayaks will be transported on top of visiting vehicles.

Rental Car Service. There is one rental car service on Beaver Island. BIATA should work with the owners of the rental car agency to be sure kayak racks are available for rent, or pickup trucks are available to assist paddlers in getting around the Island.

A Brief Summary on Universally Accessible Launches. The following summary about universally accessible launches was provided by Cindy Burkhour of Access Recreation Group. Cindy is one of Michigan's foremost experts on universally accessible launches and was a key contributor to the design of the EZ Dock Accessible Launch and this Development Plan. An accessibility assessment of the access sites listed in this chapter can be found in *Appendix C*.

Paddlers of all abilities want to launch and land smoothly without capsizing or damaging their watercraft. It is important to consider universal design practices in the development of the complete water-access facility, from car to launch. Simply stated, universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Paddlers need firm surfaces that support their movement from their arrival place to the launch at the water's edge, and sufficient space to accommodate the length of their watercraft during put-in and take-out. In addition, paddlers must be able to stabilize their watercraft during transitions into and out of their vessel and into and out of the water.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

As previously mentioned, 19 access sites have been identified by the general public and Steering Committee. These sites include small stretches of shoreline in parks or public areas and stretches of shoreline in remote areas. Each site was inventoried, reviewed and discussed by the Steering Committee. The Project Team then worked to categorize each access site by type and future use — that is, what type of site it will *generally* be. This categorization is intended to identify priorities for future development projects and clarity for site owners, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The two categories are described as follows (see full list on page 17):

“Primary” Access Sites Will Have:

- Access by vehicle and a formal parking area
- Other amenities (restrooms, interpretive signage, trash receptacle, kayak rack, potable water)

“Primary” access sites will include as many amenities as possible for paddlers. These sites will be served by a formal campground, with restroom (or port-o-john) facilities and potable water. In addition, these access sites will be easily accessible by vehicle (near a road) with some form of public parking. These sites will also be well signed (wayfinding and informational kiosk) and featured prominently on maps. An ADA kayak launch may also be located at these access sites.



“Rustic” Access Sites Will Have:

- One or two tent platforms
- Limited (if any) direct road access and limited parking (e.g., side of the road)
- Minimal amenities (vault toilet, fire ring)
- Solitude and quiet

“Rustic” access sites could include basic amenities for overnight camping (tent platform, vault toilet, fire ring). Some of these access sites will have limited access from the land (maybe just a small trail) and limited to zero cell-phone coverage. Wayfinding signage will be important, as it might be the only discernable “landmark” when viewed from the water.



**Tent Platform Examples,
Single and Group**



The following series of site improvements were created to show general recommendations for improvements at the 19 access sites. These development recommendations should be used as a general framework and planning tool throughout the development and implementation of these access sites over time. It is important to note that these recommendations are not intended to be the final design of each access site. While some recommendations might be easier to implement (e.g., signage), further design work will most likely be required to implement all these recommendations into construction documents and eventually into execution. It is also important to note that agreement as to the extent, funding, timeline and oversight for such improvements will require the approval of either St. James Township, Peaine Township or the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Each access-site recommendation is composed of at least two parts:

1. Site Information: On the following pages, an oblique photo and description of the current access site is provided, including all of its existing amenities and features. A red arrow (➔) notes the location of the access site. An orange tent (⛹) notes the approximate location of a rustic camp site.

2. Recommendations: A description of all the recommendations is provided for each site.

A general cost estimate guideline is provided in *Appendix F*. Cost estimates will need to be revised following additional design work, engineering and material/equipment specification. Recommendations for each access site will include a combination of amenities to provide the optimal but practical access-site experience for paddlers. In doing so, the following amenities were considered.

- Launch (including universally accessible launch with accessible routes)
- Restrooms (porta-john or vault)
- Picnic Tables
- Pavilion/Shelter
- Trash Receptacles
- Signage
- Information Kiosk
- Parking
- Potable Water
- Kayak Storage
- Tent Platform
- Fire Ring

Map 3.1



Primary Access Sites

- Jewell Gillespie Park
- Bill Wagner Campground
- St. James Campground
- St. James Township Hall and Harbor Light Park
- Old DNR Dock
- Paradise Bay Park

Rustic Access Sites

- Luney's Point
- Mike Boyle's Beach
- Martin's Bluff
- Cable's Bay
- Iron Ore Bay
- French Bay
- McFadden's Point
- Donegal Bay Beach
- George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve
- Gull Harbor Natural Area

The First Stop for All Paddlers

BIATA is recommending that all Water Trail users check in and register at the Community Center prior to beginning their trip. This would alert authorities and public safety agencies to their plans and expected locations. It will be important that volunteers and staff at the Community Center have maps and information about the Water Trail and keep a log of information (including contact numbers and kayak registration numbers) of paddlers.



BEAVER ISLAND WATER TRAIL ACCESS SITES

Jewell Gillespie Park/ St. James Township Beach Access Site



JEWELL GILLESPIE PARK/ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP BEACH ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

Located just south of downtown St. James, Jewell Gillespie Park and St. James Township Beach marks the first access site for the Beaver Island Water Trail. The park features a sizable parking lot, portable restrooms, trash receptacles, picnic tables and playground equipment. In the summer months, the Happy Paddler operates a kayak rental business out of a small building near the beach.



Recommendations

The beach area just in front of the portable restrooms would make an ideal location for a universally-accessible kayak launch. The accessible kayak launch could include a floating platform near the launch bench and rail system to allow for greater mobility. The launch should be connected to the restrooms and parking lot by crushed aggregate pathway or boardwalk. The park also has enough beach and lawn area to accommodate a staging area.

The parking area could accommodate a drop-off area that would feature temporary parking, the staging area, a kayak locker, picnic tables, water fountain and an information kiosk. Together, these amenities would help establish a “paddler’s plaza,” or focal point for paddlers wishing to access the water trail.

Beaver Island Water Trail signs should be placed near the accessible kayak launch (in view of paddlers on the water) and on the informational kiosk. Information about St. James (where to eat, sleep and shop) could be placed on the kiosk as well as cultural or interpretive information about Beaver Island. Directional signs indicating the location of the access site should also be placed at the intersection of Main Street and Forest Street. The township should also continue to work with Happy Paddle to accommodate kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals at the park.

LUNEY’S POINT

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

The Luney’s Point access site is actually located south of Luney’s Point along Little Sand Bay. At this time, there are no paddling amenities at this site. Paddlers can access the water along a long sandy beach. Vehicular access to the Luney’s Point access site is provided by a long two-track road that winds from East Side Drive to the shore.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to place a sign at the access site, in view

**Luney’s Point
Access Site**



of paddlers on the water. BIATA should also work with the DNR to provide frequent mowing and clearing of the two-track road and provide a small parking area where the road meets the beach area. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed where the two-track road meets East Side Drive.

**Mike Boyle's Beach
Access Site**



MIKE BOYLE'S BEACH

Peaine Township

Site Information

Mike Boyle's Beach is located at the end of Boyle Beach Road along Sand Bay. At this time, there are no paddling amenities at this site. Paddlers can access Mike Boyle's Beach via a small turn-around area at the end of Boyle Beach Road. From there, it's just a short walk to the sandy beach. The long views of Sand Bay from Mike Boyle's Beach are quite spectacular. The beach's most distinctive feature (which will be noticeable from the water) is a large blue wooden spindle that sits partially buried in the sand.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with Peaine Township to place a sign at the access site, in view of paddlers on the water. Interpretive information, describing the cultural and natural features of the Island as well as information about the water trail, should be placed on a kiosk near the parking area. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed at the East Side Drive intersection.

BILL WAGNER CAMPGROUND PEAINE TOWNSHIP (BY LEASE FROM DNR)

Site Information

Bill Wagner Campground is located on a sandy beach at the southern end of Sand Bay. The Campground is equipped with 22 rustic campsites, two outhouses, fire rings, a fairly large parking area, a hand-powered water pump, and a small boat ramp along the beach. Vehicular access to the campground is provided by a short dirt road off East Side Drive.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR and Peaine Township to place a sign at the access site, in view of paddlers on the water. There is enough land around the parking area to include a temporary staging area, a kayak locker, picnic tables and an interpretive kiosk. Together, these amenities would help establish a “paddler’s plaza” or focal point for paddlers wishing to access the water trail. A directional sign indicating the location of the access site should also be placed near the existing campground sign along East Side Drive.

In addition, BIATA should work with Peaine Township to designate at least one campsite near the parking area for “paddlers only.” In addition, BIATA should also work with community stakeholders to promote Bill Wagner Campground as an overnight stop on the Beaver Island Water Trail.

Bill Wagner Campground Access Site



**Martin's Bluff
Access Site**



MARTIN'S BLUFF

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

Martin's Bluff is perched roughly 500 feet above Lake Michigan on the southeastern coast of Beaver Island. The sandy beach at Martin's Bluff is relatively small, as it is located right at the bottom of the steep forested hillside. From the water, paddlers can access Martin's Bluff via a steep natural staircase with a rope railing. At the top of the bluff, there is a picnic table that overlooks the lake, as well as connections to a short walking trail.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. The sign could be located at the base of the stairs, as it can be hard to see where they begin along the shore. BIATA should also work with the DNR to provide a small area to place kayaks at the base of the bluff and/or provide a kayak slide that would allow paddlers to more easily move their watercraft up and down the bluff. Interpretive information, describing the cultural and natural features of the Island as well as information about the water trail, could be placed on a kiosk at the top of the bluff. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed on the current Martin's Bluff sign.

CABLE'S BAY

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

The Cable's Bay access site is located along a long and wide sandy beach in Cable's Bay. The site is currently owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. At this time there are no formal access amenities at Cable's Bay. Pedestrian access to the beach is provided by a relatively short hiking path along portions of Cable's Creek. The trailhead features enough room to park a few cars.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, BIATA should work with the DNR to develop a small rustic camping area near the tree line, up from the beach. The camping area could feature two tent platforms, a vault toilet and fire ring. Interpretive information, describing the natural features of Cable's Bay as well as information about the water trail and "leave no trace" concepts, could be placed on a kiosk where the pathway meets the beach. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed at the parking area on Cable's Creek Road.

**Cable's Bay
Access Site**



**Iron Ore Bay
Access Site**



IRON ORE BAY PEAINE TOWNSHIP AND ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

The Iron Ore Bay access site is located along an expansive sandy beach on Iron Ore Bay, on the south side of Beaver Island. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at Iron Ore Bay. Visitors can access the popular beach from a small pull-off area along South End Road, near Iron Ore Creek. Iron Ore Bay also features an emergency call box.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the two townships to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. Interpretive information, describing the natural features of Iron Ore Bay and the nearby lighthouse as well as information about the water trail, could be placed on a kiosk near the pull-off area. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed near the pull-off area or on the current sign.

FRENCH BAY

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

The French Bay access site is located along a beautiful stretch of sandy beach on French Bay. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at French Bay. The French Bay access site is the most remote access site identified along the Beaver Island Water Trail. Visitors can access the beach by hiking on French Bay Road, which is really more of a hiking trail than a road.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, BIATA should work with the DNR to develop a small rustic camping area near the tree line, up from the beach. The camping area could feature two tent platforms, a vault toilet and fire ring. Interpretive information, describing the natural features of French Bay as well as information about the water trail and “leave no trace” concepts, could be placed on a kiosk where the pathway meets the beach. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed at the parking area on North French Bay Road.

French Bay Access Site



**McFadden's Point
Access Site**



MCFADDEN'S POINT

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

The McFadden's Point access site is located at the end of Mrs. Redding's Trail, along an expansive beach at the northern end of Greene's Bay. The access site is near one of the larger dune complexes of the Island. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at McFadden's Point.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, a small pull-off area for three to four cars and a formal turn-around should be placed at the end of Mrs. Redding's Trail. Interpretive information, describing the natural features of the nearby dunes as well as information about the water trail, could be placed on a kiosk near the new pullout area.

OLIVER'S POINT

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

The Oliver's Point access site is located just north of McFadden's Point at the southern end of Greiner's Bay. Pedestrians can access Oliver's Point by way of a short pathway off Mrs. Redding's Trail. The beach at Oliver's Point is fairly small and rocky, but provides views of High Island. The site is adjacent to a heavily wooded area as well. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at Oliver's Point.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, in view of paddlers on the water. Given how small the beach is, BIATA should work with the DNR to develop a small rustic camping area within the forested area farther away from the beach. The camping area could feature two tent platforms, a vault toilet and fire ring. Interpretive information, describing the natural features of Greiner's Bay as well as information about the water trail and "leave no trace" concepts, could be placed on a kiosk where the pathway meets the beach. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed near the existing Oliver's Point sign off Mrs. Redding's Trail.

Oliver's Point Access Site



**Bonner's Landing
Access Site**



BONNER'S LANDING

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

Bonner's Landing is located at the southern end of Eagle Bay. Pedestrians can access Bonner's Landing by parking at the top of the bluff on Sloptown Road and walking down Bonner's Landing Road to the beach. The sandy beach at Bonner's Landing is quite extensive. The site is adjacent to a heavily wooded area as well. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at Bonners Landing.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed at the top of the bluff near the parking area on Sloptown Road and near the rocks that mark the pathway to the beach along Bonner's Landing Road.

MCCAULEY'S POINT MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Information

McCauley's Point is located at the southern end of Donegal Bay. The beach at McCauley's Point is fairly small, shallow and quite marshy. Pedestrians can access McCauley's Point by parking along the road and taking a short hike along a pathway to the beach. At this time, there are no formal access amenities at McCauley's Point.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the DNR to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, a directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed near the existing McCauley's Point sign near the road and near the two large rocks that indicate the pathway to the beach.

McCauley's Point Access Site



Donegal Bay Beach
Access Site



DONEGAL BAY BEACH

PORT OF ST. JAMES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Site Information

Donegal Bay Beach is one of the most popular beaches on Beaver Island. The beach is part of the Port of St. James Homeowners Association, but is used by the general public. The beach is fairly small, but has expansive views. Most visitors park at a little pull-off along Donegal Bay Road that is situated not far from the beach. The beach has small benches for sitting.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the Homeowners Association to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, interpretive information describing the natural features of Donegal Bay as well as information about the water trail and St. James, could be placed on a kiosk near the pull-off area.

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP CAMPGROUND

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

St. James Township Campground is located at the north end of Beaver Island. The campground features 12 campsites situated on a bluff overlooking the water, along with pit toilets, trash receptacles, a small parking lot, a picnic area and a hand-powered water pump. The bluff provides a dramatic view of Lake Michigan and Garden Island. Vehicular access to the campground is provided just off Donegal Bay Road. Pedestrian access is provided by a bike path situated adjacent to Donegal Bay Road. Due to its proximity to the town of St. James, the campground is often occupied by seasonal residents who cannot secure temporary housing during the busy summer months. At this time, there are no paddling amenities at this location. The beach at the foot of the bluff is fairly small and there is no easy way to get up and down the bluff.



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the Township to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, a clear pathway (or stairs) and a kayak slide should be placed along a current cut through the forest and loop around to the west side of the campground. The camping area could feature shower facilities and formal restroom facilities. In addition, interpretive information describing the history and natural features of Garden Island as well as information about the water trail and the town of St. James, could be placed on a kiosk near the parking area. Furthermore, a kayak locker could be placed near the proposed pathway to allow paddlers to store their equipment and gear. A directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed near the entrance of the campground on Donegal Bay Road and near the parking area.

St. James Campground Access Site



GEORGE & ALTHEA PETRITZ NATURE PRESERVE LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

Site Information

Located at the north end of the Island near Sucker Point, the 27-acre George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve is an important habitat for a number of animals as well as a passover for migratory birds. The preserve has about 500 feet of beach on Lake Michigan, with expansive views of Garden, Hog and Squaw islands.

**Petritz Nature Preserve
Access Site**



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the Little Traverse Conservancy to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, interpretive information, describing the natural features and wildlife of the preserve as well as information about the water trail and Garden, Hog and Squaw islands, could be placed on a kiosk near the access site. A directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed along Lookout Drive.

GULL HARBOR NATURAL AREA ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

The Gull Harbor Natural Area is a large protected area along the northeast end of the Island. Due to its location on Lake Michigan and its marshy landscape, the natural area is used by migratory song birds in the spring and fall. The natural area is accessible via Gull Harbor Drive, but the road is often under water and impassable. In fact, local residents often refer to this area as the “car wash.”



Recommendations

BIATA should work with the township to place a sign at the access site, clearly in view of paddlers on the water. In addition, interpretive information describing the natural features and migratory bird habitat of the natural area as well as information about the water trail, could be placed on a kiosk near the access site. A directional sign indicating the location of the access site should be placed along a dry portion of Gull Harbor Drive.

**Gull Harbor Natural Area
Access Site**



**St. James Township Hall
and Harbor Light Park
Access Site**



ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP HALL AND HARBOR LIGHT PARK

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

St. James Township Hall (surrounding property) as well as the adjacent Harbor Light Park (along with the CMU Research Center) occupy the end of Whiskey Point. Parking at the site is provided by a large turn-around at the end of Michigan Avenue. The Township Hall has bathrooms and potable water (from a hose attached to the building). Within the Township Hall grounds, there is a sitting bench, trash receptacles, a picnic area and a portable restroom.



Recommendations

The beach area just in front of the extensive lawn near the Township Hall building on Paradise Bay would make an ideal location for a universally-accessible kayak launch. The accessible kayak launch could include a floating platform near the launch bench and rail system to allow for greater mobility. The launch should be connected to the rest of the grounds and parking lot by a pathway or boardwalk. The park and parking area has enough land to accommodate a staging area. The parking area could accommodate a drop-off area that would feature temporary parking, the staging area, a kayak locker, water fountain, picnic tables and an information kiosk. Together, these amenities would help establish a “paddler’s plaza” or focal point for paddlers wishing to access the water trail or recreate in Paradise Bay.

OLD DNR DOCK ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

The Old DNR Dock is located along the eastern edge of Paradise Bay along Michigan Avenue. The dock (and associated building) were once owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Today, the deepwater dock is maintained by St. James and Peaine Township and used by the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department. The dock (and surrounding harbor area) is used to unload fuel brought to the Island.



Recommendations

Further discussion about the potential use of this site between BIATA and officials from St. James and Peaine Township is required. Using the dock for an access site does have some advantages. For example, much of the dock infrastructure is already in place, and there is enough room to establish a small parking area and install additional access-site amenities. However, the two townships need to better define what other uses will continue to take place at this site before permanent water trail infrastructure is established.

**Old DNR Dock
Access Site**



Paradise Bay Park
Access Site



PARADISE BAY PARK ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Site Information

Paradise Bay Park is a small waterfront park located just south of the Ferry Dock. The park is close to many of the business amenities within St. James that support paddlers. However, it is quite small and located just north of the preferred access site at Jewell Gillespie Park.



Recommendations

At this time, the Steering Committee felt that Jewell Gillespie Park was a better location for the first access site on the water trail. However, given the proximity of Paradise Bay Park to other service amenities (e.g., restaurants, hotels, etc.), it still might be an ideal location for a smaller, less formal lunch. Further discussion about the potential use of this site between BIATA and officials from St. James should continue.

MARKETING RECOMMENDATIONS

Trail Branding and Identity

As the Beaver Island Water Trail gets developed, a distinctive logo should be formally established. A temporary logo was developed and used in the Water Trail Paddling Guidebook (see right). BIATA should establish a logo that represents a unique brand and identity for the Beaver Island Water Trail, setting it apart from other trails (both water and land) throughout the state. The logo should also help reflect the Water Trail's identity throughout future planning and development efforts — on signage at access points, online and on printed materials (e.g., maps). Creating a logo and brand helps to establish the trail as a legitimate trail system while developing a positive, attractive image that the public can recognize and embrace.

Trail Media

Trail Map

One of the most critical components of a water trail system is to develop materials that identify the routes, features and access sites of the water trail. In most instances, unlike a land trail, a water trail does not have a built route one can easily follow. Navigating a water trail requires a map to provide the paddler with information about the water system. Paddlers are dependent on the information they gather prior to getting on the water. BIATA should continue to refine the water-resistant Water Trail Paddling Guidebook (see Appendix E) that was developed under this larger planning effort. In addition, BIATA could lead efforts to develop a two-sided rack-card about the Water Trail (with map) that could be distributed to outlets and venues throughout the State of Michigan.

Website and Social Media

Once the water trail map has been formally approved, all the trail and related information should be placed on the Michigan Water Trails website at www.michiganwatertrails.org. In addition, a Facebook page can help spread information about future events, trail conditions, large accomplishments and interesting trail features.

Public Engagement and Media

Once the water trail is developed to a basic level of satisfaction, BIATA should have a table and/or present at symposiums and recreation, river and/or watershed conferences, including the Quiet Water Symposium, Michigan Trails Summit, and the Midwest Trail and Greenway Conference. In addition, wherever possible, BIATA should present at grant funding workshops.

BIATA should work with the Island's Communication Fellow to develop and submit articles about the Water Trail to state and regional media outlets as well as outdoor adventure and paddling media outlets.

It can also be helpful to develop a working relationship with the local media (e.g., Beaver Beacon). It will be important to explain to them what BIATA is doing and how media can help. Speaking at local civic and community service meetings and having a presence at community events and festivals are other great ways to engage with the community.

**Temporary Logo,
Beaver Island Water Trail**



Wayfinding Signs, Access Site Signs and Kiosks



Trail Signage

Signs and markers are essential components of a water trail. There are four types of signs that BIATA and local leaders will need to develop and place at specific areas and locations around Beaver Island.

Land-Based Wayfinding/Access Signs. Land-based wayfinding signs are meant to direct visitors to the access site. In some instances, “water trail access site” text should be placed on existing wayfinding signs around the Island. In addition, a distinctive access site sign should be placed at the access site turn-in (off the primary road) and/or directly at the access site. Given the success of the Birding Trail signs and the fact that many of the access sites in this plan are also designated birding sites, access site signs could be designed similarly — for instance, a small yellow sign with the outline of the Island, scribed with “Beaver Island Water Trail,” an emblem of a paddler (see middle left) and the Beaver Island Water Trail logo. The access site sign should also include the number and name of the site.

Access Site Signs From the Water. Similar to the access site signs described above, each access site should include a sign viewable from the water that includes the number and name of the site. Depending on the location of the site, the sign should be placed on a large stable tree or stake so it’s clearly visible from the water. Given the potential change in lake levels from year to year, the access site sign should be placed back far enough from the shoreline so as to avoid being damaged by waves or inundated by standing water. In some instances, during times of low lake levels, a second access site sign might need to be placed farther out from the shoreline.

Sign Kiosks. In some locations (referenced in the previous section), a kiosk should be placed at the access site. The sign kiosk should include the following basic components:

1. A Trail Map and Description of the Water Trail
2. The Name of the Access Site (in English and Native American)
3. Information About the Access Site
4. Safety and Emergency Information
5. Rules and Regulations

In addition to these basic components, the kiosk should include information about the unique environmental, cultural or historical features associated with the site or nearby sections of the Water Trail. Access sites closer to the town of St. James may also include information (and a map) about where to eat, sleep and shop. Kiosks at access sites where camping has been designated should include rules and regulations about camping and an explanation of “Leave No Trace.”

Education and Safety

Paddler education and safety are very important components of the Water Trail, especially because of its location on the Great Lakes. While paddlers will be using the trail at their own risk, many cases of injury or loss of life are, in hindsight, avoidable. There are good sources of paddler education and training that should be made available to users of the Water Trail.

For example, the Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a variety of educational materials and programs to help teach paddlers about safety and decision-making skills, such as the Operation Paddle Smart program, Paddle Smart “If Found” ID stickers for boats, and paddlecraft inspections. The Coast Guard offers these paddle stickers and paddlecraft inspections free of charge. Other lifesaving tools, such as developing “paddle plans,” should be promoted as standard practice. At a minimum, before heading out on the trail, all paddlers should check in and register at the Community Center. Programs like these are often accompanied by brochures and other forms of media which could easily be incorporated into kiosks at access sites and other Island promotional materials. An educational and safety program that utilizes these types of materials should be developed.

In addition, as noted during the stakeholder interviews, BIATA should continue to talk and work with local public safety agencies to raise awareness about the Water Trail and talk about ways to mitigate and avoid emergencies. A preliminary discussion revealed an interest in placing numbered safety markers along the Water Trail that would be linked to a GPS program and make it easier for public safety agencies to find paddlers in distress.

BIATA should also work with local paddlers, volunteers and community stakeholders to establish a Water Trail Ambassador Program. Ambassadors would paddle sections of the Island at least three times a year (in the spring, mid-summer and fall) and make general observations (with pictures as necessary) about the conditions of Water Trail launches, signs, trash, water levels and trail etiquette. All information could be noted and cataloged with BIATA. In addition, ambassadors could help answer questions from the public about the Water Trail, help to plan trips and give advice about hazards, and teach proper trail etiquette.

Paddling and Water Trail-Based Programs

As you will read later in this chapter, many of the economic development and marketing strategies noted in this document are based on drawing visitors to the Island. However, the full potential of the Water Trail will not be realized unless Island residents are aware of it and know how to access it. BIATA needs to make sure local officials, business owners and residents are aware of the Water Trail and the different paddling experiences it has to offer. BIATA should develop one signature annual event to highlight the Water Trail. This event might include a formal presentation, an informational paddle and a volunteer work bee at one of the access sites. Hosting additional paddling trips that demonstrate the unique paddling experiences around the Island would also be beneficial. BIATA should also work with historical and civic organizations to help identify and promote cultural and historical sites along the Water Trail. Much of this type of information can be included on the trailhead kiosks and other marketing materials.

Leveraging the Water Trail for Economic Development

Water trails can have a significant impact on the local and regional economy. Water trails help attract and support tourism and new business opportunities. In addition, local residents often spend money on trail-related activities and businesses. The outdoor recreation industry is now recognized as one of the leading economic drivers in the United States, surpassed only by pharmaceuticals and motor vehicles and parts in terms of consumer spending. In addition, the impact of outdoor recreation reaches beyond the outdoor industry, directly fueling such major economic sectors as manufacturing, accommodations, food services and retail trade. According to a 2013 report from the Outdoor Industry Association, spending on outdoor recreation supports 6.1 million direct jobs and \$80 billion in federal, state and local

Education and Safety

It will be important to continue to work with the Beaver Island EMS, the Coast Guard and the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department to raise awareness about the Water Trail, its users and the paddling hazards of the Great Lakes.

tax revenues. The report states, “outdoor recreation is a growing and diverse economic super sector that is a vital cornerstone of successful communities that cannot be ignored.”

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, paddlesports, largely fueled by stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking, is one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities in the United States. A 2015 Special Report on Paddlesports prepared by the Association notes that more than 21.7 million people — or 7.4 percent of Americans — participated in paddling activities in 2014. Kayaking, which is the most popular form of paddling, had approximately 13 million participants in 2014. The Association also notes that the percentage of Americans participating in kayaking increased from 3 percent in 2010 to 4.4 percent in 2014.

Nationally, paddlers are evenly represented across age groups but tend to be more highly educated, with 49 percent of kayakers and 43 percent of canoeists achieving a college degree or higher. Furthermore, 55 percent of kayakers and 48 percent of canoeists have incomes greater than \$75,000. In 2014, kayakers across the United States took an average of eight trips during the year, contributing to 105 million trips overall.

In Michigan, the outdoor recreation industry generates \$18.7 billion in consumer spending annually. A comprehensive understanding of consumer spending on paddling in Michigan is still largely incomplete. However, *Michigan Blue Economy*, a report from the Michigan Economic Center and the Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute, noted that the small but growing canoe and kayak industry annually contributes roughly \$140 million to Michigan’s economy. In 2013, the Huron River Watershed Council commissioned an economic impact analysis for the Huron River Water Trail from the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development. The analysis found that the Huron River Water Trail generates more than \$49.5 million annually from current users, including \$33 million in Washtenaw County alone. The report also went on to note that studies show that the average paddler will travel roughly 79 miles a day for a day trip and 117 miles for an overnight trip.

According to a report from the River Management Society that summarizes notable findings on the economic impact of water trails in three different communities in the United States, “towns that already have dining, lodging and rental services are more likely to see an increase in paddlesports tourism when they advertise and promote their water trail, as contrasted with communities that market their water trail, but do not provide standard amenities for paddlers.”

The report also identifies the key trail tourist amenities that tend to successfully attract new audiences and generate economic activity:

- Access to the water
- Outfitters: rental and shuttling services
- Lodging: camping, bed and breakfasts
- Dining: restaurants, breweries, grocery stores
- Integrated recreation: hiking and biking paths
- Activities: museums, interpretive centers and other activities
- Proximity: neighboring towns with similar amenities

The report also noted that guides and outfitters, lodging and food are typically the top visitor expenditures for trail tourists. Therefore, communities with lodging, dining and outfitter/rental services already in place can expect to experience a more substantial economic benefit.

Beaver Island has a handful of lodging accommodations, including motels, B&Bs and rental homes. During summer weekends, most of the rooms on the Island are full. In fact, when there is a large event like Independence Day or even a large wedding, it can be difficult to find rooms on the Island. If the Island is looking to build on the summer and water trail-based tourism industry, more hotels and accommodations will be needed.

The marketing of the Water Trail will incorporate the contemporary inclination of trail users to combine water-based recreation with land-based recreation. Therefore, it is essential to make both physical connections between the water trail and land-based trails (where feasible) and develop cross-promotional resources. It will also be important to be sure that there is at least one outfitter on the Island that can accommodate both water trail and land-based trail users.

As the link between water trails and economic development is better understood, Beaver Island should look for ways to capitalize on its Water Trail to maximize trail-based tourism for future economic development opportunities — that is, to redefine the community as a “Trail Town.” The Trail Town concept was first developed by the Allegheny Trail Alliance, a coalition of seven different trail organizations along the Great Allegheny Passage, a 150-mile multi-use trail running through Pennsylvania and Maryland.

A Trail Town is an active, attractive and interesting place with accessible and comfortable spaces, hosting a variety of activities and promoting social interaction and a strong sense of place. A Trail Town should meet both the needs of the trail users and residents of the community. A Trail Town has the physical amenities that support trail users such as accessible launches. A Trail Town also has the business amenities to support day-trip users (e.g., kayak rental) and overnight trail users (e.g., campground, casual restaurant and laundromat). Using the basic elements of the Trail Town strategy, local officials and economic development officials can help create local and regional tools for water trail-based economic development.

Basic Elements of a Trail Town Strategy:

- Entice trail users to get off the trail and go into the town.
- Welcome trail users to your town by making information about the community readily available at the trail.
- Make strong and safe connections between your town and the trail.
- Educate local businesses on the economic benefits of meeting trail tourists’ needs.
- Recruit new businesses or expand existing ones to fill gaps in the goods or services that trail users need.
- Promote the “trail-friendly” character of the community.
- Work with neighboring communities to promote the entire trail corridor as a tourist destination.

Many of these elements could be incorporated into places within St. James where the connection with the urban environment is strong, especially at Jewell Gillespie Park. Additional connections could be made along Paradise Bay. The following images illustrates the trail-to-town connection in downtown St. James and Jewell Gillespie Park.



Gateway

The Gateway is the point at which trail users enter the central business district. The Gateway should welcome trail users and visitors into the central business district. The “summer night tree” sculpture at this location is a great way to denote the downtown. A wayfinding kiosk at this location would be ideal.



Pathway

The Pathway is the corridor that trail users follow from the trailhead to the central business district. Local officials should continually assess the Pathway for cleanliness, accessibility, safety, lighting, physical condition and interaction with traffic.



Trailhead

The Trailhead is the point at which the trail user may come into contact with the community for the first time and the point at which the trail user will decide whether or not to enter into the downtown. Therefore, it is important to make it welcoming and provide information about the downtown.



BEAVER ISLAND WATER TRAIL - THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN				
		Priority	Year	General Cost
Operations				
1	Review and revise the Governance and Management Partnership Agreement, as needed and secure signed commitments from identified partners.	High	2018	
2	Secure formal resolutions of support from the Peaine and St. James Township Boards	High	2018	
3	Include general and specific recommendations concerning the water trail into the Peaine and St. James recreations plan when they come up for their annual or five year review	Medium	2018	
4	Develop a formal agreement on maintenance standards for water trail amenities (listed on pages 12 - 13)	Medium	2019	
5	Work with Charlevoix County Transit to get kayak rack on at least one van	Low	2019	\$500.00
6	Develop formal "check-in" materials and station at the community center	Medium	2019	\$200.00
Physical Improvements				
1	Secure and place yellow access site signs along the water and at the entrance of each access site	High	2019	\$7,600.00
2	Develop vault toilets, fire rings and tent platforms at designated access sites	Medium	2020	\$30,000
3	Construct stairs and kayak slide at St. James Township Campground	Medium	2020	\$10,000
Marketing				
1	Once each access sign is placed, get new GPS coordinates for each site	High	2019	
2	Develop language for kiosks	Medium	2019	
3	Place kiosks at defined access sites around the Island	Medium	2020	\$20,000
4	Plan and host inaugural water trail celebration event	Medium	2019	\$5,000.00
5	Confirm or develop new logo for the water trail	High	2018	
6	Confirm the content of the paddling guide	High	2018	
7	Get information about the water trail on michiganwatertrails.org	Medium	2018	
8	Secure a table at the Quiet Water Symposium	Low	2019	\$25.00



Source: StillPoint Photography

Appendix

Appendix A.

Beaver Island Water Trail

Partnership Agreement for Trail Governance and Management

Prepared by Parallel Solutions LLC

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to describe how public and private partners will work together to govern and manage the development, maintenance and promotion of the Beaver Island Water Trail for the approved water trail access sites owned by the site owner(s).

Definitions

PRIMARY ACCESS SITES - A designated, approved access site that is promoted for use by the water trail manager and the site owner. These access sites will have the most amenities.

RUSTIC ACCESS SITES - A designated, approved access site from which to launch and land a non-motorized watercraft. Each access site will have a suitable launching surface and will include at least some legal public parking sites which may be along a public roadway. It is recommended that wayfinding signage from the water and on-site water trail information signage is included at these sites.

PRIMARY CAMP SITES –These are areas designated by site owners for camping along the water trail. These sites may have formal campsites, with running water, and porta-johns.

RUSTIC CAMP SITES – These are areas designated by site owners for camping along the water trail. These sites may have amenities such as wooden tent platforms, fire rings, and/or vault toilets.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following chart outlines the levels of responsibility and authority each respective partnering entity or individual has for different activities related to the Beaver Island Water Trail. The resources each partner is committing to the water trail's collaborative development, management and maintenance are also listed.

PARTNER NAME AND POINT OF CONTACT	AUTHORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES CONTRIBUTED TO PARTNERSHIP
Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association		• Evaluate access sites • Assess access sites • Identify and prioritize infrastructure and stewardship projects • Estimate cost of improvements • Recommend implementation planning activities to partners • Maintain sites owned by partners (via maintenance contracts with each entity) • Recruit, train and coordinate volunteers to support site maintenance • Develop and update water trail marketing materials (may include overseeing work of contractors)	• Staff time • Volunteer and board member time • 501c3 status • Ability to apply for grants; potential for financial support • Trail development knowledge
Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative		• Convening partners • Coordinating annual and long-term water trail planning; writing an annual work plan • Facilitating processes for annual project evaluation and feedback in order to inform on-going planning	• Staff time (via DNR) • Neutral convening role
Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division	• Site ownership • Approve site improvements	• Consult and inform on development of water trail plan • Approve water trail access sites • Approve desired sites uses • Maintain sites, signs, and amenities (may be done via maintenance contract with partner) • Assess impacts of use	• Staff time • Scientific knowledge – wildlife, ecology, water quality, fisheries

Peaine Township	• Site ownership • Approve site improvements • Steward properties • Maintain signs and amenities	• Consult and inform on development of water trail plan • Approve water trail access sites • Approve desired sites uses • Maintain sites, signs, and amenities (may be done via maintenance contract with partner) • Assess impacts of use	• Trustees' time and knowledge • Financial support for access site asset development • Financial support for maintenance
St. James Township	• Site ownership • Approve site improvements • Steward properties • Maintain signs and amenities	• Consult and inform on development of water trail plan • Approve water trail access sites • Approve desired sites uses • Maintain sites, signs, and amenities (may be done via maintenance contract with partner) • Assess impacts of use	• Trustees' time and knowledge • Financial support for access site asset development • Financial support for maintenance
Little Traverse Conservancy	• Site ownership • Approve site improvements • Steward properties • Maintain signs and amenities	• Consult and inform on development of water trail plan • Approve water trail access sites • Approve desired sites uses • Maintain sites, signs, and amenities (may be done via maintenance contract with partner) • Assess impacts of use	• Staff time and knowledge of sites and ecology • Financial support for maintenance
Beaver Island Association		• Host the main "check in" point for water trail at Community Center users • Distribute communications, maps and marketing materials	
Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce		• Distribute communications, maps and marketing materials • Use website to promote water trail	
Little Traverse Bay Band	• Site ownership • Approve site		• Staff time • Wisdom and

	improvements • Steward properties • Maintain signs and amenities		knowledge of island's history • Scientific knowledge (water quality, fisheries, wildlife, botany, ecology) • Potential source of funding for site improvements, storytelling, communications
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Communication Processes and Expectations

ANNUAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION MEETING

The **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative** will host an annual meeting in _____ (month) to develop a collaborative work plan regarding the future steps for the water trail and evaluate the previous year's activities, processes and impacts. All water trail partners identified in this Agreement will be engaged in agenda setting for this meeting. The Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative will prepare and distribute an online evaluation survey prior to the meeting. Results will be shared with all participants prior to the annual meeting. Survey outcomes will be used to help identify topics for the meeting, including items to celebrate and issues requiring resolution.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS

The **Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association** will track progress toward annual work plan goals and will prepare a quarterly report that includes a concise summary of activities and outcomes. This report will be shared via email with each of the partners identified in this Agreement.

TASK-FOCUSED MEETINGS

The **Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association** will host a bi-monthly meeting to address short-term activities and tactical decisions related to trail development, management, maintenance, communications, marketing, and/or event planning. These meetings are open to all partners and to other stakeholders and volunteers involved in the development and maintenance of the trail. The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association will keep a record of decisions made at these meetings, including roles, responsibilities, and where and when resources have been or will be allocated. This information will be included in the monthly progress report.

PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

In between meetings, and as issues arise, partners will keep in touch by phone and email.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The spokespeople for the water trail with the media are: LIST NAMES HERE. If another member of the partnership receives a request to engage with the media, they will refer the media representative to one of these people.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Public events associated with the water trail will be planned and managed by the **Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association** in accordance with the annual work plan activities identified by all partners, as convened by the **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative**. Other partners or contractors may be responsible for specific roles in these events. These roles and efforts will be coordinated by the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association.

ISSUE RESOLUTION

Partners agree to address conflicts with each other in respectful and productive ways by communicating directly and honestly with each other when there are disagreements or disappointments, and by focusing on issues and outcomes, and not on people. **Meetings** are the space for issue and conflict resolution among partners. If issues arise that cannot be resolved among partners at these meetings, they may be elevated for discussion and resolution at a **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative** meeting.

Activities and Outcomes

The narrative below is organized by activity type and describes the roles and responsibilities of each partnering entity.

1. COORDINATE PLANNING FOR THE WATER TRAIL

The **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative** will have the authority to convene the trail partners and will be responsible for engaging team members, structuring agendas, facilitating meeting discussions, documenting and recording decisions made by the group, and creating and managing annual evaluation, feedback and learning processes.

All partners, including the site owners' designated representatives will have an annual in-person meeting to discuss the water trail sites, resolve any conflicts and/or discuss potential improvements. The **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative coordinator** will facilitate this annual meeting. If any concerns arise between the annual meetings, the points of contact for specific issues are the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association and the site owners.

All water trail site owner representatives and the other public and private partners listed in this Agreement will be consulted regarding setting the agenda for Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative meetings where the Beaver Island water trail will be discussed.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Annual Meeting
- Development of annual work plan and budget
- Evaluation and feedback process

2. PRIORITIZE PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WATER TRAIL

Site owners will maintain authority for any final decisions regarding improvements on their properties. The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association will be responsible for conducting site assessments, evaluating, estimating costs, and prioritizing

opportunities for site improvements throughout the water trail and will share recommendations with site owners and with the Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative to inform big picture planning.

Types of projects that will be evaluated and prioritized will include the development and maintenance specifications for amenities including signage, boat racks, parking, camping amenities, and launches.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Development of detailed capital improvement, program and project plan
- Coordination and communication and plan buy-in among partners
- Implementation of plan
- Feedback loops regarding implementation; collaborative trouble-shooting and problem-solving

3. SITE AND WATER TRAIL USE EVALUATION

Site owners have authority and will be responsible for access site and property maintenance. All involved partners will annually evaluate the uses and impacts of the water trail, and periodically evaluate access site usage during peak times and at events. These issues will be discussed at the annual meeting, and at monthly progress meetings as needed.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Site owners monitor properties and access sites (or by those with whom they contract to do this work)
- Level and type of communication among partners regarding site use and evaluation of use and impacts
- Identification and resolution of issues

4. DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND INSTALL SIGNAGE

A sign plan will outline the location and type of signage that will be part of the water trail. This sign plan will be part of the annual work plan and capital improvement plan developed by the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association and presented to all partners for review and ratification at the annual meeting. The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association will take responsibility for coordinating sign design, content editing, and construction, and will seek grant funding to help to pay for the cost of sign development. Property and site access owners will have final authority to approve any signs installed on their property and may also finance sign development and installation. The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association may install signs on owners' property with their written permission.

The Little Traverse Bay Band will assist in the development of sign content related to local history and culture. Other partners such as the Historic Society also will contribute content in this area. The Department of Natural Resources and the Little Traverse Bay Band will contribute sign content regarding natural features and ecological and resource management and stewardship.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Sign content is created with the involvement of appropriate partners
- Signs are installed

5. MAINTAIN THE SITE AND AMENITIES LOCATED ONSITE

Site owners have the authority and responsibility to maintain access sites including removing trash, managing restrooms/port-a-johns, monitoring use, maintaining signage that's been installed, etc. The Townships (or other site owners) may contract out or pay other partners to maintain the sites, but will retain authority and responsibility for these activities. If site owners choose to contract with the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association, the Association will hire staff, coordinate and manage the work of volunteers, and do the maintenance work.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Sites are maintained to create positive experiences for users

6. ACT AS THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR EVENTS

The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association will act as the overall project manager for events. All events will be outlined in the annual work plan and on a calendar for review by all partners. Specific manager roles and responsibilities will be delegated or contracted to individuals and will be documented as part of an event management form that will be used to set goals and plan for each event.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- Events have clear goals and desired outcomes
- Events are well-managed; roles are clearly understood
- Events are evaluated relative to goals and outcomes

7. DEVELOP & UPDATE WATER TRAIL PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association will be responsible for guiding branding, developing key messages, and maintaining website content and water trails mapping information (www.michiganwatertrails.org), printing materials for the water trail. Tasks may be delegated or contracted to specific individuals. These roles and tasks will be outlined in the annual work plan, as well as costs and expected deliverables.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success:

- A brand for the water trail is developed and is integrated into signage and marketing materials
- Website content is updated and maintained
- Water trail maps are updated and maintained
- Adequate materials (print and online) are available for water trail users

8. PROMOTE THE WATER TRAIL

Promotion and marketing activities will be outlined in the annual work plan coordinated by the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association and presented at the annual water trail planning meeting convened by the Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative. All partners will consult and provide advice regarding ways to promote the water trail.

When signage and any significant amenities are installed, the site owner will coordinate with the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association to plan an event to celebrate the success with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The partners will assist with promotion of the ceremony and develop a joint media release to share the success.

Activity Outcomes and Measurements of Success

- Promotion activities are coordinated and planned to ensure consistency in messaging and to advance desired water trail goals and outcomes (including targets for user numbers and impact)
- Partners celebrate successes

Partner Signatures

Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name
Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date
Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name
Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date

Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name
Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date
Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name
Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date
Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name

Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date
Organization/Agency Name	Organization/Agency Name
Authorized Representative Printed Name	Authorized Representative Printed Name
Signature of Representative	Signature of Representative
Date	Date

Appendix B.

Public Meeting Results



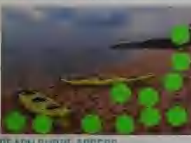
STATION 1

WATER TRAIL ACCESS

Providing several access opportunities to the Water Trail is one of the best ways to ensure consistent user safety and broad participation for all experience levels. The images shown here are opportunities for developed access sites of varying costs and materials that can be considered for Beaver Island.








PARTICIPATE

Consider the types of access you would like to see on the Beaver Island Water Trail. Using a green sticky note indicate which water trail access types you prefer the most and using a red sticker indicate which ones you do not prefer. Using a sticky note write where you think it would be appropriate to have these types of access opportunities.



STATION 2

WATER TRAIL AMENITIES

The main difference between a typical self-guided paddling experience and a water trail experience tends to involve the provision of easily accessed amenities that are available to the public and whose use is encouraged. Amenities help to ensure comfortable, safe, and enjoyable experiences for all users.











PARTICIPATE

Consider the types of amenities you would like to see offered on the Beaver Island Water Trail. Using a green sticky note indicate which water trail amenities you prefer the most and using a red sticker indicate which ones you do not prefer. Using a sticky note write where you think these amenities would be appropriate for the Beaver Island Water Trail.



STATION 3

WATER TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Michigan Water Trails offer paddlers and recreationalists unique experiences based on geography, natural landscapes, water features, cultural and heritage character. What kind of unique experiences do you envision on the Beaver Island Water Trail?











PARTICIPATE

Consider the types of experiences you would like the Beaver Island Water Trail to offer. Using a green sticky note indicate which water trail experiences you prefer the most and using a red sticker indicate which experiences you would not like to offer. Using a sticky note write where you think these experiences would be best enjoyed.



STATION 4

WATER TRAIL SIGNAGE AND SAFETY

Water Trail signage and safety features are important for beginners and experienced paddlers alike. Good signage and safety features promote confidence in water trail users, help to lower the risk of unplanned emergencies and effectively deal with them should they arise.










PARTICIPATE

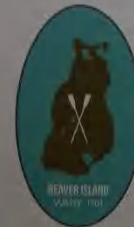
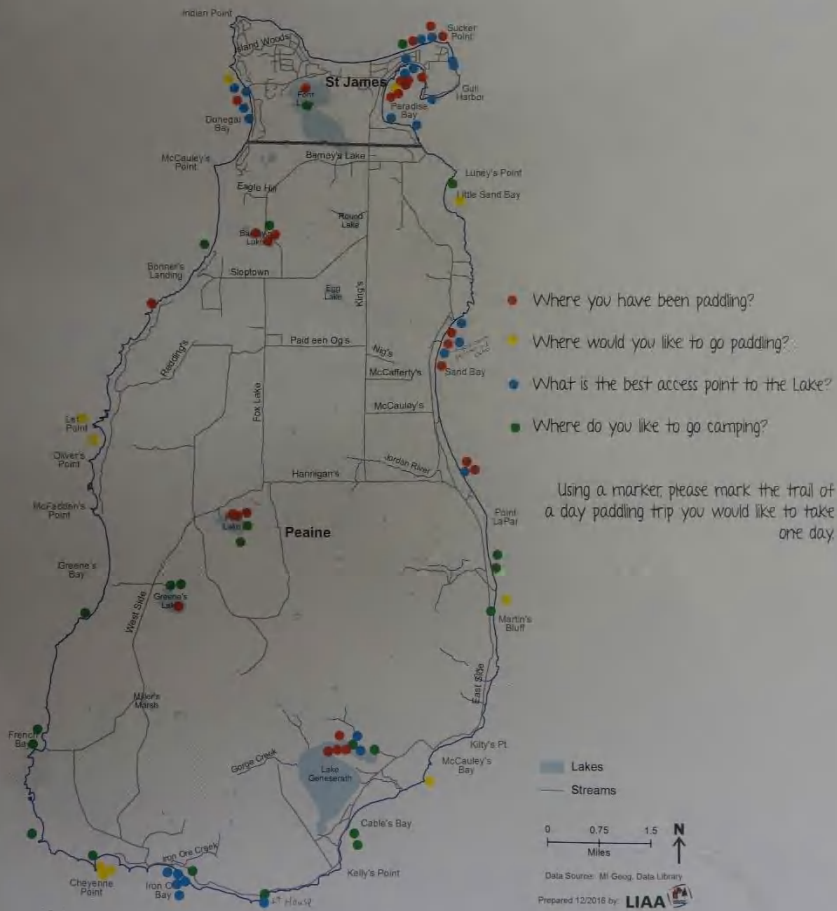
Consider the types of signage and safety features you feel would be important to include on the Beaver Island Water Trail. Using a green sticky note indicate the signage and safety features you prefer the most and using a red sticker indicate which ones you do not think are needed. And using a sticky note write where you think the signage and safety features would be appropriate to implement.



STATION 5

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

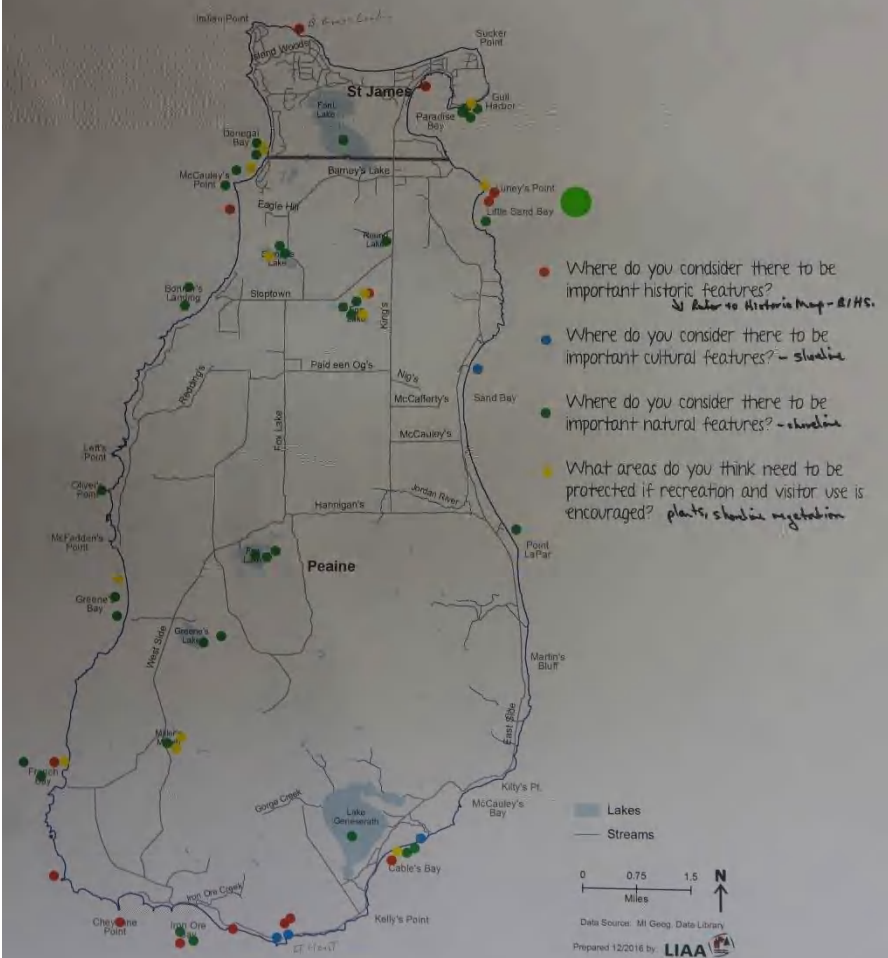
Using the stickers, please share your experiences with us!
Feel free to also write notes and give details.



STATION 6

SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS

Using the stickers, please share your insights with us!
Feel free to also write notes and give details.



What should the Beaver Island Water Trail include or consider?

showcase rich cultural & natural resources

Trail that encompasses different uses when appropriate in OHM-SM, BIAF, WMA's & BLM's PLANS
multi-use trails for hiking, biking, paddling
limited development on private lands



STATION 7

What would be the value in having a Beaver Island Water Trail?

Tourism

Economic growth, but not at the expense of our natural resources.

↑ appreciation of GL islands in terms of natural resources & culture. ↑ economic growth → ↑ visibility of island recreational offerings.

MANAGE STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS

ECONOMIC BENEFIT

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CULTURAL/ HISTORICAL VALUE

↑↑↑ to the island in an environmentally sustainable manner



Access Recreation Group, LLC

Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CPRP

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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: Jewell Gillespie Park

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Shoreline/launch area No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching. No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.	Add an accessible launch system such as the EZ Launch by EZ Dock. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Place the water trail flag/ball at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes Route is about 100' to water's edge surface is inaccessible grass & loose sand. There is a change of level from grass to sand at the high water mark.	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, then removable dock decking or board walk over the sand to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking There is paved parking w/one accessible parking sign on back of lot with no appropriate access aisle markings. No required van accessible space provided.	Add accessible car/van parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Toilets Two portable toilets provided one larger family design but not accessible as it has no grab bars. Both located on concrete accessible route.	Add grab bars to larger toilet unit.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk There is not information kiosk on the site, only a park entry sign.	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddles welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.
  	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox There is no storage lockbox so paddlers can secure gear when going into town for a meal or spending the night or for locals to rent for easy access to their equipment during the season.	Add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch. Make sure accessible route surface goes right up to the entry doors of the lockers. Locate next to the concrete toilet pad where the wooden game is now, moving it away from the toilets.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Potable water source Power source No drinking water or power located on the site at this time.	Consider adding a water bottle fill type water source. If not...add information on the trail town side of the kiosk directing users to nearest potable water source. Consider adding a solar powered charging station.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash There are several accessible design tables and benches but none are located on accessible surface or on accessible routes connecting to the parking, launch and other amenities.	Create several accessible picnic nodes along the walkway from the launch end of the beach. Consider adding some picnic nodes using universal design tables like the "Spider" by Wabash Valley. Locate all tables and grills on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables and grill at least 4' wide. The information kiosk will be at this same location. Grills should be designed to be reached from a seated position & grill height adjustment should be one hand operable to make it universally accessible as well as surrounded by accessible surface routes at least 4' wide Trash containers must be located on an accessible route connected to all other site amenities.



Cindy Burkhour.

NA STS. OFP

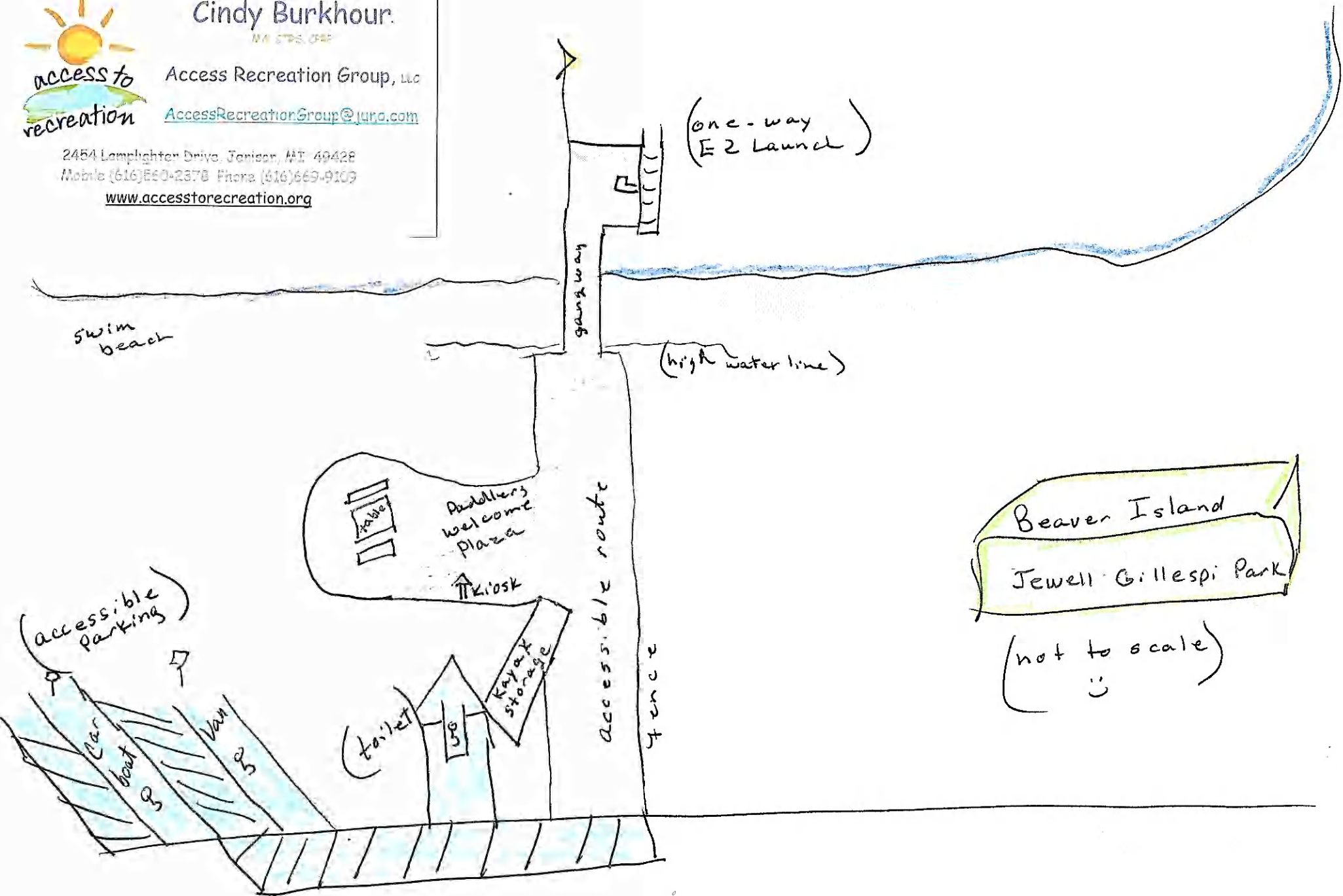
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Phone (616)669-9109 Mobile (616)560-2378

AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: St James Twp. Campground

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Shoreline/launch area Shallow, sand shore, fist sized rocks in water, scattered dune vegetation No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction 	Add an accessible launch system such as the EZ Launch. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Place the water trail flag at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes The route to the shore is an overgrown washout gully, unmarked with some significant sloped segments, surface is dirt & sand. 	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, then removable dock decking or board walk over the sand to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking There is no designated parking at the picnic area where the route to the beach is located.	Add accessible car parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
   	Toilets There is one family friendly design portable toilet, but not accessible as there are no grab bars and there is a drop off from the concrete slab. The original toilets are not accessible design, and not on an accessible route, but could easily be renovated with grab bars, new door hardware and a transition plate on the concrete slab.  	Add grab bars to the new toilets and add accessible unisex sign on latch side of the door. Add a transition plate on the edge of the concrete slab to eliminate the drop off to the route. Renovate the existing inaccessible toilets by making each toilet room a single-user unisex accessible toilet room so opposite gender care givers can assist someone with a disability in a private & dignified manner. These family friendly single user toilet rooms with baby changers accommodate opposite gender parents to assist their child. These rooms are large enough to accommodate someone using a wheelchair or parents with strollers. Locate on accessible surface & accessible route connected to parking, launch, & other site amenities. Add grab bars, and baby changer to each room, change the door hardware to be lever style with push button lock. Eliminate the change of level off the concrete pad with a transition plate. See the ADA requirements at https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-6-plumbing-elements-and-facilities For all the requirements to renovate the space. If replacing the old toilet building in the future consider the self-composting Clevis Multrum universally accessible toilet...

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk There is no information regarding a water trail stop at the campground entry.	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddles welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox There is not kayak/canoe storage at the campground	Add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch. This should be located at the top of the route where the route must take a turn heading down the trail to the beach.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
   	Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash There are trash receptacles, not located on accessible surface or on accessible routes Some picnic tables have extended tops at one end but are not on accessible surface or on accessible routes The pedestal tables are accessible design but accessible surface or on accessible route The grill is not accessible design, not on accessible surface, not located at the site, not on accessible route	Make site #6 a designated accessible camp site, add a new accessible design grill & picnic table (consider the "Spyder" table by Wabash Valley), add accessible surface & routes to connect to all amenities. Locate all amenities on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables, trash and grills at least 4' wide. Locate trash containers on accessible surface and connect by an accessible route to the roadway. Consider extending tops of all tables in the campground when top boards are repaired making all tables more user friendly for campers and visitors. Add accessible surface that extends at least 4' all the way around the perimeter of the table & connects to accessible route to parking & route to beach Grills should be designed to be reached from a seated position & grill height adjustment should be one hand operable to make it universally accessible as well as surrounded by accessible surface routes at least 4' wide



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MA 01902 JRM

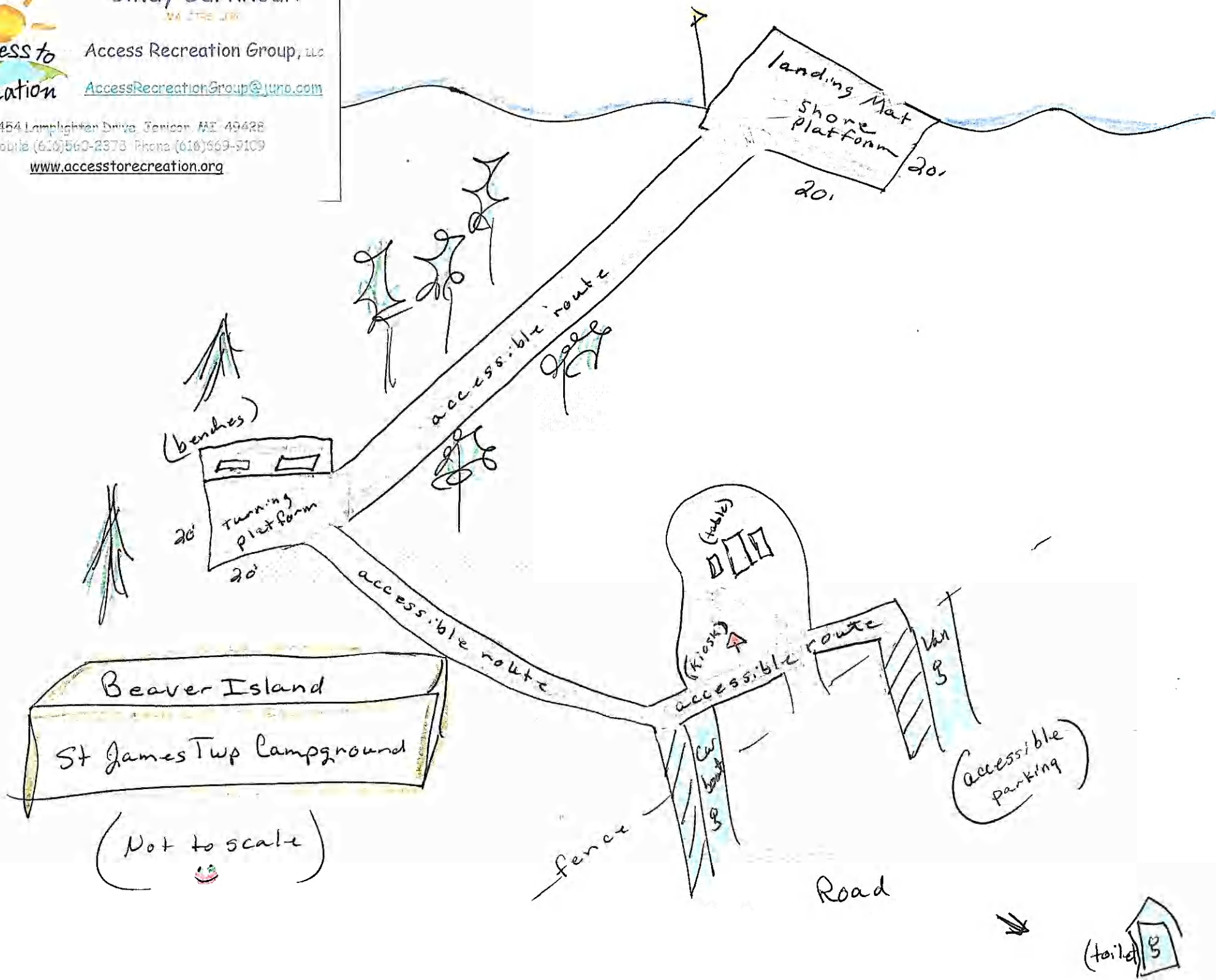
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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: St James Township Hall Park

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Shoreline/launch area No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching. No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction. Shore is shallow sandy with some small rocky gravel.	Add an accessible launch system such as the EZ Launch by EZ Dock. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Place the water trail flag/ball at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes Route is about 600' to water's edge. Route surface is inaccessible grass. There is a change of level from grass to sand at the high water mark.	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, connecting to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking There is paved parking. No accessible parking and no required van accessible space provided.	Add accessible car/van parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Toilets There is one portable toilet, not accessible design & not located on accessible surface or connected to accessible route to parking, launch & other site amenities.	Replace the existing inaccessible portable toilet with an accessible design unit, locate on accessible surface & accessible route connected to parking, launch, & other site amenities. Consider replacing with the self-composting Clevis Multrum universally accessible toilet... Suggest adding a single user unisex accessible toilet room so opposite gender care givers can assist someone with a disability in a private & dignified manner. These family friendly single user toilet rooms with baby changers accommodate opposite gender parents to assist their child. These rooms are large enough to accommodate someone using a wheelchair or parents with strollers.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk There is no information kiosk on the township side of the site. There is an information kiosk on the opposite side of the site near the lighthouse, but no information on the water trail or trail town information.	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddles welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
  	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox There is no storage lockbox so paddlers can secure gear when going into town for a meal or spending the night or for locals to rent for easy access to their equipment during the season.	Add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch. Make sure accessible route surface goes right up to the entry doors of the lockers. Locate next to the township hall on the water side of the side stairs and connected to the accessible route.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Potable water source Power source No drinking water is on the site at this time nor externally accessible power.	Consider adding a water bottle fill type water source. If not...add information on the trail town side of the kiosk directing users to nearest potable water source. Consider adding a solar powered charging station.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash There are no tables or grills and only one bench, which is not on accessible surface or an accessible route connecting to the parking, launch and other site amenities.	Create several accessible picnic nodes along the walkway from the launch end of the beach. Consider adding some picnic nodes using universal design tables like the "Spider" by Wabash Valley. Locate all on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables and grill at least 4' wide. The information kiosk will be at this same location. Grills should be designed to be reached from a seated position & grill height adjustment should be one hand operable to make it universally accessible as well as surrounded by accessible surface routes at least 4' wide. Benches must be on accessible surface, be connected to the accessible route to parking, the launch, and all other site amenities, and have clear space at one or both ends for side by side, shoulder to shoulder seating. Trash containers must be located on an accessible route connected to all other site amenities.



Cindy Burkhour

MA STATE COUNCIL

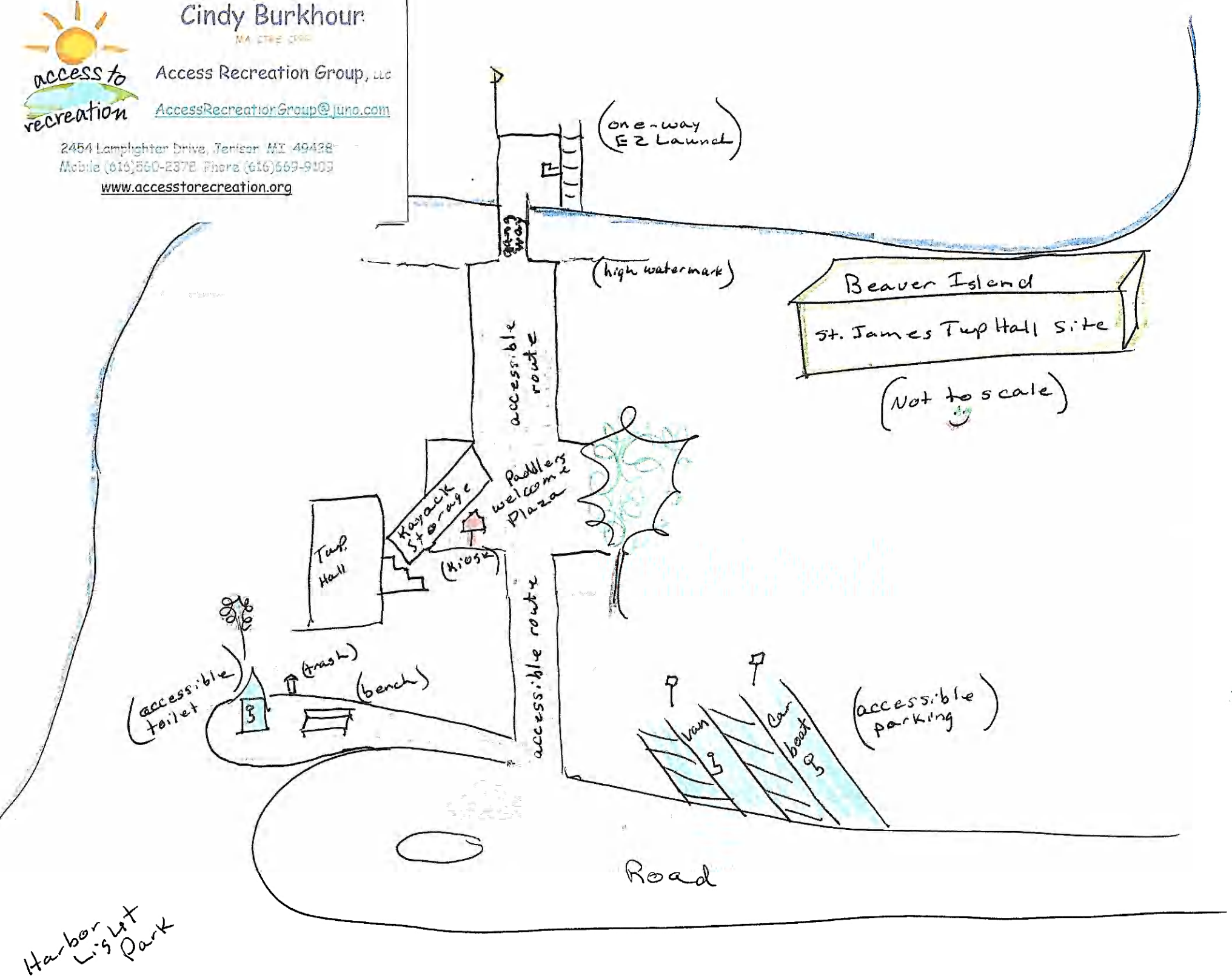
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Harbor Light Park



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: Font Lake

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Shoreline/launch area Shallow, soft sand No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction	Add one-way accessible launch system such as the EZ Launch. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Consider adding a fishing platform as well as a part of the launch system. Place the water trail flag at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes No accessible surface on route	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, then removable dock decking or board walk over the sand to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking None designated, only road shoulder, dense vegetation	Add roadside accessible car parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Toilets None provided	Consider adding a self-composting Clevis Multrum universally accessible toilet... Suggest adding a single user unisex accessible toilet room so opposite gender care givers can assist someone with a disability in a private & dignified manner. These family friendly single user toilet rooms with baby changers accommodate opposite gender parents to assist their child. These rooms are large enough to accommodate someone using a wheelchair or parents with strollers. Locate next to the paddlers welcome plaza.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk No information provided	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddlers welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox None	Next to the paddlers welcome plaza add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Potable water source None on site. Power source None on site	Add information on the trail town side of the kiosk directing users to nearest potable water source. Consider adding a solar powered charging station on the paddlers welcome plaza
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash None on site	Consider adding universal design tables like the "Spider" by Wabash Valley on the paddlers welcome plaza. Locate on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the table at least 4' wide. The information kiosk will be at this same location. Add viewing bench on accessible surface, be connected to the accessible route to parking, the launch, and all other site amenities, and have clear space at one or both ends for side by side, shoulder to shoulder seating. Add trash container near parking on route to paddlers welcome plaza located on an accessible route connected to all other site amenities.



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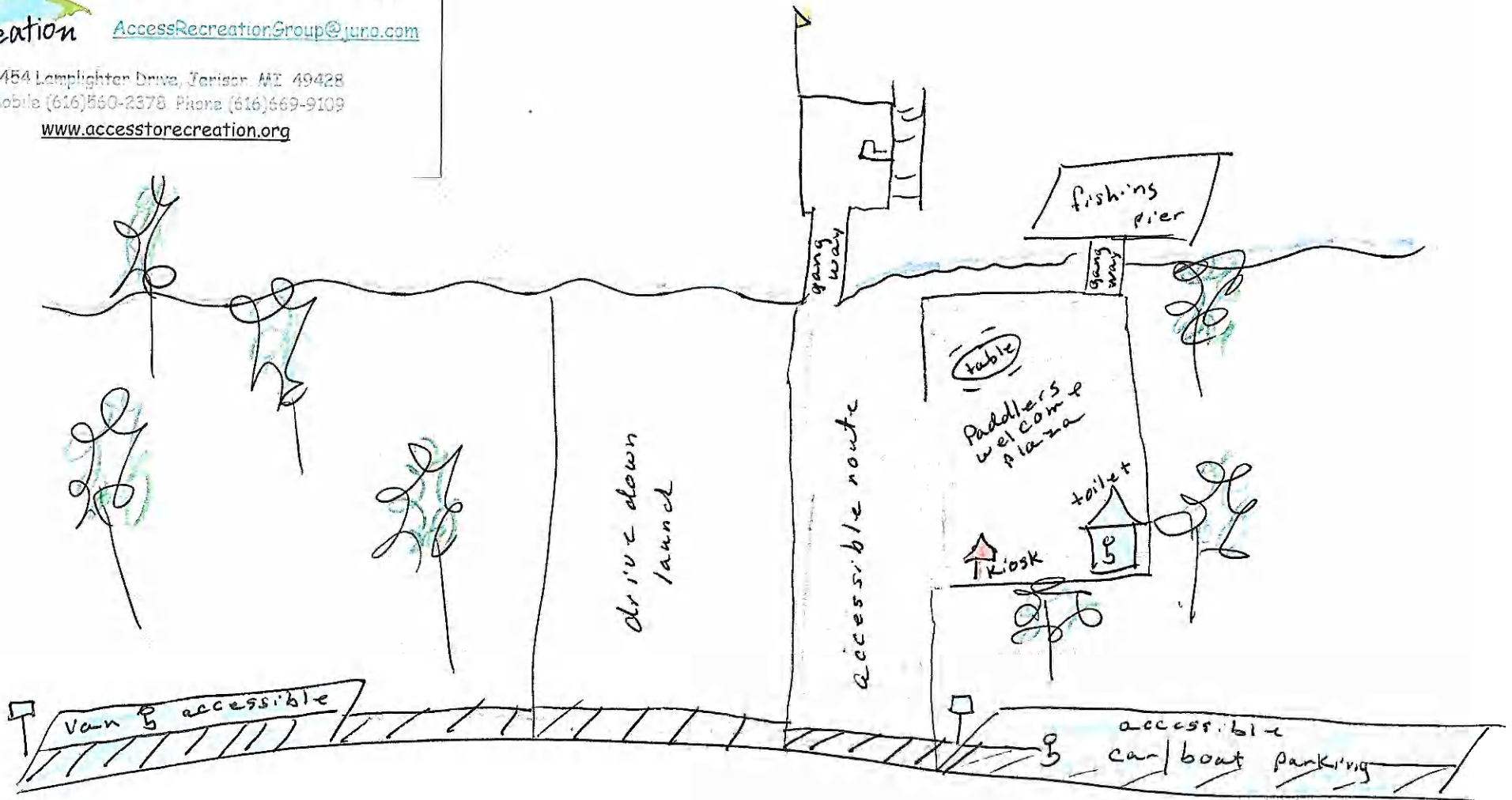
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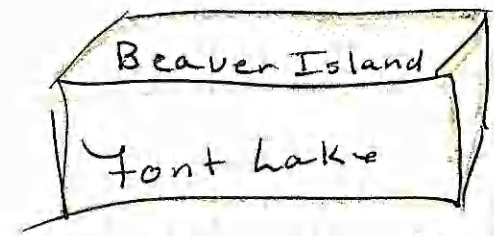
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Road



(not to scale)



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: Fox Lake

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/20/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Shoreline/launch area Shallow, sandy with small gravel No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction 	Locate to the left of the drive down boat launch to reduce user conflict with drive down boat launching. Add an accessible one-way launch system such as the EZ Launch. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Place the water trail flag at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

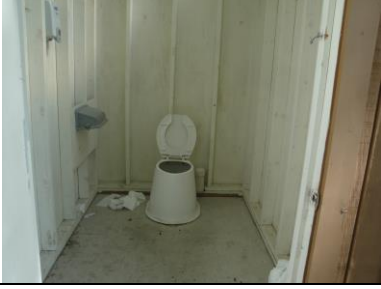
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes Surface is sand & gravel, gully washout, with steep slopes & cross slopes	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, then removable dock decking or board walk over the sand to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking No designated parking	Add accessible car parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Toilets DNR vault toilet, not accessible design, no grab bars, in accessible large gravel surface at entry, not on accessible route.	Talk with DNR about adding grab bars and doorway entry concrete pad, locate on accessible surface & accessible route connected to parking, launch, & other site amenities.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk None provided.	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddlers welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox None provided	Next to the paddlers welcome plaza, add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Potable water source None on site Power source None on site	Add information on the trail town side of the kiosk directing users to nearest potable water source. Consider adding a solar powered charging station

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash Trash provided, not on accessible surface, not on accessible route Picnic table, not accessible design, not on accessible route	Trash containers must be located on an accessible route connected to all other site amenities. Ask DNR to replace the table with an accessible design table with an extended top. Locate on paddlers welcome plaza along with the information kiosk & kayak lockers Locate all on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables at least 4' wide.



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation

Launch Name: Lake Geneserath

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Inclusive universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Shoreline/launch area Shallow, sandy, small gravel at drive in launch No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction 	Add an accessible one-way launch system such as the EZ Launch. Connect to parking and other site amenities via accessible route. Locate to the right side of the drive down launch to reduce user conflict with drive down launching boats. Place the water trail flag at the launch site so it is viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Accessible routes No accessible surfaced routes, all are dirt, gravel, grass/vegetation	Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to parking and connecting all other site amenities. Surface can be crushed aggregate to the high water line, then removable dock decking or board walk over the sand to the gangway onto the floating EZ Launch system.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Parking None designated	Add accessible car parking as well as accessible car/boat trailer parking spaces & connect lot via accessible route to the launch and all site amenities.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
 	Toilets DNR vault, not accessible design, no grab bars, concrete entry pad too small & has drop off, not on accessible surface or connect to accessible route	Talk with DNR about adding grab bars and expanding doorway entry concrete pad, adding transition plate on leading edge, locate on accessible surface & accessible route connected to parking, launch, & other site amenities

Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Information kiosk None provided	Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch near the parking area. Create a paddlers welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off the accessible surface. Make sure surface creates a 4' wide accessible route on all viewable sides so someone can roll up for very close viewing.
Photo	Element Accessibility Barrier Description	Accessibility Barrier Removal Recommendations
	Kayak/canoe storage lockbox None provided	Add a kayak/canoe storage lockbox which will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch. Add next to paddlers welcome plaza & on route to camping so paddlers have "critter" proof storage of equipment & food.



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Luney's Point

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Soft sand, organic debris, shallow No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, long hike in from emergency two track road through narrow dirt & mud woodland path, gentle slopes most less than 5%, to route to beach, surface is soft undulating/shifting sand dune, and dune vegetation to water's edge.
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, emergency road drive in only, long hike through narrow woodland path to sand dune path to shoreline
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None provided but allowed, ample room for camping on first rise at wood edge



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Bill Wagner Memorial Park Campground

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
   	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction Drive down boat launch area has shallow sand & rock beach, in water metal drive-on launch surface over rocky bottom, significant storm shore erosion at launch Beach area near the campground has rocky shore with deeper rocky bottom

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
   	<u>Accessible routes</u> At drive down launch no accessible pedestrian routes, slopes greater than 5%, route surface is sand and large gravel road to sand & rock beach In campground no accessible routes, slopes greater than 5%, narrow winding path, route surface is rolling/shifting dune sand, dune vegetation, to sand & rock beach

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
 	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, lot surface is gravel at the drive-down launch site No accessible parking in campground, only individual site parking on sand & dune vegetation
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
 	<u>Toilets</u> Inaccessible design vault toilet at drive-down boat launch site, on inaccessible sand surface, route with slopes greater than 5%, no grab bars, entry concrete slab too small & has drop off to sand surface No toilets in the campground
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> Hand pump at drive-down boat launch near entry to road to campsites, no accessible clear space (blocked by boulders) concrete pad is too small & has drop off into sand surface, not connected to accessible routes to launch or other site amenities <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
 	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> Trash at drive-down launch site, on inaccessible sand surface, not connected to accessible route to launch & other site amenities Several extended top accessible picnic tables at camp sites, on inaccessible sand surface, not connected to accessible route to launch & other site amenities



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Cables Bay

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Paddle in only launch site Sandy, shallow, some small gravel shoreline No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, .2 miles of very steep slopes greater than 10%, narrow, surface is dirt & roots through mature forest, leading to soft undulating/shifting dune sand & dune vegetation to shoreline 

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, road end turn-about, surface is dirt & gravel
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None, but paddle in only allowed, ample space at woodland edge, no amenities,



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Iron Ore Bay

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/20/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shoreline is sandy & small gravel mix, bottom drops off quickly, creek outlet creates an island barrier between roadway and launching shore No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction 

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, slopes greater than 5%, route surface begins with a poorly maintained wood board walk and steps that drop off into undulating/shifting soft dune sand and dune vegetation surface
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, lot surface is gravel

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> Located across the road, inaccessible design, route is dirt & overgrown vegetation, no road sign or parking area indicating toilets
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: French Bay

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/20/17

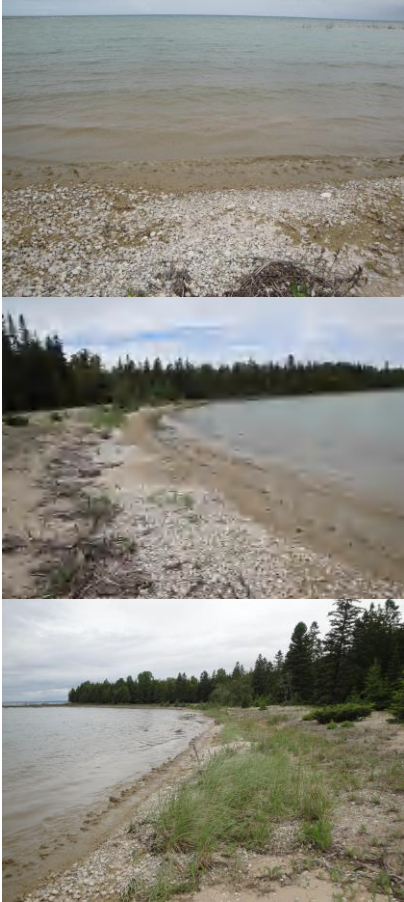
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shallow, sand, small gravel, mucky, lots of organic debris and ever present algae bloom No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No road access, private drive to turn-about, 45 minute hike, no accessible pedestrian routes, slopes greater than 45%, route surface through meadow & woodland path on unused two-track is very wet & marshy, then dirt and roots, much crowning and cross slopes, encroaching vegetation, leading to a short distance to the water of soft undulating/shifting sand dune and dune vegetation. 

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, private drive to turn-about to park, surface is packed earth
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None provided, but paddle in allowed, ample space for sites near woodland path, no amenities



Access Recreation Group, LLC

Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CPRP

2454 Lamplighter Drive, Jenison, MI 49428-9127

Phone (616)669-9109 Mobile (616)560-2378

AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: McCauley's Point

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shallow, mucky, marshy, dune vegetation, sand & small gravel shoreline & bottom No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, slopes greater than 5%, route surface is packed dirt through woods, narrows to dune undulating/shifting sand, to mucky marshy shoreline

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, road side parking only, surface is dirt, sand, gravel, dune vegetation
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> Paddle in camping allowed, but no amenities



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Bonner's Landing

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/20/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shallow, sandy bottom shoreline No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
    	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, slopes greater than 35%, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide gravel road with no outlet for drive down, to narrow wooded path, route surface is dirt & roots, to, undulating/shifting sand dune and dune vegetation.

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, road end parking, surface is packed gravel
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None provided, but paddle in camping allowed, ample sheltered flats near woodland path entry, no amenities



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Donegal Bay

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shallow sand, rocks in water No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
  	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible route from road end to water's edge. 200+ yards, narrow foot path, soft sand, dune vegetation, undulating/rolling/shifting dune surface, steep slopes to waters edge.
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description

	<u>Parking</u> Road end turn-around, no accessible parking
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None on site
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None on site
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None on site
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None on site <u>Power source</u> None on site
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> One bench not on accessible surface or connected to accessible route
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None on site, but allowed



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Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Greens Lake

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/20/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Lake is very shallow, shoreline is very shallow, soft & mucky with much organic decaying material No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible pedestrian routes, surface is grass & dirt
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description

	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, road end surface is gravel and vegetation
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Camping</u> None



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AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Beaver Island Launch Site Accessibility Report

Launch Name: Barney's Lake

Street Entry Address:

Date: 6/19/17

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Shoreline/launch area</u> Shallow, mucky, reedy, environmentally sensitive water's edge No accessible kayak launch system to assist boarding or launching No water trail flag/ball viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Accessible routes</u> No accessible routes, slopes greater than 5%, surface is dirt, woodchip, grass, mud
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Parking</u> No accessible parking, surface is sand, dirt, gravel
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Toilets</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Information kiosk</u> Kiosk has no accessible clear space (blocked by boats locked to post), no accessible surface, or connection to accessible route to launch, parking or other site amenities.

Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</u> Storage rack has no accessible clear space (blocked by boats not on rack), no accessible surface, or connection to accessible route to launch, parking or other site amenities.
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Potable water source</u> None <u>Power source</u> None
Photo	Accessibility Barrier Description
	<u>Site amenities: picnic tables, grills, benches, trash</u> None



Innovative ideas for sustainable communities since 1993

August 4, 2017

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Dear Pat,

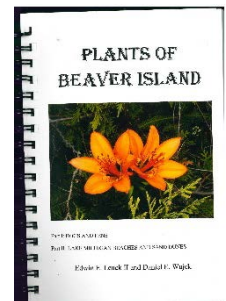
On behalf of the citizens of Beaver Island, I am pleased to provide this letter and subsequent attachments in order to secure a Land Use Order from the Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Beaver Island Water Trail. As noted in earlier conversations, we are providing the following information regarding the nine proposed sites on the island that are owned by the DNR:

1. A legal description of the site where activities will occur.
2. The proposed physical amenities planned for each site.
3. Threatened and endangered species clearance for the activities at each site.
4. An indication of how the Land Use Order will be carried out.

Notes

After several discussions with staff from Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) and DNR, it was determined that SHPO clearance would not be needed at this time because this phase of the project does not include any construction activities. However, we did consult with Wes Andrews, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Officer from the Little Traverse Bay of Odawa Indians, about each proposed site. Mr. Andrews noted there are no cultural or historical conflicts with the sites. His email regarding the cultural and historical impacts of each access site is provided as an attachment to this letter.

The list of threatened and endangered species for each site was provided by Beth and Ed Leuck. Beth and Ed are both respected professors of biology at Centenary College of Louisiana. Beth and Ed have lived on Beaver Island during the summer months for over 30 years and have also taught at the Central Michigan University Biological Station on the island. Ed is the senior author of *Plants of Beaver Island, Part I, Bogs and Fens* and *Part II, Lake Michigan Beaches and Sand Dunes*.



In August 2017, a newly formed trails group comprised of island residents agreed to take responsibility for carrying out the Land Use Order. A memorandum of understanding with the organization will be crafted and signed later in August. An email from Pam Grassmick confirming the group's intention is provided as an attachment to this letter.

A complete inventory of all the proposed water trail sites was conducted in June of 2017. Sites were assessed for threatened and endangered species as well as suitability for shoreline access and the development of access site amenities that have minimal impact on the existing shoreline and natural landscape.

324 Munson Ave.
Traverse City, MI 49686

P (231) 929-3696

F (231) 929-3771

www.liaa.org

Standards for dispersed camping in several of these sites generally follow best management practices and guidelines established by the National Park Service, the DNR and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In addition, a review of the Peaine Township and St. James Township zoning ordinance was conducted.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Burkholder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harry" and last name "Burkholder" clearly distinguishable.

Harry Burkholder, Executive Director
Land Information Access Association (LIAA)



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 14, 2017
RESUBMITTED: September 18, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Designated Campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area;
Charlevoix County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2017

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

A project advisory committee is currently developing a water trail, which is a recreational paddling route along a lake, river, canal, or bay specifically dedicated for people using small boats like kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards on Beaver Island. At 54 square miles, Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan, located about 30 miles offshore from the City of Charlevoix. The island's history includes Native American and European settlers and industries such as fishing farming and logging. Today, it is a popular tourist destination with many recreational opportunities. In addition, tourists come to learn about the history of the island and to visit historic sites, museums and participate in local events. Beaver Island is well suited to create and leverage a system of water trails.

The Department has officially endorsed the Beaver Island Water Trail and is a member of the project advisory committee. The water trail proposal includes development of launches and campsites at frequent intervals to allow for multi-day explorations including lighthouses, beaches, birding hotspots, shipwrecks, and more that relate to Beaver Island's natural and cultural story. Fifteen sites along the shoreline are intended for this use and are located on state, township, and Little Traverse Conservancy property. Of those 15 sites, eight are located on state-owned land. In order to promote Michigan as a water trail state and provide various recreational and educational opportunities for water trail enthusiasts, as well as other tourists on Beaver Island, the Department proposes posting several water trail access sites as designated campsites. Posting some of the water trail access sites as designated campsites ensures water trail enthusiasts and tourists of Beaver Island have a rest stop or camping stop, along with educational opportunities, when they venture around the Beaver Island Water Trail.

In addition, the Department proposes the following additional regulations to ensure safe use at the designated campsites on the Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area:

September 18, 2017

- A person shall only build or maintain an open fire in a self-contained cooking unit, a fire ring, or a grill in a designated campsite.
- A person shall not enter, use, or occupy any designated campsites with a motorized vehicle.

In order to properly manage these designated campsites, signage will be installed indicating designated campsites. In addition, these remote campsites may include amenities such as a vault toilet; trash receptacles; potable water from hand pumps; picnic tables; a boat rack; informational kiosks; tent pads; or fire rings. The remote campsites are first come, first served, and are free of charge. The Department is developing a Memorandum of Agreement with the local township to maintain the sites on state-owned land.

Individuals using the designated campsites do not need a permit.

Issues Pros and Cons

Posting water trail access sites as designated campsites helps provide a variety of recreational and educational opportunities for water trail enthusiasts and tourists of Beaver Island. The designated campsites will provide the public water trail information, including details for identifying access and trail routes and cultural, historic, and natural features of the island. In addition, the public can learn about the value of water resources, boating skills, and outdoor ethics.

Promoting water access trails and designating them as campsites aligns with the Department's Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands: Goal 1, Partnerships and Collaborative Governance; Goal 3, Cultural Resources; and Goal 4, Recreation and Subsistence Activities.

The Land Information Access Association is developing the Beaver Island Water Trail Plan as part of the Resilient Beaver Island Project, which will be completed by December 2017. The development process included a high level of engagement with the Department and stakeholders such as business owners and entrepreneurs, environment and recreation groups, youth and young adults, real estate and housing groups, transportation groups, and the boards of the Preservation Association of Beaver Island, the Beaver Island Association, and the Beaver Island Community Center. In addition, off-island stakeholders such as the Charlevoix County Emergency Management Office, Charlevoix County Planning Department, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and the Little Traverse Conservancy were involved in the planning process.

The designated campsites on Beaver Island may be limited to seasonal use as the water freezes over during the winter months. There may also be an increase in litter and potential overcrowding as more recreationalists use the water trail. In addition, some designated campsites may be near private land which may lead to trespassing. Some of these issues can be mitigated by development of Memorandum of Agreements with the townships and continued engagement with local residents and visitors.

Biological

Beaver Island has some of the highest biological diversity of any Lake Michigan island. Natural features surveys have identified numerous occurrences of threatened and endangered species and species of special concern on the island. Beaver Island is well known for concentrations of colonial nesters and as a stopover site for migratory birds.

In addition, the Great Lakes population of piping plovers is a federally-listed endangered species. Critical habitat for this species was officially designated in 2001 including land use considerations, which are located on Beaver Island from Indian Point to McCauley's Point (5 km of shoreline).

Rare species surveys were conducted at all proposed sites, and the Department will provide educational outreach about the threatened and endangered species and what to do to avoid harming the species if encountered. Enforcement action will be taken if illegal circumstances arise.

In addition, invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, autumn olive, and phragmites exist on the island. Conservation will be a priority of the water trails program and the Department plans to include extensive education regarding best practices and additional work to ensure that more invasive species are not transferred to the island and that existing invasive species are not transferred off the island.

Social

The Department is a member of the project advisory committee that has representatives from local units of government, organizations, the Office of Great Lakes, businesses, paddle clubs and individuals, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little Traverse Conservancy.

The Department is currently working with the Michigan State Historical Preservation Office, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Little Traverse Cay Bands of Odawa Indians, and other representatives on the project advisory committee to provide historical, cultural, and educational programs about Beaver Island at the designated campsites.

Economic

The water trail will be used by both local residents and visitors to the island. Local business, outfitters, guides, and other recreational enthusiasts will benefit from the water trail. In addition, this project will help promote the natural resource based economy by expanding recreational opportunities and tourism on Beaver Island and will help promote Michigan as a water trails state.

Designated Campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area; Charlevoix County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2017

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September 18, 2017

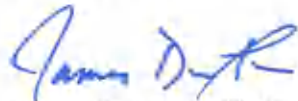
Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on September 14, 2017, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 12, 2017.



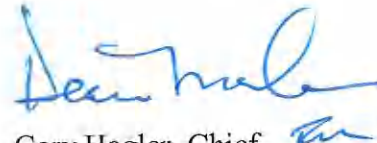
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



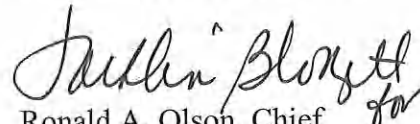
Marc Miller, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 4 of 2017

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of the Natural Resources orders the following:

3.36 Beaver island state wildlife research area, Charlevoix county, camping, motorized vehicles, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.36 (1) A person shall not do any of the following on the Beaver island state wildlife research area, Charlevoix county:

- (a) Camp in other than a designated campsite, as posted.
- (b) Build or maintain an open fire, except in a self-contained cooking unit, a fire ring, or a grill in a designated campsite.
- (c) Enter, use, or occupy any designated campsite with a motorized vehicle.

This amended order shall be posted on or after the 13th day of October, 2017.

Issued on this 12th day of October, 2017.

Keith Creagh
Director



Beaver Island Water Trail

WATERPROOF
PADDLING GUIDE



Photo: Uncommon Adventures

42 MILES OF WATER TRAIL ADVENTURES

The Beaver Island Water Trail Experience

Located about 30 miles offshore from the City of Charlevoix, Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan and the largest of the 14 islands that make up the Beaver Island Archipelago. At 56 square miles, Beaver Island is unique for many reasons, including a beautiful natural environment with plentiful sand dunes, beaches and wetlands, a distinctly diverse ecology, and a close-knit community with a proud Island heritage.

The Beaver Island Water Trail is a 42-mile (68 km) paddling trail that circumnavigates the entire Island. While some parts of the Island (such as Paradise Bay and inland lakes) are more family-friendly areas to paddle, most of the Water Trail is geared toward adventure paddlers who are comfortable paddling in the unpredictable conditions of Lake Michigan and accustomed to rustic access sites and overnight beach camping. If you are a novice paddler, consider a trip to the Island's harbor or inland lakes, or consider hiring a paddling guide.

WARNING

Canoeing and kayaking on Lake Michigan can be dangerous. Serious bodily injury and loss of life can and does occur. Varying water conditions and depths, fallen trees, rocks, currents, waves and other phenomenon of Lake Michigan create constantly changing conditions and hazards. This book is provided only as a general guide and is not to be relied upon to identify all hazards. All distances are approximate. Prior to any paddling trip on the Beaver Island Water Trail, paddlers are strongly encouraged to check in and register at the Beaver Island Community Center.



The Beaver Island Archipelago

Beaver Island is about 13 miles long and 6 miles wide. It is the only island in the archipelago home to a permanent population and scheduled ferry and airline services. The other islands are not part of the Water Trail, and it is highly recommended that paddlers do not attempt to reach other islands, as sight lines and actual distances can be deceiving on the big lake.



Beaver Island Road Map



Safety on Beaver Island

These basic safety tips will increase your chances of having a safe and enjoyable paddle on Beaver Island:

1. REGISTER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Prior to your paddle, all water trail users should register in the Community Center at 26215 Main Street, right across the street from the ferry dock. Your registration will alert public safety officers to your paddle. There is no cost to register. The Community Center also has useful information about all the amenities and natural features of Beaver Island.

2. ALWAYS PADDLE WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.

Life vests are required by law. A whistle, a first-aid kit and a phone are standard equipment.

3. NEVER PADDLE ALONE.

Always paddle with at least one other person and do not become separated.

4. BE AWARE OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE.

Cold water is extremely dangerous. Take steps to protect yourself from hypothermia.

5. KEEP TO THE SHORELINE.

Paddling far from shore can result in becoming lost. Keep the shoreline in sight at all times.

6. UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.

The rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sailboats, and lastly to motorized craft.

7. BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER.

Conditions can change rapidly. Be aware of forecasts and do not go out during thunderstorms or other adverse weather events. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.

8. BE AWARE OF THE DAYLIGHT.

Make sure you leave enough daylight to comfortably finish your trip.

9. BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN A DRY BAG.

It is very likely you will get wet. Bring a change of clothes in a dry bag to avoid hypothermia.

10. KNOW HOW TO SWIM.

Make sure you know how to swim before paddling on Beaver Island.

11. KNOW HOW TO GET HELP.

To get help, dial **911**. Be advised that there is a 30-second delay when placing a call. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings and can communicate your position to emergency responders. Cell phone coverage is limited. Check with your service provider to confirm coverage.

12. CARRY A GPS UNIT.

Beaver Island continues to invest in signage and other access-site amenities. However, several access sites do not yet have signs, and amenities are minimal. Be sure to carry a working GPS unit and this Guide to locate access sites around the Island.



Paddling Etiquette

Understand the Right of Way

Prior to getting on the Water Trail, be sure you understand the right-of-way rules. In general, the rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sail-powered craft, and lastly to motorized craft.

Minimize Hazards

Stay close to the shore and away from recreational boating channels. When paddling close to the shore, watch for swimmers and be mindful of private property.

Cross Cautiously and Quickly

When the need arises to cross a commercial or recreational boating channel, do so with caution by checking in all directions for approaching vessels.

Stay Starboard and Pass Port to Port

If you alter your route in response to an approaching vessel, steer to your right (starboard). This is standard boating procedure.

Avoid Private Property

In many cases, the shorelands are private property. Plan to only exit the Water Trail at public access points. Private property should only be used in emergency situations.

Be Helpful and Respectful

Offer assistance if another person is in distress! Remain aware of your surroundings and respectful of others' right to also enjoy the water and shoreline.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is an international program designed to empower outdoor enthusiasts to reduce their impact on the environment when hunting, paddling, camping, picnicking, fishing, skiing, or climbing. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts, as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Leave No Trace is best understood as an educational and ethical program, not as a set of rules and regulations.

The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan ahead and prepare. Know your route, weather and wind conditions, and your own capabilities.
2. Travel and camp on established surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly. Bring your trash with you when you leave, and clean up more if you can!
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife. Do not attempt to harass or feed wildlife, and give wildlife a wide berth.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Transportation to Beaver Island

Beaver Island can be accessed by both boat (private or ferry) and airplane (private or commercial).

BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY

Ferry service providing travel for passengers, vehicles and freight (e.g., kayaks) between Charlevoix and Beaver Island. 888-446-4095 or (231) 547-2311.

www.bibco.com

FRESH AIR AVIATION

Air service from the Charlevoix Airport to Beaver Island Township Airport. 888-FLY-RGHT (359-7448) or (231) 237-9482.

www.freshairaviation.net

ISLAND AIRWAYS

Air service from the Charlevoix Airport to the private Welke Airport. 800-524-6895, Charlevoix local (231) 547-2141, or Beaver Island local (231) 448-2071.

www.islandairways.com



Other Recreational Opportunities

Beaver Island is home to an ever-expanding interconnected system of trails and pathways, providing for unique hiking and mountain biking experiences. In addition, the Island's gravel, uncongested roadways are idyllic for family bike rides and long peaceful walks. Expect to exchange a friendly wave with Islanders as you pass!

Beaver Island's unique geographic placement within the Great Lakes Basin also makes it a great destination for sailing, birding and fishing. In addition, the Island's remote location and relatively small development footprint make it an ideal location for gazing at the night sky.

SUGGESTED GEAR

1. Extra paddle tied to your craft
2. Insect repellent
3. This Guide and a compass, GPS, and other navigational tools
4. Emergency equipment like radios, whistles, and repair kits
5. First-aid kit
6. Extra ropes
7. Pocket knife
8. Flashlight
9. Waterproof matches
10. Cell phone (keep in a dry bag)
11. Extra drinking water and food
12. Waterproof bags
13. Clothing for bad weather (even if the forecast looks good!)
14. Sun protection (sunscreen, wide brim hat, light-colored long-sleeve shirt and pants)



Accommodations on Beaver Island

There are two formal campsites along the coastline that paddlers can use (see below). Rustic campsites with a small tent platform and fire pit are still under development at other locations around the Island.

The Emerald Isle Hotel offers shower facilities to campers for a fee; (231) 448-2376 or www.emeraldislehotel.com.

St. James Township Campground

Located on the north end of Beaver Island. Overlooks Lake Michigan and Garden Island, with views of Squaw and Whiskey Islands. Twelve rustic campsites, pit toilets and hand pumps. No showers or electricity.

Bill Wagner Memorial Campground

Located on the east side of Beaver Island on the shore of Lake Michigan with a view of the west coast of mainland Michigan. Twenty-two rustic campsites, pit toilets and hand pumps. No showers or electricity.

Other Accommodations

Beaver Island has other lodging accommodations, including motels, B&Bs, rental homes and inland campgrounds. Accommodations fill up quickly during the summer, so be sure to call ahead of time.

Eating on the Island

Restaurants and bars are clustered in and around St. James, offering a range of menu items and drinks. Groceries and other wares can be purchased at McDonough's Market, a full-service grocery store.

Supplies and Other Provisions

Supplies (e.g., batteries, tarps, rope, etc.) can be purchased at the hardware store located just south of the ferry dock.

Outfitters

Happy Paddle

At Jewell Gillespie Park. (630) 488-2949.
www.happypaddle.com

Lakeside Sports

26250 Main Street, adjacent to the ferry dock.
(231) 448-2166.

BEAVER ISLAND FUN

Beaver Island has a number of fun and interesting events and festivals throughout the paddling season:

Beaver Island's **St. Patrick Day** and **Fourth of July** holidays both offer festive parades and activities. The Fourth of July weekend is widely regarded as the busiest weekend on the Island.

The **Beaver Island Music Festival** is held at the Beaver Island Hideaway Campground. The Music Festival draws thousands of people to come hear bands and musicians over three days in July each year.

July's **Museum Week** features presentations on nature, oral history and Native American culture, live music, nature walks, a pet show and an art show.

Baroque on Beaver is a musical festival and concert series that draws thousands of visitors and musicians from Michigan and beyond. The event is held in various locations throughout the Island during the last week of July and first week of August.

Homecoming is an Island-wide event held each August with a festival, food, music and a softball tournament.

For all events on the Island, visit the Beaver Island Community Calendar at www.biccenter.org/calendar.



Other Points of Interest

Marine Museum

The Beaver Island Marine Museum is in an old net shed originally built in 1905 and first used as a museum in 1976. The museum has two floors of exhibits that tell stories of shipwrecks, Coast Guard rescues, ship building, Island vessels, and even diving. The museum is staffed and maintained by volunteers from the Beaver Island Historical Society.



Historical Society

The Mormon Print Shop was built in 1850 by the Island's Mormon settlers. The building is now used as the Beaver Island Historical Society's main museum, with exhibits on important historical figures as well as diaries and other artifacts. As of this writing, the Beaver Island Historical Society is fundraising for an expansion of this museum, which will be renamed the Museum of Island Life.



The Protar Home

The Protar Home is one of two sites on Beaver Island registered on the National Register of Historic Places. Maintained by the Beaver Island Historical Society, the historic home and tomb of Feodar Protar draw visitors interested in learning more about this cherished philanthropist and important figure in Beaver Island's history. Photo credit: News on the 'Net.



Heritage Park

Heritage Park is maintained by the Beaver Island Historical Society and located on Donegal Bay Road. The park features several historical items, including the generator that first provided power to the Island as well as an old tilt-wheel grader. These outdoor exhibits are easily seen from the bike path and the library.



Beaver Island Birding Trail

As the largest Island in Lake Michigan, Beaver Island is a critical stopover site for migratory birds. Some of the bird species found on Beaver Island are familiar residents like chickadees, woodpeckers and grouse, while others visit the archipelago as part of their annual cycle. In the winter, northern visitors



such as snowy owls, horned larks, snow buntings and long-tailed ducks can be found. However, the greatest diversity of species can be seen during spring and fall migration, as well as

during the summer breeding season. Large flocks of warblers, vireos, sparrows and thrushes feed along the coastal forests and dunes as they migrate in spring. Many of these birds take advantage of a plentiful food source in May: the large swarms of non-biting midges that emerge from Lake Michigan. The Island's 35 birding locations can be easily located by the bright Birding Trail signs along the road.

www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org

BIRDING ETIQUETTE

Out of respect for Island property owners and to protect migrating and nesting birds, please observe the following rules of birding etiquette:

1. Access private property only with express permission by owner.
2. Do not approach bird nests under any circumstances.
3. Keep all pets on leashes during breeding season.
4. Do not use taped or smartphone bird calls or songs during breeding season (May 1 - July 15).
5. Please stay on trails to protect ground-nesting birds.



RESPECT PLANT AND ANIMAL WILDLIFE

Stay away from nesting sites and birds with their young. Many shorebirds and loons use shorelines and interior lakes to raise their young, and disturbance leads to predation. Photograph flowers but do not remove.

Invasive Species

Unfortunately, invasive species are a common problem in many Great Lakes communities. One benefit of living on an island is that it can be more difficult for invasive species to establish colonies. However, once invasives are established, it is more expensive and sometimes impossible to remove them. Therefore, even a few invasive species can cause significant disruptions to the ecological integrity of an island.



Clean off vegetation and dry all water from boats and gear before transferring between waterways on Beaver Island. Observations of invasive species can be reported at the Beaver Island Community Center in St. James.

A Unique History

Oral accounts show that Native American tribes passed through Beaver Island on journeys through the Great Lakes, leaving many archaeological artifacts behind. In the mid 1700s, the Odawa migrated westward and permanently settled on Beaver Island. European settlers arrived on the Island in the early 1800s and trapped, fished, and logged on the Island. By 1850, settlers were flourishing on the Island.

In 1848, Mormon leader James Strang formed a colony on the Island. The colony contributed to the Island's infrastructure by building roads and homes and cultivating ground. James Strang became the self-proclaimed King of Beaver Island and caused disputes between the Native Americans and other European settlers on the Island. In 1856, this unrest erupted; James Strang was killed and the Mormon colony collapsed.

Irish fishermen and their families began to settle the Island in the mid 1800s. The population of the Island began to grow steadily. Calling the Island "America's Emerald Isle," these families created an Irish culture that still exists today. Fishing and logging remained the mainstays of the Island's economy while the Island accepted new groups of immigrants and entered the industrial age.

Today, the Island remains among Michigan's most beloved and unique communities. The Island community is mix of newcomers and long-standing families, each bringing a unique perspective.



Above: The Beaver Island Lighthouse in 1930 and today. Photos Courtesy of the US Coast Guard and Networks Northwest



At left: A historic Island barn.

Beginning Your Adventure

This Guide provides information to help you plan your trip along the Beaver Island Water Trail. All Water Trail users are encouraged to register at the Community Center prior to beginning a trip.

Mile 0 is located two blocks south of the Community Center at Jewell Gillespie Park. A table of approximate geographic coordinates and distances between access points is provided in the back of this Guide.

The Map Index on the next page provides an overall view of the coastal Water Trail and the corresponding map pages. Note that the map directions will change beginning on Map 6 to indicate the western side of the route. The key below shows Water Trail features and amenities.

NOTE: Beaver Island continues to invest in signage and other access-site amenities. However, several access sites do not yet have signs, and amenities are minimal. Be sure to carry a working GPS unit and this Guide to properly locate access sites.



Map Features and Trails

- River / Stream
- Lake / Pond
- State or Local Parklands
- Ferry Crossing

Water Trail

- North
- Access Site
- Birding Site
- Coastal Trail Distances
- Caution / Boat Traffic
- Coastal Trail
- Community Center
- Emergency Call Station

45.74387, -85.50016

GPS Coordinates, Lat/Long (approximate)

Amenities

- Parking
- Restrooms
- Rustic Launch
- Food
- Rustic Camping
- Camping Fee
- Picnic
- Outfitter
- Beach
- Hand Pump
- Fishing

For Emergencies
Dial 9-1-1

Note: Cell phone communications and emergency rescue services may be limited in the southern half of the Island.
Be advised that there is a 30-second delay when placing a call.

Map Index

The map pages are numbered to correspond to the sections shown below. The North symbol indicates the page position relative to due north.



DOWNTOWN ST. JAMES





Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve

Just south of Luney's Point, Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve is a 28-acre mix of conifer forest, cedar swamp and sand dunes with 1,300 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. Michigan monkey-flower, Lake Huron tansy and other threatened or endangered plant species thrive here. A short trail with foot bridges allows visitors to explore without damaging the sensitive habitat. The preserve provides public access to Lake Michigan and to a shallow, marshy beach. Parking is off of East Side Drive southeast of Welke Airport.



MIKE BOYLE'S BEACH

MILES 4 TO 7



Spotting History

As your paddle takes you south along the Island, you may see old net stakes from early Irish fisherman, or remnants of docks that transported lumber, wool, cattle and crops to the mainland. The access site at Mike Boyle's Beach is currently marked by a large spool buried in the sand.



Mike Boyle's Beach

45.69383, -85.49947



5 mi

Sand Bay

Paula Simpson
Trail / CMU /
Old Burke Farm

King's
Highway
Wetland

CMU Biological Station

You'll also pass the Central Michigan University Biological Station, a base for researchers studying the Great Lakes and the unique biology of Beaver Island.



6 mi

7 mi

Hannigan's Road



Bill Wagner Campground

The Bill Wagner Campground contains 22 primitive camping sites and a water pump set among a dry mesic forest type. This is an extremely rare natural community, and this location is one of the top seven ranked dry mesic northern forests in the State of Michigan. The Seven Bridges Trail is across the road from the campground.

Seven Bridges Trail

Point LaPar

DNR

Martins Pit

Johnny Martin's Trail

Martin's Bluff

In the early 1990s, a portion of Martin's Bluff fell into Lake Michigan, leaving a steep sandy cliff. This cliff is now undergoing succession. The Wicklow Beach Access Road runs along the top of the sandy cliff, affording easy access. It is also the highest viewpoint of Lake Michigan on the east side of the Island, overlooking the village of Goodhart in Emmett County. The bluff can be accessed from the beach via a steep staircase with a rope railing.



7 mi

Bill Wagner Campground

45.65708, -85.49423



8 mi

9 mi

Kilty's Pt.

Martin's Bluff

45.62885, -85.48800



10 mi





MARTIN'S BLUFF TO CABLE'S BAY

MILES 10 TO 14









McFadden's Point

45.65075, -85.60630



Unique Dunes

This area contains the largest dune system on the Island. Parabolic dunes are a rare natural feature because they require a special combination of wind, sand and water action. Numerous blowouts give these dunes their characteristic shape. Piping plovers, a critically endangered shorebird species, have been known to nest in this area.

Greene's Lake





OLIVER'S POINT TO BONNER'S LANDING

MILES 27 TO 31



Bonner's Landing

45.70465, -85.58006



31 mi

Bonner's Landing

Bonner's Bluff Landing

Historically, the area contained a settlement of Native Americans.

30 mi

29 mi

28 mi

Left's Point

27 mi

Oliver's Point

45.66568, -85.60781



Oliver's Point via
Mrs. Redding's Trail

DNR



Oliver's Point

A foot path takes you from Oliver's Point to Mrs. Redding's Trail.

DNR

Donegal Bay Beach

45.74437, -85.56378



34 mi



33 mi

McCauley's Point

45.72830, -85.56974



32 mi



31 mi

Bonner's Landing

45.70465, -85.58006



Font Lake



Font Lake

McCauley's Point

McCauley's Point contains a system of dunes subject to continual wind and wave erosion.

Kuebler Trail

The Kuebler Trail is the last intact stretch of the former railroad bed and runs behind the Barney's Lake Nature Preserve, with a trailhead at Protar's Tomb.

Protar's Tomb

Russian immigrant Feodor Protar was a self-taught healer who served as the Island's unofficial doctor from 1893 until his death in 1925. His historic house and a tomb built in his honor can still be viewed.

Barney's Lake Preserve

Barney's Lake



Protar's Tomb / Kuebler Trail

Microwave Tower on Sloattown Road

Sloattown

Font Lake





DONEGAL BEACH TO ST. JAMES HARBOR

MILES 34 TO 41



Sucker Point

39 mi

George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve

45.75498, -85.50785



38 mi



The St. James Campground

Located up a steep bluff, but can be accessed from a footpath at the shore. Here, the night sky puts on a brilliant show undimmed by mainland light pollution. During times of active sunspot activity, the aurora borealis — the famous “Northern Lights” — provide a dramatic display.

St. James Twp Campground

45.75078, -85.53821



37 mi

St. James Township

Font Lake

Font Lake

36 mi

Indian Point

An early Native American settlement was established here along with burial grounds. The first Catholic Church was established here in 1832 by Bishop Baraga from L'Arche Croche, who arrived to convert tribal members to Catholicism. Views of High, Trout, Squaw and Garden islands are easily visible from this area.



Donegal Bay Beach

45.74437, -85.56378



34 mi

40 mi

Gull Harbor Nature Preserve



Gull Harbor Preserve

41 mi

St. James Twp Hall and Harbor Light Park



Jewell Gillespie Park



1 mi

Indian Point

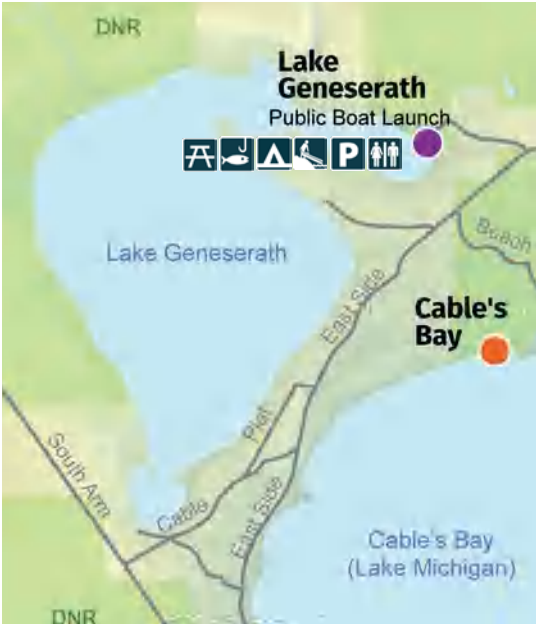
35 mi



Font Lake is approximately 382 acres and is the Island’s second largest lake. Part of its western shore is dotted with homes, while a publicly-accessible boat launch is available on the north end. The “floating islands” near the south edge of the lake are vegetative mats that move and are used as nesting sites by loons and other waterfowl.



Photo of a family of common mergansers on Font Lake submitted by Tom Hawkins.



Lake Geneserath is the largest of the Island’s inland lakes. With depths reaching 55 feet, the lake provides fishing opportunities for species such as bass, northern pike, perch and bluegill, and the lake has been stocked with walleye. A public access site and boat launch are available on the north arm of the lake. Some old cottages and new residential homes dot the shoreline, primarily along the eastern side.



INLAND LAKES



Barney's Lake is about 45 acres in size. The lake has been stocked in the past with largemouth and smallmouth bass and continues to provide habitat for bass, northern pike, and even one reported sturgeon in 2014! An access site is available on the northeastern shore, and hiking trails are being developed around the lake.



Fox Lake is 75 acres in size and is located in the southwestern interior of the Island. Fox Lake supports a variety of fish and features a small walking trail. Fox Lake's public access site is well known for successful fishing and its proximity to "Big Birch," one of the oldest birch trees in Michigan.



Greene's Lake is 62 acres in size and is located in the southwestern interior of the Island. Greene's Lake is shallow and freezes totally most winters. Many rare insects and other animals live in the rich wetlands and extensive bog system surrounding the lake.



Table of Distances Between Access Points (in miles) and Approximate GPS Coordinates (decimal degrees)
All Paddlers Must Register at the Community Center Prior to Beginning Trip

Access Site	Miles from Previous	Latitude	Longitude
Jewell Gillespie Park/St. James Township Beach	0.0	45.74511	-85.52044
Luney's Point	2.4	45.72177	-85.50239
Mike Boyle's Beach	2.3	45.69383	-85.49947
Bill Wagner Campground	2.7	45.65708	-85.49423
Martin's Bluff	2.1	45.62885	-85.48800
Cable's Bay	3.5	45.59295	-85.51971
Iron Ore Bay	4.3	45.57922	-85.58446
French Bay	4.3	45.60371	-85.62281
McFadden's Point	3.7	45.65075	-85.60630
Oliver's Point	1.3	45.66568	-85.60781
Bonner's Landing	4.2	45.70465	-85.58006
McCauley's Point	2.0	45.72830	-85.56974
Donegal Bay Beach	1.2	45.74437	-85.56378
St. James Township Campground	3.0	45.75078	-85.53821
George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve	1.5	45.75498	-85.50785
Gull Harbor Nature Preserve	1.4	45.74387	-85.50016
St. James Township Hall and Harbor Light Park	0.6	45.74303	-85.51015
Jewell Gillespie Park/St. James Township Beach	1.0	45.74511	-85.52044
Distance Around Island	41.5		



Beaver Island Water Trail

WATERPROOF PADDLING GUIDE



Photo: Uncommon Adventures

CONTACT:

Beaver Island Community Center
26215 Main Street
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

231-448-2022

www.biccenter.org

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WWW.MICHIGANWATERTRAILS.ORG

Produced in partnership
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Access Association (LIAA).



APPENDIX F. Cost Estimates

Drinking Fountain

Type	Estimated Cost
Freeze-free hand pump and well	\$ 7,000
Freeze-free basic drinking fountain and electric well	\$ 10,000

Picnic Table

Type	Estimated Cost
Wood-planked. Galvanized steel table	\$ 1,000
Powder-coated decorative steel table and benches	\$ 5,000

Benches

Type	Estimated Cost
Wood or recycled plastic lumber, backless, armless, steel supports	\$ 1,000
Powder-coated decorative steel benches	\$ 2,500

Trash Receptacles

Type	Estimated Cost
Expanded steel or steel drum receptacle	\$ 500
Slatted, plastic-coated steel receptacle	\$ 1,000
Decorative powder-coated steel receptacle	\$ 2,000

Restrooms

Type	Estimated Cost
Porta-John	\$ 5,000
Compostable Pit Toilet	\$ 50,000
Full service restroom with septic and running water	\$ 300,000

Launch

Type	Estimated Cost
Natural embankment - no improvements	No Cost
ADA accessible launch	\$ 50,000

Tent Platform

Type	Estimated Cost
12' x12'	\$400

Parking

Type	Estimated Cost
Gravel lot or gravel shoulder	\$9/square foot
Asphalt lot or paved shoulder	\$12/square foot
Porous pavement lot or paved shoulder	\$15/square foot

Water Craft Storage

Type	Estimated Cost
Temporary kayak storage rack	\$ 5,000
Permanent kayak locker	\$ 8,000

Signs

Type	Estimated Cost
Regulatory signs	\$ 200
Vehicular directional sign	\$ 3,000
Interpretive sign	\$ 2,000
Small entry sign	\$ 3,000
Large entry sign	\$ 10,000
Minor kiosk	\$ 5,000
Major kiosk	\$ 15,000