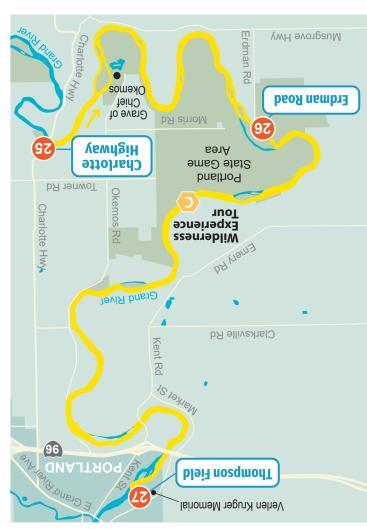
Paddle Time: 3-4.5 hours Distance: 12.8 miles only 5 miles. in Portland. The shuttle for this trip is Note: the only restrooms on this trip are tor the power lines on the left bank. staying far to the left of all islands-look about four miles downstream by Erdman Road access site on the left season. Stop for lunch and rest at the bass, walleye, and, salmon when in boulders—good fishing for smallmouth offers. The river is clear, with numerous herons, turkeys, beavers, and river Don't be surprised to see eagles, hawks, nearly undisturbed and full of wildlife. River in the Portland State Game Area, wild, beautiful stretch of the Grand Thompson Field on your left. This is a at the Verlen Kruger Memorial at 12.8 miles down to Portland, taking out Charlotte Highway Bridge and paddle Launch a canoe or kayak at the

Wilderness Experience Tour

Distance: 2.3 miles vueles Paddle Time: .5-1 hour

This family-friendly trip only takes an hour on the water. Launch a canoe or kayak at the Willow Canoe Launch east of Grand Ledge on Willow Highway and paddle to Jaycee Park on your left. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on this trip. For a longer trip, put in at Delta Mills (5.9 miles).

Grand Ledge Mini Adventure





Paddle downstream toward Old Town if the Paddle downstream toward Old Town if the l-496 current is too strong. Stop far upstream of North Lansing Dam. Look for the Brenke Fish Ladder's gray tower near the portage exit on river right. Avoid the red safety floats on river right. Avoid the red safety floats paddle back to Rotary Park. paddle back to Rotary Park.

Distance: 1.4 miles

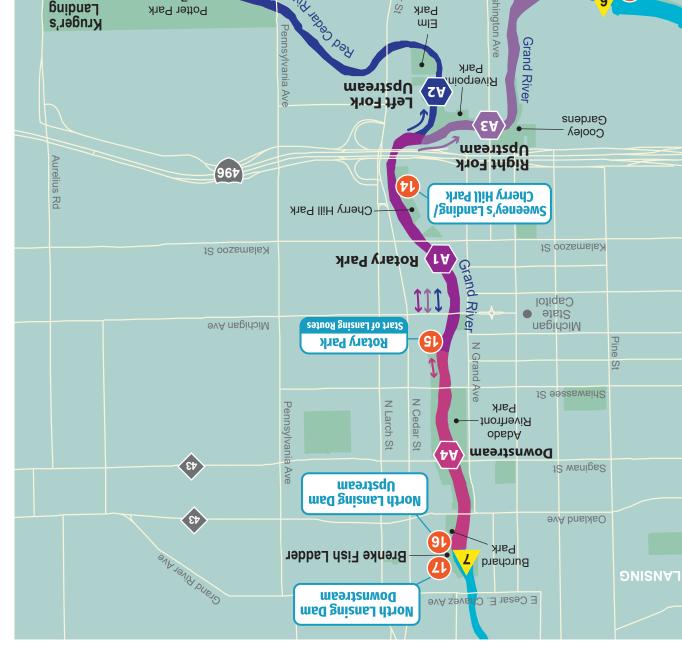
Distance: 1.4 miles

Right Fork Upstream
Paddle the Grand River toward Moores
Dam. Strong current provides a good
workout. Float back to Rotary Park.
Distance: 4 miles
Paddle Time: 1.5-2 hours

Paddle up the Red Cedar River through quiet, tree-lined bayous toward Potter Park Zoo and Michigan State University. Watch for abundant wildlife, including bald eagles. Distance: 4.5 miles Paddle Time: 2-3 hours

Begin and end your trip at Rotary Park downtown. Rent or bring your own watercraft. Paddle upstream under I-496 (strong current; paddle hard) through wooded and urban areas to the Red Cedar River junction. Distance: 1.8 miles Paddle Time: 1-1.5 hours

Lansing Nature Tours
All routes are round trip, beginning and ending at Rotary Park. Arrows indicate direction of travel.



Best of the Middle Grand River

MIDDLE GRAND RIVER

WATER TRAIL

Enjoy 87 miles of

river adventures in

your own backyard!

Upstream

Moores Dam

Moores Dam

Dams and Areas of Caution

The Middle Grand River has 13 dams and caution zones. All dams are hazardous and require careful navigation. Most locations have portage paths or designated routes where paddlers can carry their watercraft around obstacles like dams or rapids. **Never** paddle over a dam, and follow signage for when and where to exit the river.

- **Smithville Dam:** Use the portage path on river right (north).
- State Street Dam: No portage. Exit at McArthur Park (river right, northeast), and portage 1 mile along city streets to Mill Pointe Park.
- Eaton Rapids Sanitary Dam Site: Remnants of dam exist. Passage possible in high water left of island. Portage on river left (west).*
- Pedestrian Bridge: High water creates entrapment hazard. After heavy rain, avoid this area or portage.*
- **Dimondale Dam Site**: Rock weirs remain but passage is possible in high water. Use floating
- ramp and short portage on river right (north).*

 6 Moores Dam: Portage on river right (south).
- North Lansing Dam: Portage on river right (east).
- Delta Mills Dam Site: Dam remnants create a small riffle, navigable for most paddlers. Access site available just downstream on river left (south)*
- **Grand Ledge Dam:** Portage on river left (south). Take-out near the dam requires caution.
- Portland Dam: Portage on river left (south). Boat launch available upstream for paddle craft and small powerboats.
- Webber Dam: Access on both sides. River left (west) boat launch has poor downstream portage. Use river right (east) for portage.
- Wagar Dam: Mandatory portage; dangerous for unfamiliar paddlers. No portage route around the dam or road access exists. Plan ahead to avoid it
- and obtain property owner permission if possible.*

 Lyons Dam site: Removed dam remnants create waves. Skilled paddlers may pass at high water on river left (west). Marshy portage on river right

(east) is difficult.*

*Areas of Caution

Aquatic Invasive Species

You can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Follow these steps before leaving a boat launch:

- Clean and remove plants, debris, and mud from all equipment.
- Drain water from canoes and kayaks and dry it with a towel or leave it out of the water for 5 days.
- Dry all equipment that comes into contact with the river.
- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a waterway unless it comes out of that body of water.



Leave No Trace

- Dispose of waste properly pack it in, pack it out. And clean up more while you can!
- out. And clean up more while you can!

 Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as
- you find them.
 Respect wildlife do not harass or try to feed wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors and let nature's sounds prevail.

Paddling Safety Checklist

- Plan your route and share your plan
- Pack appropriate gear for weather conditions
- Secure all gear and equipment
- Prepare for emergenciesWear your life vest
- Wear your me vestWatch the weather
- Watch theStav sober



About the Grand River

The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan. Starting in its headwaters near Jackson, it flows north and west through mid-Michigan.

Its watershed covers over 5,500 square miles of land, 18 counties, and 158 townships.



What is the Middle Grand River?

It is an 87-mile stretch of the Grand River between the city of Eaton Rapids and the village of Lyons with a diverse mix of urban, suburban, and wild areas for paddlers to enjoy. The Red Cedar, Looking Glass, and Maple rivers are major tributaries that flow into the Middle Grand River.



Middle Grand River Water Trail

With an abundance of boat and kayak launches, well-marked signs along its banks, curated experiences, and wayfinding maps, MGROW has assembled the resources users need to plan a trip that matches their desired experience, skill level, and equipment along the 87-mile-long Middle Grand River Water Trail.

MGROW, in partnership with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, developed the Middle Grand River Water Trail Development Plan to guide the creation of a designated water trail on the Middle Grand River. In late 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources selected it as one of the first of eight designated water trails in the state.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (Tri-County) is designated by the state as the region's area wide water quality management planning agency under the Clean Water Act and is proud to help support MGROW and its efforts. The planning agency offers a Virtual Trail Explorer of the water trail and other regional trails. For a 360-degree view of the river or to learn more about Tri-County's activities, visit mitcrpc.org.

Get Involved!

The mission of the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) is to protect and preserve the history and the natural resources of the Middle Grand River watershed by promoting education, conservation, restoration, and wise use of watershed resources.

When you join MGROW, you support our efforts to make the Middle Grand River a cleaner, safer, and more accessible resource for the public, including projects like this map.

Join our efforts by visiting mgrow.org/join.



TRI-COUNTY regional planning commission mitcrpc.org

Lyons offers the Tabor Street Boat Ramp, camping sites, and an accessible launch at Hazel Devore Park. Lyons' sister village to the north, Muir, is located on the Maple River as it flows into the Grand River. Both quaint villages offer downtown dining and shopping. The Middle Grand River Water Trail ends in Lyons and becomes the Lower Grand River Water Trail.

SNOAT

Paddlers approaching this "City of Two Rivers" from the south will enjoy the wildlife corridor along the Portland State Game Area. Named for the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers' intersection, Portland provides ample paddling and fishing opportunities. Over eight miles of paved riverwalks connect seven bridges and parks, providing a natural beauty to the vibrant downtown district. Paddlers can find a convenient launch at Thompson Field as they view the Verlen Kruger Memorial.

PORTLAND

This city is known for its beautiful sandstone ledges that line the banks of the Grand River. Visitors will enjoy Grand Ledge's bustling downtown and retail areas, public art, and small-town charm. There is including an accessible boat launch and splash pad at Jaycee Park and a Riverwalk Trail connecting at Jaycee Park and a Riverwalk Trail connecting Jaycee Park and a Riverwalk Trail connecting outcroppings along the river.









Suburban residents of Eaton County's most populous municipality enjoy accessing the Grand River from three convenient sites. Grand Woods Park offers shore access, while Delta Mills, and the Willow Canoe Launch offer accessible launch sites. Paddlers can fish at the Grand Woods, Delta Mills, and Hunter's Orchard parks, enjoy a trail walk at each access site, or catch beautiful views of the river from the Capital City Bird Sanctuary.

DELTA TOWNSHIP

lies southeast of the confluence. is downtown. The renowned Potter Park Zoo tributary of the Grand River whose confluence downstream on the Red Cedar River, a allows paddlers to travel upstream or accessible launch at Kruger's Landing also experience the beauty of the Grand River. An for easy access and multiple ways to paved trails that run along the river, allowing Lansing River Trail boasts over 20 miles of Cherry Hill parks and at Kruger's Landing. The are accessible launch sites at Rotary and all of which are located near the river. There Capitol, or visit the Michigan History Museum, Lansing Lugnuts baseball game, tour the state the river and near downtown can catch a attractions. Paddlers looking to spend time off Turner-Dodge House, among many other Olds Transportation Museum, and the historic pass by the Impression 5 Science Center, R.E. along the river and downtown. Paddlers will Michigan's capital city, with many attractions The Grand River flows through the heart of



Visitors can enjoy two parks on the banks of the Grand River and the shops and restaurants within Dimondale's quaint downtown. Danford Island Park offers an accessible launch site, a fishing pier, a walking pathway, restrooms, and picnic tables.



DIMONDALE

Known as Michigan's Island City, this quaint town offers 1,050 feet of riverwalk for your enjoyment. A series of natural rock weirs offers paddlers a unique rapids experience, and kayak and canoe rentals are available at Mill Pointe Park. Visitors will enjoy eating at fine restaurants and browsing in shops in downtown Eaton Rapids, including the historic Miller Farm.



EATON RAPIDS

GRAND LEDGE