

A grayscale photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, the sand is visible with gentle waves washing onto the shore. The middle ground shows the ocean with a person standing on a surfboard in the distance. The sky is overcast. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the report title and date. The text is in a dark blue, cursive font. There are decorative white dots on the left and right sides of the white box.

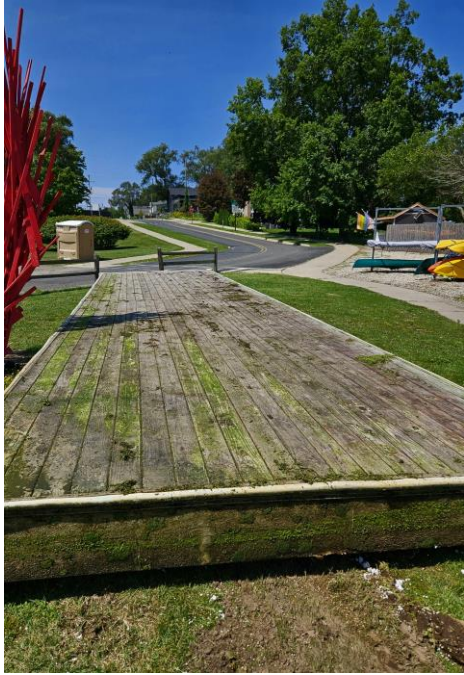
Douglas Harbor Authority

2023-2024 Annual Report

September 17, 2024

Topics....

- **Wade's Bayou**
 - Floating Dock Replacement
 - New Signage
 - Third Coast Paddling Contract Extension
- **Douglas Marina**
 - New Signage
 - Site Enhancement Grant Application
 - Sidewalk Safety, Electrical/AED Transfer
 - Marine Safety
- **Wildlife Management Efforts**
 - No Fishing Signage
- **Veteran's Walk Improvements**
- **Union Street Boat Launch**
- **Harbor Treatment**



Wade's Bayou – Floating Dock Replacement & New Signage

In August 2024, a new floating dock was successfully installed at Wade's Bayou, replacing the prior dock that had fallen into disrepair. This was made possible through a generous donation. The new dock has improved access and safety for our boaters and visitors. Great job Douglas Department of Public Works!



Wade's Bayou-Third Coast Paddling Contract Extension

The City of Douglas has extended its contract with Third Coast Paddling, located at Wade's Bayou, for an additional year. This partnership continues to benefit the community, as the city receives a percentage of Third Coast Paddling's sales, which is reinvested directly into park improvements and amenities. While we are still awaiting their 2024 sales figures, we are confident they had a successful summer season, and we look forward to using those funds to further enhance our parks and public spaces.



Douglas Marina-Building Demolition & Site Rehabilitation

In early August 2024, the two deteriorating buildings at the Douglas Marina were demolished. The demolition company confirmed that the structures were in extremely poor condition, with the roof of one building at risk of collapse. The area was leveled, and dirt and grass seed were added to restore the space, along with the addition of a new sign, creating an open, welcoming area for future public use. Additionally, a deteriorating sidewalk was removed for safety reasons. A new, more accessible sidewalk is planned for installation in the near future.

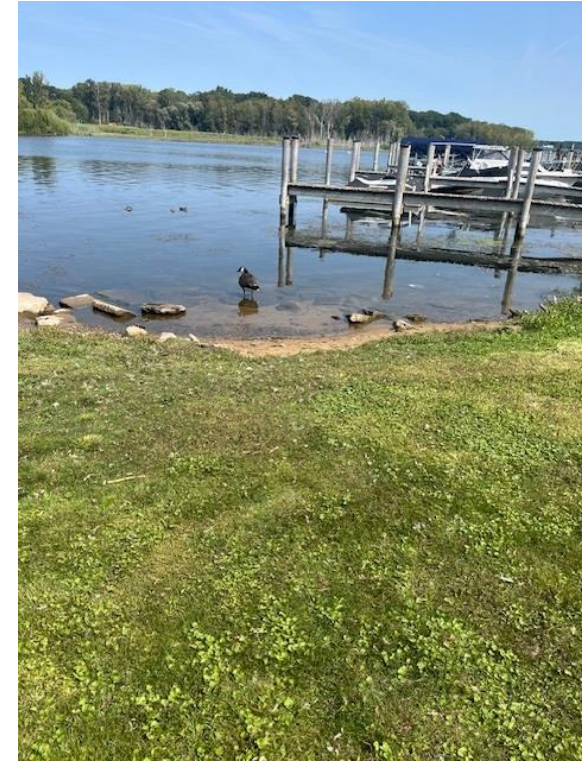


Douglas Marina-Sidewalk Safety, Electrical/AED Transfer

The entrance to Douglas Marina has been significantly improved, particularly at the most northern end. The entrance was widened near the electrical panel, making it more accessible and safer for visitors. Previously, people had to walk along a heavily sloped portion of the sidewalk, but with the recent improvements, this issue has been resolved, ensuring a much smoother and safer path into the marina.

Additionally, with the removal of the deteriorating house, the city had to find a new location for the AED defibrillator, which had been somewhat hidden by the structure. The AED has been relocated to a more accessible and visible spot, ensuring it can be quickly found in case of emergencies. This new placement is considered even better than before, further improving safety at the marina.





Douglas Marina-Marine Patrol Officer Launch

Looking ahead, we also plan to enhance the area where the Allegan County Marine Patrol Officer can launch a boat quickly during rescue operations. Making these improvements will aid in quicker and more efficient emergency response, ensuring that the marina remains a safe and secure space for all who visit.



Douglas Marina-Grant Application for Site Rehabilitation

The City Manager is in the process of applying for a \$250,000 grant from Consumer's Energy. The proposed use of funds includes adding a bathroom, a pavilion, a connecting sidewalk, and potentially paving the parking lot. These enhancements will contribute to the rehabilitation of the marina and ensure it continues to serve as a public space for picnics, small events, art shows, and other community gatherings. The City has received letters of support from the Douglas City Council, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, State Representative Joey Andrews, Matt Balmer, Business Owner.



Wildlife Management Efforts at Douglas Marina & Wade's Bayou & No Fishing Signage

To address the issue of wildlife feces near the dock area, ropes and wire were added outside of the dock perimeter. This deterrent appears to be effective, although wildlife has now shifted to the grassy areas. The Department of Public Works continues to explore additional options to manage these areas as well. Additionally, "No Fishing" signs were placed at the Douglas Marina slips due to an increase of complaints by those renting slips who were concerned about damage to their boats.



Veteran's Park Walk Improvements

Attention is now shifting to Veteran's Park Walk, where nautical ropes have been added as part of the improvements. A new sign will soon replace the deteriorating existing one, and we are considering adding plantings and a bench to enhance the area. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of installing a fishing dock, pending approval from the state, as the area is a popular spot for local anglers.



Union Street Boat Launch Assessment

Due to wear from large boats, the Union Street Boat Launch has sustained stress-related damage. The estimated cost of repairing the launch is \$90,000. In light of these expenses, the City Council had the Union Street Boat Launch, the Union Street roadway leading to the launch, and Lake Drive appraised. The appraisal came back at \$255,000, and the city is considering the possibility of selling the property with the possible caveat that residents receive a launch discount.



Kalamazoo Lake Treatment of Weeds/Algae

With the support of the Douglas Harbor Authority, the city continues to treat Kalamazoo Lake annually using general fund dollars. These treatments help to manage invasive plant species and keep the lake navigable for boaters and other recreational users. Since the treatments began, conditions in the lake have shown improvement. The June 2025 treatment is in the existing fiscal year budget that city council passed, however, the July treatment would need to be budgeted in the FY2025-2026 budget which would take effect on July 1, 2025

ANY
QUESTIONS?

