



Kalamazoo River Greenway

May 14, 2025

Meeting Outline



- Kalamazoo River Greenway (KRG) Plan
- Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan Meeting Updates
- Municipal Resolutions
- ODC Commitment
- Funding Framework
- Long-Term Goals

TRI-COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION VISION

Cultivate a unified park system that offers diverse recreational opportunities for our vibrant and engaged community, expands upon our legacy of coastal conservation and environmental stewardship, and welcomes and inspires all who visit.

Created by the Tri-Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, 2023



Pillars are the fundamental principles or core values that guide the development, planning, and management of parks and recreational programs within a community. The Tri-Community Pillars serve as the foundation for creating a comprehensive vision for the future of parks and recreation system, aligning with the community's goals and aspirations. They serve as guiding principles that inform the long-term vision, strategic planning, and decision-making processes related to parks and recreation. By integrating these core values into planning efforts, the community can create vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable parks and trails that contribute positively to the overall well-being and quality of life for residents and visitors.

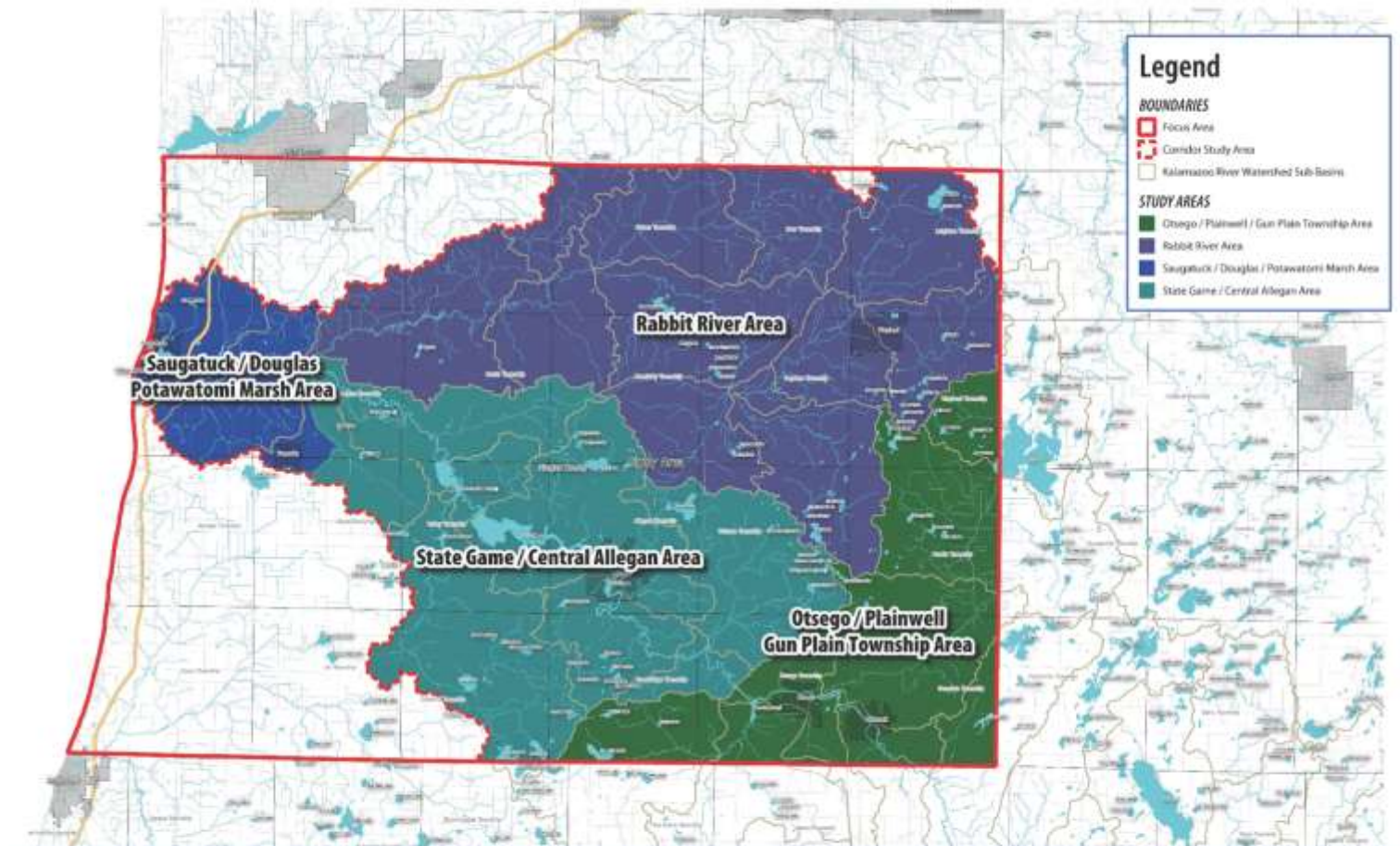
Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan



History

- Established the plan in 2018
- Designed for collaborative planning efforts addressing environmental restoration, recreation, conservation and education
- 300+ stakeholders engaged over 15 months
- Resolutions signed by municipalities 2019-2020





Other Activities Along the River



- Calkins Dam
 - Consumers evaluating dam fleet, decision in Q2
- City of Allegan Dam
 - City planning for dam removal with help from EPA, DNR
- Trowbridge Dam
 - Removal currently underway
- Longer-term restoration work in Otsego, Plainwell
- Agriculture's ongoing impact
- Kalamazoo River Watershed Council



City of the Village of Douglas Resolution No#15-2020



- Whereas, the Greenway Plan was designed to bring together the diverse communities scattered along the Kalamazoo, Rabbit and Gun Rivers to coordinate planning efforts and work together as a unified county on addressing ecological, educational, and developmental issues related to the river...
- Whereas the Greenway Plan address issues related to environmental restoration, recreation, conservation and education which may include seeking collaboration and funding for projects such as...
- Be it resolved the Douglas Council hereby endorses the Lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan to used as an advisory document guiding public officials on a comprehensive approach to restoring the Kzoo River and its tributaries and help engage public involvement to determine financial feasibility of proposed projects.



ODC Work (not Limited to...)



- Habitat conservation
- Invasive species consultation
- Recreation programs
- Project management with annual report and meetings
- Grant writing related to KRG mission
- School partnerships
- EPA Superfund coordination
- Educational programs
- Water trail establishment
- Natural area consultation
- Trail development and review
- Property acquisition planning
- Inter-park pathway planning and development



KRG Update/Outcomes

- Area stakeholder meeting April 22, 2025
 - Short-Term Ideas
 - Advisory Board
 - Universal logo on signage
 - ODC Fund
 - Water Trail
 - Education/Access to River
 - Long-term Ideas
 - Land Acquisition
 - Connectivity
 - Pure Michigan Trail Town

Funding Framework



- Municipalities: \$5,000-\$10,000 annually
 - City of Saugatuck
 - Saugatuck Township
 - City of the Village of Douglas
 - Fennville
- Non-profits: \$5,000-\$10,000 annually
 - S/D Rotary
- Business
- Endowment

Project Possibilities



- Water trail
 - Mapping/Signage
- Community Clean-ups
- Educational programs
 - Natives/Invasives
- Green Storm Water projects
 - Rain gardens/barrels
- Pocket prairies
- Collaborate with SPS students
- Reforestation
- Meadow restoration
- Water Quality Studies
- River Restoration
- Conservation
- Wayfinding and Signage
 - Universal across towns
- Best Management Practices (BMP) w/ AG or homeowners
- Land Acquisition
- Connectivity of Trails
- Dark Sky Initiatives
- Pure Michigan Trail Designations
- Safe River Access Points





Thank you!