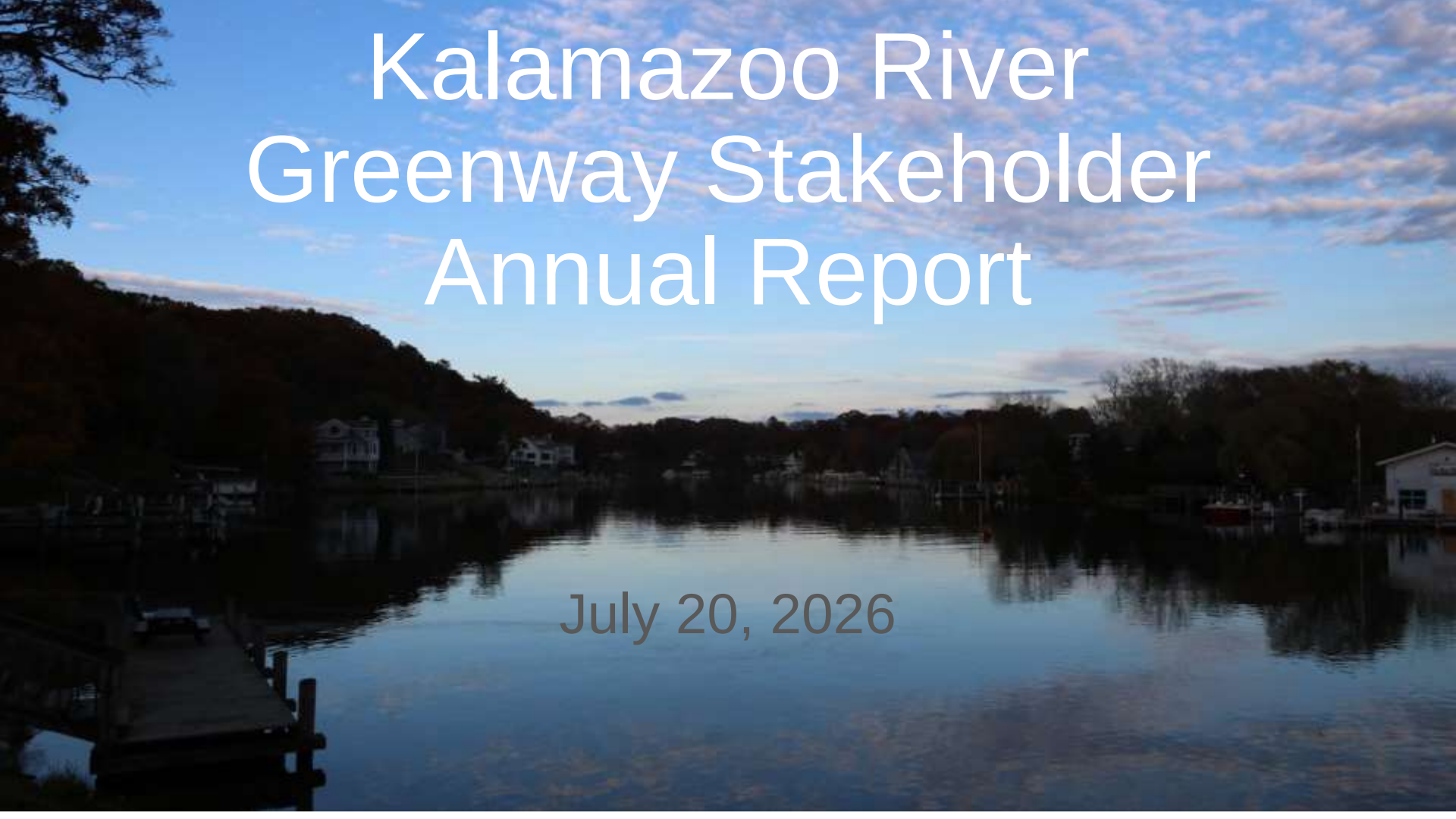




Kalamazoo River Greenway Stakeholder Annual Report

July 20, 2026



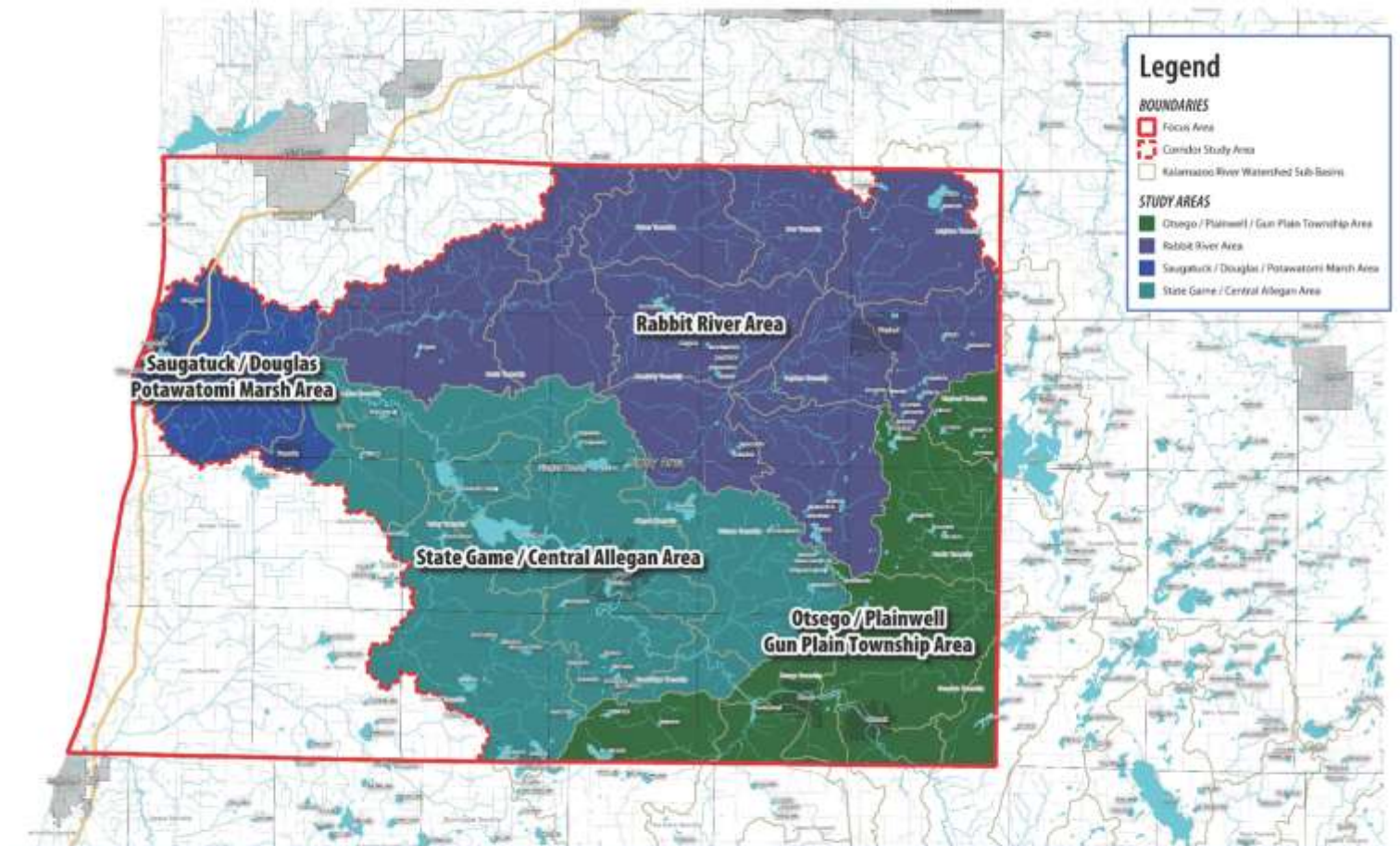
Kalamazoo River Greenway Overview

Mission Statement of Kalamazoo River Greenway

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

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





TYPES OF PRACTICES AND IMPROVEMENTS

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



AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION (I&E) OPPORTUNITIES

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



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

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



PRESERVE EXISTING HIGH QUALITY HABITAT

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



ACCESSIBLE LAUNCHES

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



NON-MOTORIZED PATH CONNECTIONS

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



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

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



CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT REMOVAL

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



Kalamazoo River Greenway

Year at a Glance:

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





Restoration & Conservation

ODC Conservation Services

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



Restoration & Conservation

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



Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

What is a water trail?

- Guiding water users between sites, usually aimed at paddlers

What are the benefits?

- Recreational
- Economic
- Safety
- Ecological





Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

Monthly Working Group to vet project

- Research, mentorship & development

Community-wide Open House on April 28

- Great attendance, feedback

Next steps:

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



Lower Kalamazoo Water Trail

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

Saugatuck

Douglas

Recommended Route

Alternate Route
Munson Bayou



DRAFT - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

Launch and Landing

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

Amenities

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



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



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



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



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



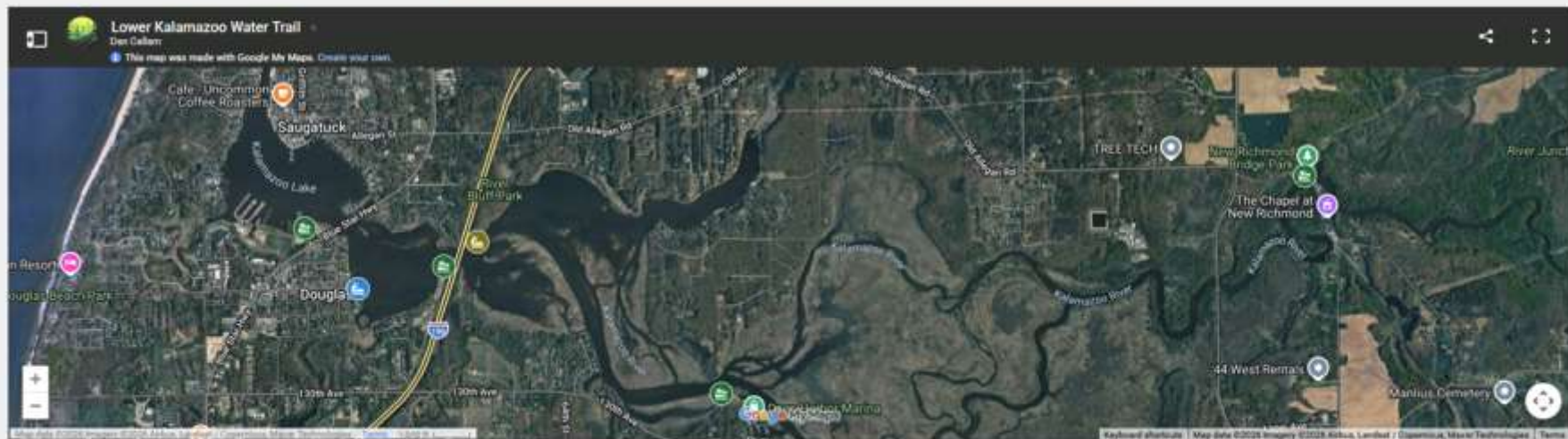
5. River Bluff Park - Landing only
Old Allegan Road, east of I-196. Landing, fishing dock, picnic table, shelter. Parking lot and pit toilet one mile away. [Saugatuck Township]



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



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





Partner Project Highlights

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



Fixed Dock Installation

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



Item 3 | Product Name: 300281 300282 Wave Port to Fixed Dock (Z-bracket) Instructions

Parts List:	Tools or Hardware Needed:
1. Z-Brackets (Delivered qty 2)	1. 1/2" wrench qty 2
2. U-bolts (Delivered qty 4)	2. Bolts or bolts to attach Z-brackets to the fixed dock (this hardware is not supplied)
3. 1/2" Galvanized Nuts qty 18	3. Anchoring pipe
4. 1/2" Galvanized Washers qty 8	4.
5.	5.

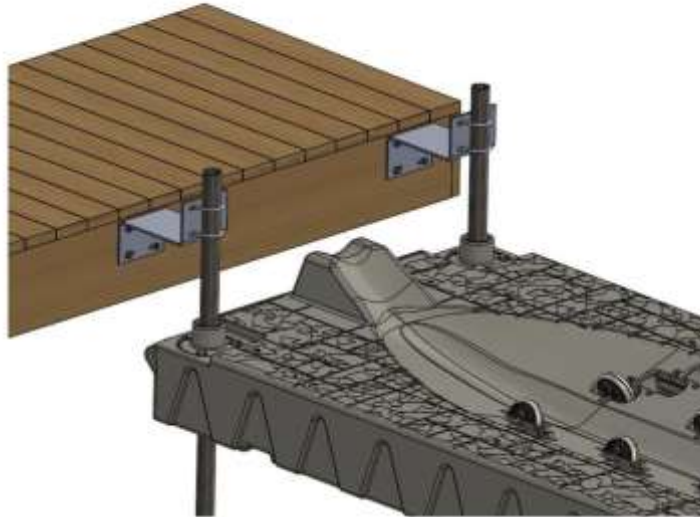
Assembly Instructions:

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



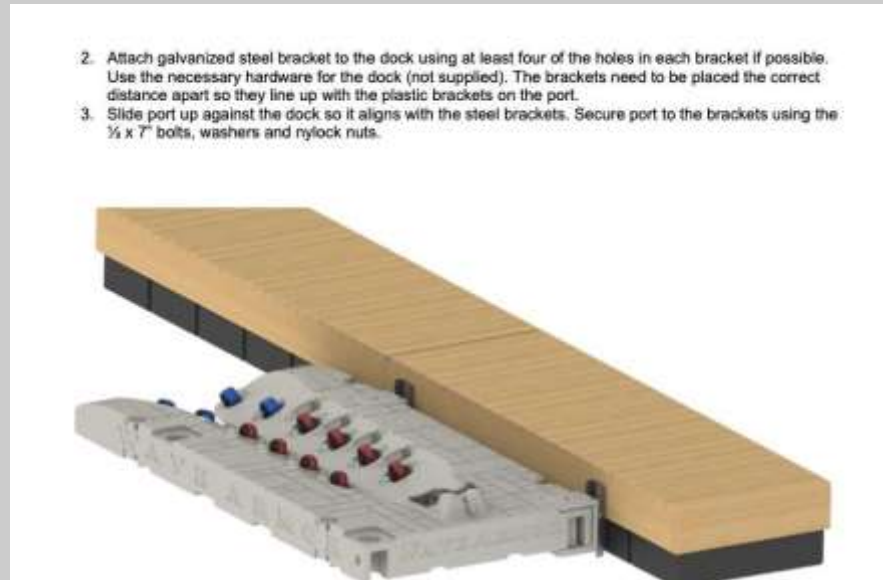
Tighten nuts securely against each other after the pipe is installed.

4. Finished installation is shown below.



Floating Dock Installation

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



Safety Benefits

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



Blue Vista Marine Services



Krazy for the Kazoo - May 30

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





Water Smart Landscaping- Green Stormwater

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





Education and Program Outreach Summary

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





Grant Applications

Approved/Pending

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

Denied

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

Keep them coming!



Sediment and Watershed Health

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





Kalamazoo River Greenway-Priorities

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



Kalamazoo River Greenway- Investment

What's Next?

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



Thank you Partners!

