Water Trails- Discovering Your Hidden Assets
The St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission received a grant in 2010 from the Michigan Coastal Management Program (DEQ) to create a water trails website. The outcome is 16 water trails in 9 bodies of water, complete with maps and points of interest like places to camp, shop and eat.
- There are 16 Blueways in 9 water bodies.
- 54 public water access points
- We developed the water trails by interviewing paddlers
- We added the public access points by looking at community Master Recreation Plans and road right of ways in the GIS.
Welcome to the Blueways!

The St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) present the Blueways of St. Clair, a website to help you visit and enjoy the land and water trails along the St. Clair River corridor, from Anchor Bay to the northern border of the county along Lake Huron.

Click on the 'Routes' tab, above, to access 16 different paddling routes in 9 different water bodies. Use the 'Itinerary' button to add your favorite spots, then create driving directions between each point of interest!

Click on the 'Memories Along the Blueway' graphic to post a description about your day on the water, then add a picture for the rest of us to enjoy!

Great News!

The Blueways route, The Island Loop Route, has been selected as a National Water Trail by the Department of the Interior! It is the first National Water Trail in Michigan, and one of only 14 in the nation. Check it out HERE.
Website Features

-Customs and Border Patrol website
- U.S. Coast Guard
- St. Clair County Marine Patrol
- The Weather Channel
- National Weather Service
- St. Clair County website
- Blue Meets Green
-Blue Water Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

The Home page also links to the DNR weekly fishing report, St. Clair River water levels and information on Sturgeon habitat.
The NOAA website is interactive, and updates the map as you move the mouse over the different times and weather conditions. Always check the weather when going out to paddle.
Bring your ID with you when you paddle near the St. Clair River, lake Huron or the delta. Customs and Border Patrol have been known to stop paddlers in Canadian waters or even coming ashore to their own property after a leisurely paddle. It is easier to just stay on the US side of the border!
Memories Along the Blueway

What's Your Story?
Tell us about your experience or share a memory about your time on the Blueways of St. Clair.

Memories Along the Blueways
Discover what others experienced on the Blueways of St. Clair, then share your own story.

The Pine River
Posted by LD on Tuesday, May 20, 2014
We did a new section of the Pine River on Sunday. We put in at Fred Meiselasch Park Access off Newman Road and went south. Here is the link to the Park access web page on the Blueways website:


We went about 1.5 miles before we hit a log jam, and we did more.

Island Loop Dedication
Posted by LD on Sunday, May 11, 2014
The day was picture perfect, the dedication was wonderful and the paddle was a blast. A special thanks to all the volunteers - especially the Blue Water Social Club.

The Blueways on White
Kayakers line up for the Island Loop Paddle
- Paddlers can post their story and pictures or video.
- Paddlers can post hazards along the trail, such as a log jam.
- It is also a place to post interesting things like an Eagle’s nest or wildlife sighting.

The Blueways of St. Clair

Memories Along the Blueways
Discover what others experienced on the Blueways of St. Clair. Then share your own story.

The Pine River

We did a new section of the Pine River on Sunday. We put in at Fred Meade Beach Park Access off Newman Road and went south. Here is the link to the Park access web page on the Blueways website.


We went about 1.5 miles before we hit a log jam, and we did not want to portage. We had planned on turning around anyway and paddling upstream. Even though it meanders through private property, it feels very secluded because the homes are not close to the river. Very quiet and peaceful.

Economic Development
**Plan Your Trip**

**What's Your Story?**
Tell us about your experience or share a memory about your time on the Blueways of St. Clair.

**Memories Along the Blueways**
Discover what others experienced on the Blueways of St. Clair; then share your own story.

**Download All Our Locations for Google Earth**

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**Plan Your Trip**

**When will you arrive here?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrive On</th>
<th>Depart On</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are you interested in?**

Type a word, for example swimming or pizza.

```text
Camp
campground
Camping
```

Or, choose attractions or activities:

- **Attractions**
  - Agriculture
  - Amusement Park
  - Art
  - Auto
  - Banquet
  - Beach
  - Boat Launch
  - Boating
  - Campground

- **Activities**
  - Kite Flying
  - Swimming
  - Camping
  - Fishing
  - Kayaking
  - Sailing
  - Snorkeling
  - Artist Demonstrations
  - Community Events & Festivals
Plan Your Trip

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Plan Your Trip

Try Another Search | Jump to Places

We searched for camp.

Lakeport State Park
Camping
7005 Lakeshore Rd
Lakeland, MI 48050
Get Directions
810-987-8224
Add This To Your Itinerary

Trip Weather Check

Be Safe

Economic Development

Coastal Zone Information

Click here to learn about Customs and Pleasure Boating Requirements

Sightings

Report Suspicious Activity to River Watch

800.537.3220
VHF channel 15

Lakeshore Park

Rochester Hills

Camping

Sylvania

Jackson

Kingston

Cass City

Port Huron

Marysville

Leydecker

Sandusky

Cedarville

Almont

Amherstburg

Brown City

Marysville

Port Huron

Cedarville

Sandusky

Cass City

Jackson

Kingston

Rochester Hills

Sylvania

Lakeland, MI 48050

7005 Lakeshore Rd

Camping

810-987-8224

Add This To Your Itinerary

Plan Your Trip

Places on the Map

Water Access

Campground

Food
LAKEPORT STATE PARK - CAMPING

State Park, beach and campground

Located adjacent to Lake Huron, 289 campsites, 56 blacktop pads and pull-thru sites. Electricity, modern toilet/shower building, playgrounds, horse shoe pits, organizational campground for youth groups, store, mini-cabins, fire circles, picnic tables, day use area. Group and rally sites. Basket ball Courts, Playground, hiking trail, swimming beach, volleyball court, picnic shelter, picnic area. Auxiliary parking, paved interior roads, grocery store, building with flushing toilets, showers, tenting areas. Security patrols, food available. Nature programs, Fire rings/Fire Pit, Gravel parking pad, lakefront sites, picnic tables, paved parking pad, shade trees.

Lakeport State Park located on Lake Huron with two distinct units separated by the village of Lakeport. A total of 250 sites are divided between the two campgrounds.

For the fishing and boating enthusiast state-managed boat launch in Lexington is ten miles north of the park. The Port Huron State Game Area is within a 15 minute drive and provides opportunities for hiking year round and hunting in season. For the shopper, Birchwood Mall is about five miles south of the park.
The Blueways of St. Clair

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Memories Along the Blueways
Discover what others experienced on the Blueways of St. Clair, then share your own story.

Download All Our Locations for Google Earth

Plan Your Trip

When will you arrive here?
Arrive On: [ ]
Depart On: [ ]

What are you interested in?
Type a word, for example swimming or pizza.

activities:
Or, choose attractions or activities:
Click on one or more items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attractions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Kite Boarding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amusement Park</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Fishing</td>
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<td>Boat Launch</td>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>Surfing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>Tree Climbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Water Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Wildlife Watching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plan Your Trip

Find Places to Visit
Your Itinerary
Upcoming Events
What’s Your Story?
Memories Along the Blueways
Marine City Beach

Marine City Beach is a municipal beach on the St. Clair River. Swimming beach, barrier-free sidewalk, bathrooms, spring toys, picnic tables, barbecue grills, shady grassy areas. Open from the last day of school until the first day of school, 7 days, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed during inclement weather.

Address:
North end of Water Street
Winchester, MI 48092

GPS Coordinates:
42.719661, -82.486309

Hours:
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Driving directions to DECKERS BOAT ACCESS DNR

1. Head southwest on Strawberry Ln toward Waldheim Dr
2. Continue onto Water St
3. Turn right to merge onto I-69 W/94 W toward Detroit
   Continue to follow I-94 W
4. Take exit 266 for I-84 BUS/Great Rd toward Marysville
5. Turn left onto Ladjos F
Welcome to Blueways of St. Clair

The St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) present the Blueways of St. Clair, a website to help you visit and enjoy the land and water trails along the St. Clair River corridor, from Anchor Bay to the northern border of the county along Lake Huron.

Click on the 'Routes' tab, above, to access 16 different paddling routes in 9 different water bodies. Use the 'Plan Your Trip' tab to search the database for places to camp, shop, eat or learn about our maritime history. Use the 'Itinerary' button to add your favorite spots, then create driving directions between each point of interest!

Click on the 'Memories Along the Blueway' graphic to post a description about your day on the water, then add a picture for the rest of us to enjoy!

Great News!

The Blueways route, The Island Loop Route, has been selected as a National Water Trail by the Department of the Interior! It is the first National Water Trail in Michigan, and one of only 14 in the nation. Check it out HERE.
List of Blueway Paddling Routes

Beaubien Creek Route
A rural paddle winding through Clay and Ira Townships

Belle River Route
The Belle River winds through Marine City, East China Township, and China Township

Black River Experience
Along the Black River between Normand and Beard Roads
Russell Island Loop

Paddle the North Channel of the St. Clair River, around Russell island, and back

Begins at the DNR boat launch in Algonac. Enter the North Channel, through Russell Island to the South Channel, and back around to the North Channel. Be aware of the shipping channel, and international waters, of course.

Level - Intermediate, due to current and freighter traffic.

Length - 4.3 miles round trip
The Black River offers beautiful rural paddling, but you need to be prepared. Bring food and especially water, as there is no place to purchase these items along the way. Much of the water trails in the Port Huron State Game Area have no cell phone service. Always leave an itinerary with a friend so they know where you are paddling, who you are with and when you should be back.
Scroll through the list of 16 different Blueways on the website and choose which paddling route you want to research. Go to that web page and print off the map, like the one at the right. Note the red stars are access points.
Fred Mieselbach Park; Pine River access off Neuman Road in St. Clair Township.
Mill Creek runs right through Yale Park in downtown Yale. You could launch a kayak and paddle upstream, as the dam is downstream. It is also a great place to fish.
This is a Right of Way (ROW) road ending. In most cases, where a public road dead-ends at a water body, there is public access. The ROW is usually 66 feet wide, but it depends on the MDOT road classification.
Harsens Island and Dickinson Island offer great places to paddle and explore a State Wildlife Area. The red dots are water access areas or boat launches. Be careful when paddling the delta, as the invasive species, Phragmites is very tall and one can get lost in a kayak because it is hard to see over the plants. We encourage you to put a flag (like a bicycle flag) on your kayak while in the delta so the power boats can see you. They are tall and kayaks are short, sometimes having dangerous consequences. To begin on Harsens Island, just take the Champion’s Auto Ferry over to one of the DNR launch sites.
Browns is a restaurant located on Harsens Island on the Middle Channel, a local landmark since 1946. They have boat slips where you can enjoy a break from exploring the largest freshwater delta in North America.

The Snooks DNR launch is across the road to launch your kayak.
A great place to leave your vehicle and paddle the delta is the DNR launch at Deckers Landing off Anchor Bay Drive. You can then cross the North Channel and explore the Middle Channel or the Chenal About Rond. You need to have a Passport to Recreation sticker ($11) on your vehicle to park in a DNR lot.
Kimball Township Park is a great place to learn how to navigate your kayak. The pond has no hazards and calm water.
The 40th Street Pond in Port Huron Township is another great place to learn skills and gain confidence in your kayak. It is a 65 acre park largely covered by a shallow spring fed lake that ranges from five feet to twelve feet deep. A nice woods on the east side that supports many species of wildlife.

The park has six gazebos, a large pavilion, picnic tables and two 124 foot long wheelchair accessible piers for fishing.

A great place to fish!
I created this map when I was asked about the easements along Wadhams Road. A road map and an aerial is a good place to start the planning process for adding water access or a kayak launch.

First, check your local Master Recreation Plan for local park locations where water access may already be established.

Then, check the County’s Parcel Mapping Website for locations of possible public water access in your municipality.
I created this map for exploring a potential location for an ADA kayak launch in Clyde Township.
This is Mill Creek and Kilgore Road in Kenockee Township. Right of way access is shown here. Some are interested in creating a water access point here within the right of way. The GIS is very helpful to use when looking at and aerial with parcel ownership and easements.
We compared local Master Recreation Plans to the public land and recreation database in Arc GIS. It was a good way to check for water access points on public land.
http://gis.stclaircounty.org/Land/parcels.html
Link to the St. Clair County Parcel Viewer
The Springborn Road Access has a small parking lot and a short distance to carry your boat to the Belle River. In this area the Belle is free of most log jams to Marine City, but upstream past the East China Park there are many log jams that prevent passage.

Start promoting your water access!
12th Street Boat Ramp off Water Street in the City of Port Huron. You can launch your kayak here, but parking may be an issue if you don’t have a trailer attached to your vehicle.
Pearl Beach Pier, A 300 foot fishing pier on the St. Clair River provides Access to the North Channel. It is getting a facelift in 2015!
The City of St. Clair rolls out the red carpet to kayakers and power boaters. There is an ADA launch and a huge dock across the river offering free dockage for a trip uptown to explore.
The Belle River Route follows the Belle River through China, East China Township and Marine City. If you begin or end at Marine City Beach you will experience both the Belle and the St. Clair Rivers.

Beginning paddlers should stay in the inland rivers until they get enough experience and confidence to paddle in the St. Clair River.

We are having a paddle event on River Day, Saturday, June 13, 2015. We will be paddling the Belle River that morning to celebrate the Belle River Watershed Plan. More details to follow on the home page of the Blueways website.
I used GIS to identify potential parcels for increased access by using the aerial and parcel layer.
Where else can you paddle near Freighters?
ADA access in St. Clair County
Five ADA Launches, thanks to St. Clair County PARC.

Existing;
7th Street Bridge – City of Port Huron
Bakers Field- Port Huron Twp.
Chrysler Beach – Marysville
North River Road Park- Ft. Gratiot
St. Clair Boat Harbor – St. Clair
Future launches are possible at:

- Woodsong Park, Clyde Twp
- Marine City Dredge Cut, Algonac
- Springborn Road, East China Twp
- Wadham's Bridge, Kimball Twp
- Fred Mieselbach Park, St. Clair Twp
- Clay Twp; North Channel or Bouvier Bay
I am using Arc GIS as a resource. For instance, Clay Township wants a new Blueway on Harsens Island, along the Krispin Drain. I can make a working map to show drain locations, existing Blueway routes and water bodies. I also take into consideration the international shipping channel and the international border.
There are 12 Committee members on the Blueways Committee. We began in May 2013 and so far we have created a Blueways Route application and planned the National Water Trail dedication event.

In the future we want to have a ‘Heros on the Water’ paddle for injured military, and address unimproved water access points (usually along road right of ways). We also need to lookout for and apply for grants to improve water access points as well as parks with water access. An immediate need we have for all our Blueways is signage.
A tech-savvy public will use available maps to promote their own events. To the right is the flyer for the first year of the Paddle and Pour (2012), and 32 people came. In 2013, over 150 people participated, and in September of 2014 over 400 people showed up! The event is put on by the Blue Water Social Club.
The Blueways website has won two awards since 2012!
- The Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded the Blueways website the Planning Excellence Award for ‘Innovation in Regional Planning’ in 2012
- Then, in 2013 the Michigan Recreation and Park Association awarded the project an Award in the category of ‘Marketing – Website for 2012’.
The Blueways of St. Clair
Organization · Social Services · Government Organization

What have you been up to?

The Blueways of St. Clair added 5 new photos.
March 10 at 11:19am
The National Water Trail Program

The National Water Trail Program highlights exemplary water trails that meet seven Best Management Practices:

- Recreation Opportunities
- Education
- Conservation
- Community Support
- Public Information
- Trail Maintenance
- Planning
We had our National Water Trail Dedication Event on May 10, 2014. We had a great crowd and 81 paddlers in the water to participate in a Poker Paddle with eight stops.
The Island Loop Route became one of only 14 National Water Trails in the nation in 2013.

We have the first National Water Trail in the State of Michigan!
As a result of the National Water Trail designation, we have created a No Wake map of the Trail in response to requests from law enforcement, kayak outfitters and residents.
How will it benefit our area?

The Island Loop Route National Water Trail is one of only 14 in the nation, and the very first in the state of Michigan! Becoming a part of the National Water Trail Program will help our region by:

- bringing in paddlers and tourists...$$$
- increase our funding and assistance for water trail projects
- assistance with stewardship and sustainability projects
- national promotion and visibility
- mutual support an knowledge sharing as a part of the national network
- increased protection for outdoor recreation and water resources
Robert Wilson, with a Google Trekker, at Island Loop Route National Water Trail, in Michigan.
Lori J. Eschenburg  
PlannerII/GIS  
St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
200 Grand River, Suite 202  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
810.989.6950

• For more information on the NWT program, go to [http://www.nps.gov/WaterTrails/](http://www.nps.gov/WaterTrails/)  
• Visit the Blueways of St. Clair website at [www.BluewaysOfStClair.org](http://www.BluewaysOfStClair.org)  