

**Cass River Greenway
2020 – Year in Review
By CRG Chairman, Robert Zeilinger**



Cass River Greenway
c/o 240 w. Genesee St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Organized in 2007, the Cass River Greenway has now been working for over a decade to increase recreational use and improve the environmental well being of the Cass River.

Goals Developed by the Cass River Greenway Committee:

- Develop Recreation Opportunities on the Cass River and along its corridor
- Encourage Preservation of Wildlife Habitat and Critical Natural Lands
- Improve Water Quality of the Cass River

Due to the Covid pandemic, only one Cass River Greenway meeting was held and it occurred on March 4, 2020. All subsequent CRG organized activities were canceled through the end of the year. Below are some activities that had been in progress and continue to be pursued on an individual basis.

Cass River Log Jam

As reported previously, the log jam is located downstream of Bridgeport's Davis Park launch and upstream of the M-13 Cass River Boat launch. The nearest road for access is Studor Road. Drone photos have been taken and are available.

Bill Wheeler is leading the planning effort. To date he has secured riparian owner permission to access the log jam. Bill has talked to contractors and currently has a quote of \$25,000 for removal. EGLE will be contacted for permits, and fundraising has begun. The best-case scenario would be removal this winter when the ground is frozen and firm to support the equipment.

Sturgeon Release

This year's event was closed to the public, but 250 small sturgeon were once again released in the Cass River, as well as three other Saginaw River tributaries.

Caro Dam

The Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation continues the lead the efforts to purchase the failed Caro dam. The plan includes repairing the dam, restoring Lake Caro and developing a portage path around the dam so paddling can occur from the Caro Chippewa Landing downstream to other established access sites.

Camp Tuscola Property Acquisition

The Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission is requesting transfer of ownership from the Michigan Land Bank of riverfront property located in Indianfields Township. The long-range plan would include development of a public park and kayak launch access to the Cass River. This development would then provide the first downstream access site below the Caro Chippewa Landing.

This project would also enable us to expand the Cass River WaterTrail upstream to Caro, and hopefully beyond.

A special thank you to our partner federal, state and county agencies, our donors and grant funders, our partner municipalities and universities, and our faithful volunteers.

