

**Cass River Greenway  
2022 – 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 been working 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

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Paddle & Swim**

This year's event was held on June 19. Similar to previous events, the paddle from Vassar and Tuscola to Frankenmuth was well attended with many paddlers and a few swimmers.

**Great Lakes Rendezvous**

The annual event was held in Davis Park, Bridgeport, on August 19 -21.

**Lake Sturgeon Releases**

The restoration of lake sturgeon in the Saginaw Bay continues annually, sponsored primarily by US Fish & Wildlife and MI DNR. The releases occur at the Cass, Flint, Shiawassee and Tittabawassee Rivers. St. Lorenz Lutheran School participates in the Sturgeon in the Classroom Program annually (one fish) and two releases of approximately 500 fish each are released in August and September.

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cass River Clean-up**

The committee decided that a formal river clean up was not needed since we have basically covered the entire length of the Cass River. Specific items located will be dealt with.

**Cass River Log Jam Removal**

The committee recognizes that log jams are an ongoing concern and that large log jams can be very expensive to remove. The committee is interested in improving timely feedback regarding small blockages in the river so action can be taken before they form into large jams.

## **2021 Phragmites Plan**

Once again, we received support from the Tuscola County Road Commission regarding phragmites control. The TCRC allocated funding to treat phragmites in a Cass River Watershed township

### **Potential Up-stream Launch Activity**

#### **-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.

#### **-Land Transfer, Tuscola County Parks**

Tuscola County has obtained title to three parcels along the Cass River in the vicinity of Chambers and Washburn Roads, in Indianfields Township. Many remember this property as part of the abandoned prison and hospital properties. The property has been assigned to the Tuscola County Parks & Rec Commission for development and administration. The long-range plan includes development of a public park and kayak launch. This launch would be the next upstream launch from our M-46 launch.

#### **-Potential Cass City Launch**

Discussions continue regarding the potential of a kayak launch in the Cass City area. A kayak launch is now included in the Cass City Parks & Rec Master Plan.

#### **-Evergreen Park, Sanilac County**

Sanilac County Parks Commission is planning the expansion and addition of a kayak launch at their existing Evergreen Park. This park is located upstream of Cass City.

#### **-Cass City State Game Area**

A river access site in the Cass City State Game Area, which is downstream of Evergreen Park, has been suggested. This would be a very rustic “walk in access” site located upstream of Cass City.

### **Cass River Water Trail Coalition**

A Cass River Water Trail Coalition was formed in 2019. Membership includes the “owners” of the various water trail launch sites. Their mission is to maintain and promote the watertrail. Three meeting were held in 2022. Activities in 2022 included:

State Water Trail Designation – an application was submitted in 2021 and is still in process of being evaluated.

Log jam maintenance – this topic continues to be explored for potential future funding and management to minimize future cost.

M-46 Launch – the parking lot was refurbished and an erosion problem occurring on the pathway was corrected.

M-13 Boat Launch – a Cass River Water Trail kiosk was installed and the parking lot was upgraded.

Wickes Park – a walking/biking path was added to the park at the launch area and the roadway was eliminated.

**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.**

