

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
May 15.2024
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Upcoming Events on the Cass River

- Free fishing weekend, June 8 & 9
- Annual Paddle & Swim, June 22 (email to follow)
- Christmas on the Cass River Kayaks, August 3
- Great Lakes Rendezvous, Davis Park, Bridgeport, August 16-18
- Lake Sturgeon Releases, August _ and September_ TBD

Cass River Launch Projects

-Evergreen Park, Sanilac County. Roger Ballard reported that a contractor for the project has been selected and work will begin this year. The park is located on the South Branch of the Cass River near the M-53 Cass River bridge. The \$700,000 project will provide a significant upgrade to the park including a floating kayak launch.

-Cass City State Game Area. A rustic launch site with walk in access has been completed. Grant requests to purchase and install a roadside sign is in process.

-Caro Dam. US Fish & Wildlife has granted the EDC money to conduct an assessment to identify options for future considerations. More information should be available later this summer.

-The Parcels. This development is located at the site previously used as a correctional facility and state hospital, off Chambers Road and M-81. Nothing new to report at this time.

-Beyer Road Launch. This project began last summer. The scope includes clearing out dead trees and brush and repairing some steps that have been torn out and damaged by ice and flooding over the years. Clearing the trees is complete. Prefabrication of replacement steps off-site is complete. Installation will occur this summer when the river level is low and the bank is dry.

Water Quality Monitoring Project

Monitoring four tributary creeks (Dead, Cole, Perry and Millington Creeks) to test for e-coli will be completed this summer. These creeks have been previously designated as having “high” e-coli levels in past DEQ conducted studies. The intent of this project is to determine the source of the e-coli (human origin or animal origin). The results of the study should provide insight into the best plan of action to reduce e-coli and attain safe levels of this pollutant.

Saginaw Bay Area CISSMA

Stephanie Hoyle, director of this organization, provided an overview of their activities. In addition to providing resources to control invasive species, the CISMA group provides various training workshops such as; Paddling Safety Training, Invasive Species Identification and Control, and Boat Wash Events. To learn more about them look up their website.

Phragmites Control

Tuscola County Road Commission has again budgeted \$2000 to treat roadside phragmites in our Cass River Watershed. The TCRC has been a consistent supporter for this effort and we sincerely appreciate their support.

Log Jam and Clean Up Reports

There were no reports of log jams that needed attention. There were no reports of clean up issues, therefore there is no formal river clean up planned for this year.

Sivak’s Kayak Livery

After the meeting it was learned that Sivak’s Livery located in Vassar was no longer in business.

Next Meeting: TBD

Bob Zeilinger
May 21, 2024