

Lower Greenway  
**Trail Guide**  
Bike  
Hike  
Paddle  
Play



# Cass River Water Trail

Vassar to Bridgeport

## Access Site Locations

- 1 Cass River Boat Launch at East Road/M-13
- 2 Davis Park, Bridgeport
- 3 Beyer Road Bridge
- 4 Frankenmuth Rock Ramp
- 5 Memorial Park Boat Launch, Frankenmuth
- 6 Cass River Canoe Launch, Frankenmuth
- 7 Tuscola Township Park
- 8 T North Pavilion, Vassar
- 9 Riverfront Park, Vassar

## Trail Facts

- 27.2 Miles from Site 9 to 1
- Average paddlers travel 2.5 miles per hour on the river
- 1 Obstacle Dam/Rock Ramp

[www.cassriver.org](http://www.cassriver.org)

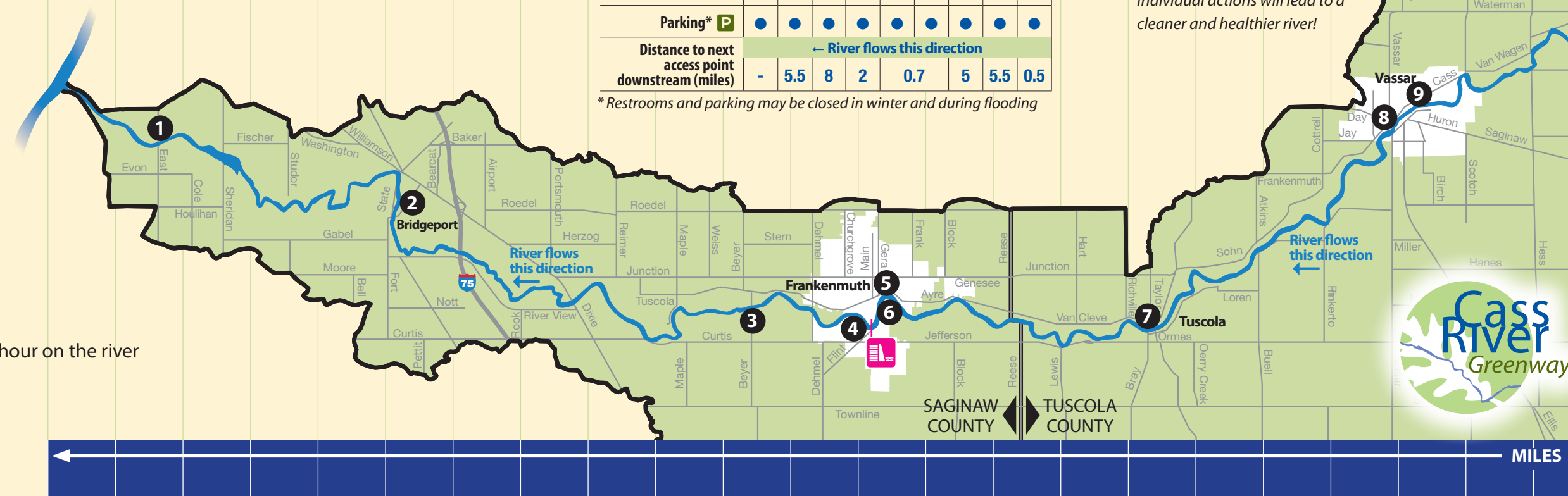
## Access Sites

The access sites noted on this map are all on public land but in various states of improvement. It is a goal of the Cass River Greenway to improve access sites and launch facilities to include parking, docks, restrooms, handicapped access, signage, trash receptacles, etc.

## Access Site Amenities

|  | 1 | 2   | 3 | 4 | 5   | 6 | 7   | 8   | 9 |
|--|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|-----|-----|---|
| Camping  |   |     |   |   |     |   |     |     | ● |
| Restrooms*                                       |   | ●   |   |   |     | ● | ●   | ●   | ● |
| Playground                                       |   | ●   |   |   |     | ● | ●   | ●   | ● |
| Picnic Area                                      |   | ●   | ● |   | ●   | ● |     | ●   | ● |
| Picnic Pavilion                                  |   | ●   |   |   |     | ● |     | ●   | ● |
| Parking*   | ● | ●   | ● | ● | ●   | ● | ●   | ●   | ● |
| Distance to next access point downstream (miles) | - | 5.5 | 8 | 2 | 0.7 | 5 | 5.5 | 0.5 |   |

\* Restrooms and parking may be closed in winter and during flooding



## "Take only pictures. Leave only footprints."

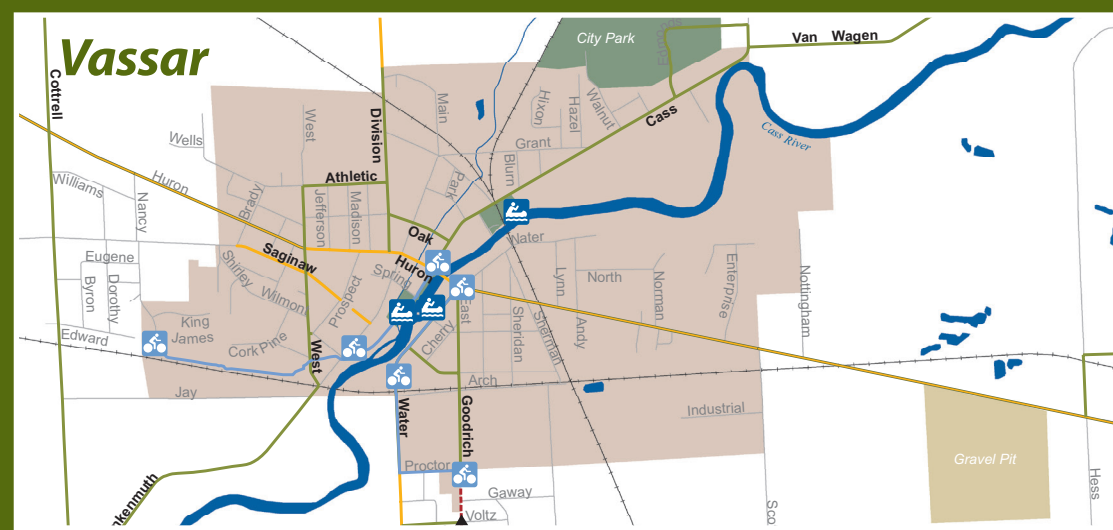
Always collect your trash before you depart from a stop, even biodegradable items such as apple cores and orange peels. Trash bags should always be part of your gear. Make it a habit to pick up an extra bit of litter on each trip. Individual actions will lead to a cleaner and healthier river!



## Sharing the Resource

The Cass River Greenway attracts many different types of recreational users including fisherman, boaters, bird watchers, and cyclists. It is important that all recreational users understand and abide by a few simple guidelines:

- Know the boundaries of public and private lands. Respect public as well as private property – please be considerate of the privacy and rights of landowners and do not enter private land unless you have prior permission from the property owner.
- Respect wildlife and learn through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a "better look". Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife so keep your group small.
- Be courteous and respectful of others. Respect their SPACE, PRIVACY, and SOLITUDE while on the river, in camp, on hikes and at boat ramps. Respect anglers' water – boaters should look ahead for anglers, both on the shore and in the water, and give them a wide berth, passing by quietly.



## Rediscovering the Cass River

In 1831, Alex de Tocqueville, a reporter for a Paris newspaper, was sent to America, to write about the edge of civilization, "the last frontier," wherein his travels brought him to Saginaw, Michigan. On that trip he wrote his impressions of the Cass River:

*"A turf covered point projecting above the river in the shade of great trees served us as a table and we sat down to luncheon with a view of the river whose waters clear as crystal, snaked through the wood."*

Wouldn't it be great to see the Cass River crystal clear again? That in part is what motivated the establishment of the Cass River Greenway.

The Cass River Greenway is an effort organized by a group of local volunteers, assisted by professional resources and municipal leaders, working to enhance recreational opportunities and the environmental well-being of the Cass River Corridor.

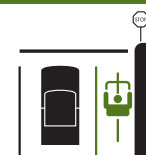
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## Bicycling Tips

**Obey  
All Signs  
& Traffic  
Lights**



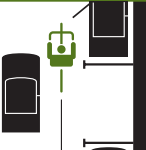
Bicycles must be driven like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists. Never ride against traffic.

**Use  
Hand  
Signals**



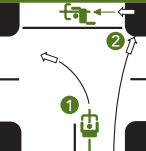
Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. For turn signals, point in the direction of your turn. Signal as a matter of courtesy and safety and as required by law.

**Ride  
Consistently**



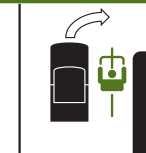
Ride as close as practical to the right. Exceptions: when travelling at the normal speed of traffic, avoiding hazardous conditions, preparing to make a left turn, or using a one-way street.

**Chose the  
Best Way to  
Turn Left**



There are two ways to make a left turn: 1) Like an auto: look back, signal, move into the left lane, and turn left. 2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far-side crosswalk, then walk your bike across, or queue up in the traffic lane.

**Use  
Caution  
When  
Passing**



Motorists may not see you on their right, so stay out of the driver's "blind spot." Be very careful when overtaking cars while in a bike lane; drivers don't always signal when turning. Also be alert for: car doors opening & cars pulling out from side streets or driveways.

**Avoid  
Road  
Hazards**



Watch for sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, gravel and ice. Cross railroad tracks at right angles. For better control as you move across bumps and other hazards, stand up on your pedals.

**Ride  
a Well-  
Equipped  
Bike**



Outfit your bike with a good bike lock, tool kit, fenders, and bike bags. You should use a strong head-light (visible from 500') and rear reflector (visible from 600') at night and when visibility is poor.

**Dress  
Appropriately**



Wear a hard-shell helmet whenever you ride. Wear light-colored clothes at night. Make yourself as visible as possible.

**Go Slow on  
Sidewalks**



Pedestrians have the right of way on walkways. You must give an audible warning when you pass. Cross driveways and intersections at a walker's pace and look carefully for traffic. Cyclists are not allowed to ride on sidewalks in many Michigan communities.

## Regional Bike Routes

This map offers a range of bicycling options for commuting and recreational activities including on, off street and multi-use path options. Choose the route that is best for you, depending on the purpose of your trip, your riding ability, comfort, weather conditions and time of day.

This map covers the Cass River Greenway from Bridgeport to Vassar and shows all on-street bike routes, striped bike lanes, and off-street trails. It also lists some streets preferred by area bicyclists, but without any special accommodations.

### Multi-Use Paths, Pedestrians and Bikes

Multi-use paths are great places to walk and bike without having to worry about cars, trucks or buses. But, please do think about the other path users, and remember these guidelines:

- Slower traffic has the right of way
- Use a moderate speed on paths, especially around slower users
- Keep right, except when passing
- If walking in a group, allow room for others to pass
- When biking, use an audible warning when passing a bike or pedestrian (a friendly "ding" of a bell or a cheerful "on your left")
- Obey all trail and road signs, and use care where city streets intersect with paths

### Sidewalks and Bikes

Many people consider sidewalks a safe place to ride a bicycle. Unfortunately, sidewalks aren't all that safe. Trees, parked cars and buildings can create blind spots, pedestrians can step sideways suddenly, a child or animal can run into your path. And cars do use sidewalks — at every cross street and driveway. If you must, ride slowly on sidewalks and travel about the speed of pedestrians. Please pay special attention to local ordinances as it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk in many Michigan communities.

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- Multi-Use Path:** Closed to motor vehicles
- Bike Lanes:** Designated bike lane or shoulders, usually on higher traffic streets
- Shared Roadway:** On lower traffic streets
- Shared Roadway - Unpaved:** On lower traffic or unpaved surface roads
- Shared Roadway - Difficult Connection:** Moderate traffic street with sight distance limitations and higher speeds
- Shared Roadway with Wide Shoulder:** On moderate and higher traffic street
- Difficult Connection:** In areas with higher speeds and/or volumes, combined with narrow lane widths or other problems for cyclists
- Scenic Routes:** Areas of natural beauty
- Area of Interest:** Downtown business area, historic corridor or other area of local interest
- Heritage Route:** Designated as a route of historical/cultural significance

- City**
- Villages**
- Recreation Areas**
- Conservation Areas**
- Other Open Space Areas**
- Roads**
- Railroads**
- County Boundaries**
- Rivers**
- Lakes and Ponds**
- Water Trail Launch Area**

### In Case of Emergency...

For all emergencies (Law Enforcement, Fire, Ambulance) in the Cass River area, dial **911**. In order for emergency responders to locate you quickest, please be aware of your location at all times, particularly what county you are in (Saginaw or Tuscola). Secondly, please pay attention to nearby roads and how far you are from the nearest cross road. This will make it much easier and quicker for dispatchers to send the appropriate responders to your location.