The Pine River Canoe Trail

The Pine River is a gentle stream, with some sections of swift water, passing through flood plain forests and open farmlands. Paddling is easiest in the spring and fall when higher water makes the stream more navigable. Some portages due to fallen trees are likely. Additional promotional materials such as guide books and interpretive signage along the river.

Please Use the River Wisely

Leave No Trace
Glass, Styrofoam, fishing line, and other trash pose hazards to wildlife and other users of the watershed. When paddling, tie loose items into the boat or tubes to prevent erosion. Join or organize a river clean-up day.

Respect Private Property
Much of the land within the watershed is privately held. Unless an area is designated for public use, keep paddling.

Enjoy and Respect Wildlife
The watershed sustains abundant wildlife. Take time to notice its variety and keep all wildlife at a respectful distance. Look up - you may see an eagle or osprey.

Value Vegetation
The many plants, grasses, mosses, trees and shrubs of the watershed serve the entire ecosystem in many ways. Tread lightly; avoid picking plants and flowers, and use stairs and trails to prevent erosion.

Think Safety
Wear a personal flotation device when on the water. Avoid parking on busy roads with narrow shoulders. Tell someone of your paddling plans and when you expect to return. Call 911 if you or someone else is in need of emergency assistance.

The Pine River Map Project

With the help of a $2,200 grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation, the Friends of the Pine River has updated a 1974 map of the Pine River Canoe Trail in Gratiot County. The new map makes paddlers accurate distances and times and along with current information on canoe launches, access sites, parking and amenities. The map highlights the river’s unique natural and cultural history as it travels through northwestern Gratiot County to the dam in Alma.

Project Partners

Future projects include the development of additional canoe launches, expansion of the trail, invasive species removal, riverbank stabilization and additional promotional materials such as guide books and interpretive signage along the river.

Sponsor

The Pine River Map Project

Founded in October 2010, Friends of the Pine River is an ad-hoc group of interested community members. We work to protect the watershed, improve its quality and wildlife habitat. To find out more about the Pine River Map Project, please visit www.FriendsOfPineRiver.org.

Please visit www.FriendsOfPineRiver.org for more information. Please credit us at (989) 252-7778 or online at Facebook friends of the Pine River.
Safety Disclaimer:
Paddling poses significant potential hazards including risk of injury or death and each person participating in this activity needs to understand the risks involved, obtain the necessary training and take all needed precautions. Users must proceed with care as many sections of the river remain isolated and undeveloped. Paddling is often challenging due to downed trees and infrequent use. This map is a guide. None of the partner organizations or individuals associated with this project makes any representation and specifically disallows any reliance on any statement contained herein, nor assumes any responsibility or liability for property damage, injury, loss or death resulting directly or indirectly from the use of this guide, websites, links or paddling in the area.

Contact Numbers:
Emergency – 911
Gratiot County Central Dispatch (989) 875-7505
Gratiot County Parks & Recreation (989) 875-5278
http://www.gratiotmi.com/Departments/Parks

Printed December 2012

Access Sites
1. Lumberjack Park ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.81
2. Riverdale ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.85
3. Elm Hall ★ ★ ★ ★ limited access 3.41
4. McBride-Harrison Rd. ★ ★ ★ ★ roadside 2.55
5. Sumner ★ ★ ★ ★ 12.10
6. W. Tyler Rd. ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.81
7. W. Harrison Rd. ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.48
8. N. Luce Rd. ★ ★ ★ ★ 1.30
9. Pine River Park ★ ★ ★ ★ 0.00

Legend
Legend

Hazard
Access Site
Provisions
County Line
City Boundary

Mileage
Madison to Monroe 1.66
Monroe to Jackson 1.15
Jackson to FH 0.67
FH to Lincoln 0.76
Lincoln to Lumberjack 0.66
Lumberjack to Van Buren 0.76
Van Buren to County Line 0.65
County Line to McBrides 0.94
McBrides to Hills 1.82
Hills to County Line 0.08
County Line to Lumberjack 0.97
Lumberjack to St. Charles 1.50
St. Charles to Ferris 1.00
Ferris to Burtfield 1.60
Burtfield to St. Charles 1.27
St. Charles to Folk 4.79
Folk to Tyler 3.35
Tyler to Harrison 2.81
Harrison to Luce 2.48
Luce to State 1.30

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