

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.

Provisions may be purchased at three places, all within walking distance: Riverdale Tavern is near the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy's Stearns Preserve; Elm Hall's The Store is 1/4 mile east of Van Buren Road bridge; and Sumner's Wilson's Grocery is 1/4 mile east of the first W. St. Charles Road bridge.

Lumberjack Park is an actual lumberjack camp from the 1800's, but is now a privately owned park, open to the public. Paddling from the put-in on Madison Road to Alma takes about two days.

Located at the north end of Riverdale, the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail offers biking and hiking opportunities with a paved parking area on the east side of Lumberjack Road/ Main Street. On the other side of the street is a small picnic pavilion.

Elm Hall possesses the smallest Post Office in the nation. It is located on Lumberjack road three blocks east and one block north of the Van Buren Road bridge.

Sumner Centennial Park, located just before the W. St. Charles bridge on the left side of the river, was established in 1968 in celebration of Sumner's centennial. The river turns north downstream of Sumner. This curve indicates the southernmost point of the last glacier.

Pine River Park is the final access site above the dam in Alma on the trail. The park was established in the 1930's by the Gratiot County Conservation League, and is maintained by the City of Alma. Containing picnic facilities and a nature trail, this park is located two blocks south of downtown, where one can find a variety of dining and shopping opportunities.

The Pine River Map Project

With the help of a \$2,000 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 gives paddlers accurate distances and times 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.

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.

Project Partners



Sponsor



Founded in October 2010, Friends of the Pine River is an ad-hoc group of interested stakeholders consisting of governmental, university, nonprofit and private individuals, all of whom wish to promote the Pine River as a recreation resource. We work to protect the watershed, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, to limit erosion and to support recreational use of the Pine River in Gratiot County. For more information, please contact us at (989) 875-5278 or find us on facebook at Friends of the Pine River.

Friends of the Pine 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 keep gear and trash from floating away. 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.

A Multi-Use Waterway

Within a small portion of the watershed you may find canoeists, kayakers, tubers, anglers in motorized boats, and swimmers, as well as hikers, anglers and bird watchers along its banks. Avoid paddling over fishing lines, motoring too close to swimmers and smaller boats, and frightening wildlife. Avoid loud and inappropriate language. Respect everyone's right to enjoy the watershed.

Preserve and Protect

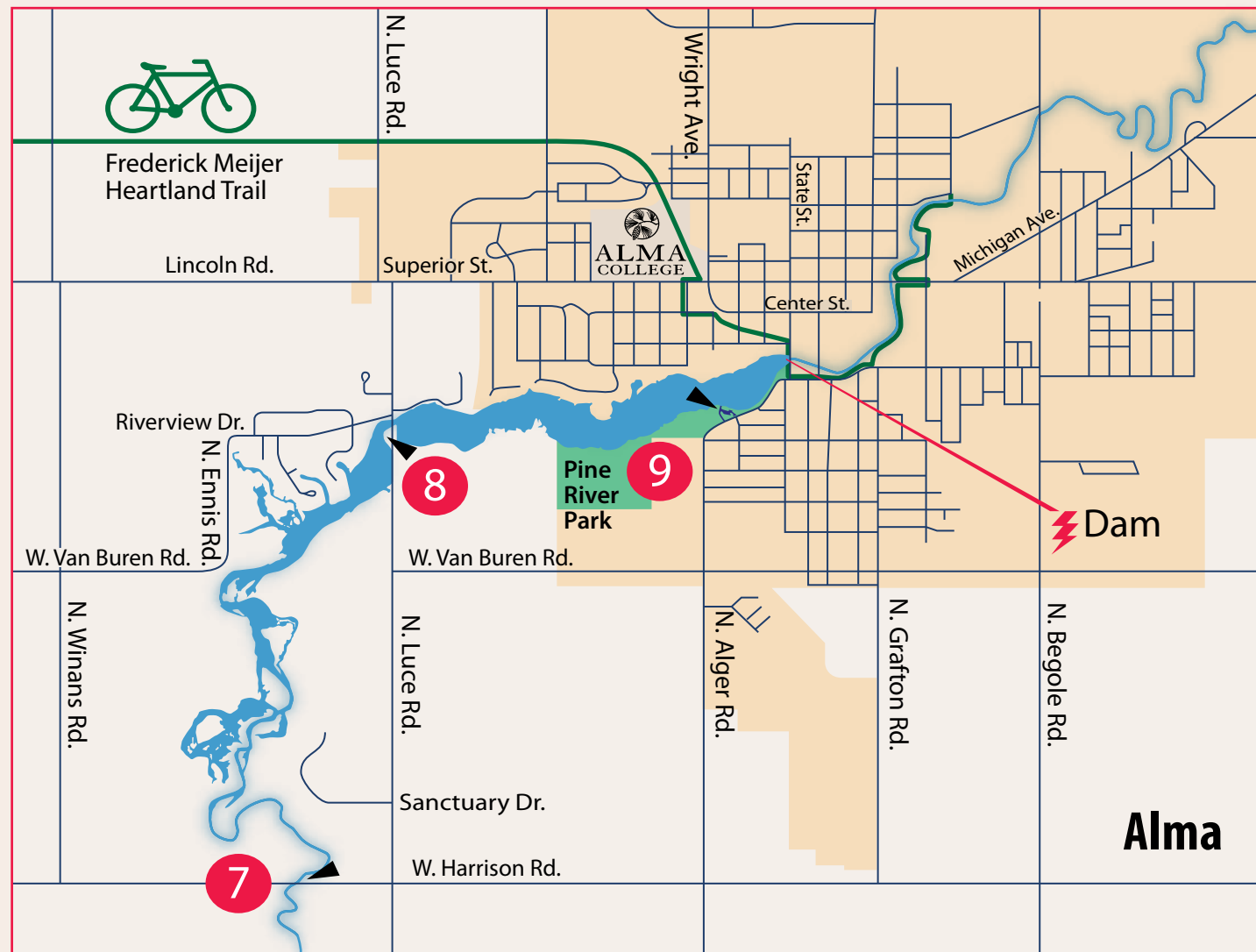
Give back to the watershed. Consider joining a conservancy and be a part of protecting in perpetuity the resource you love. If you own land within the watershed and want to see it preserved for generations to come, consider donation options, or a conservation easement.

Poison Ivy



Leaves of Three?

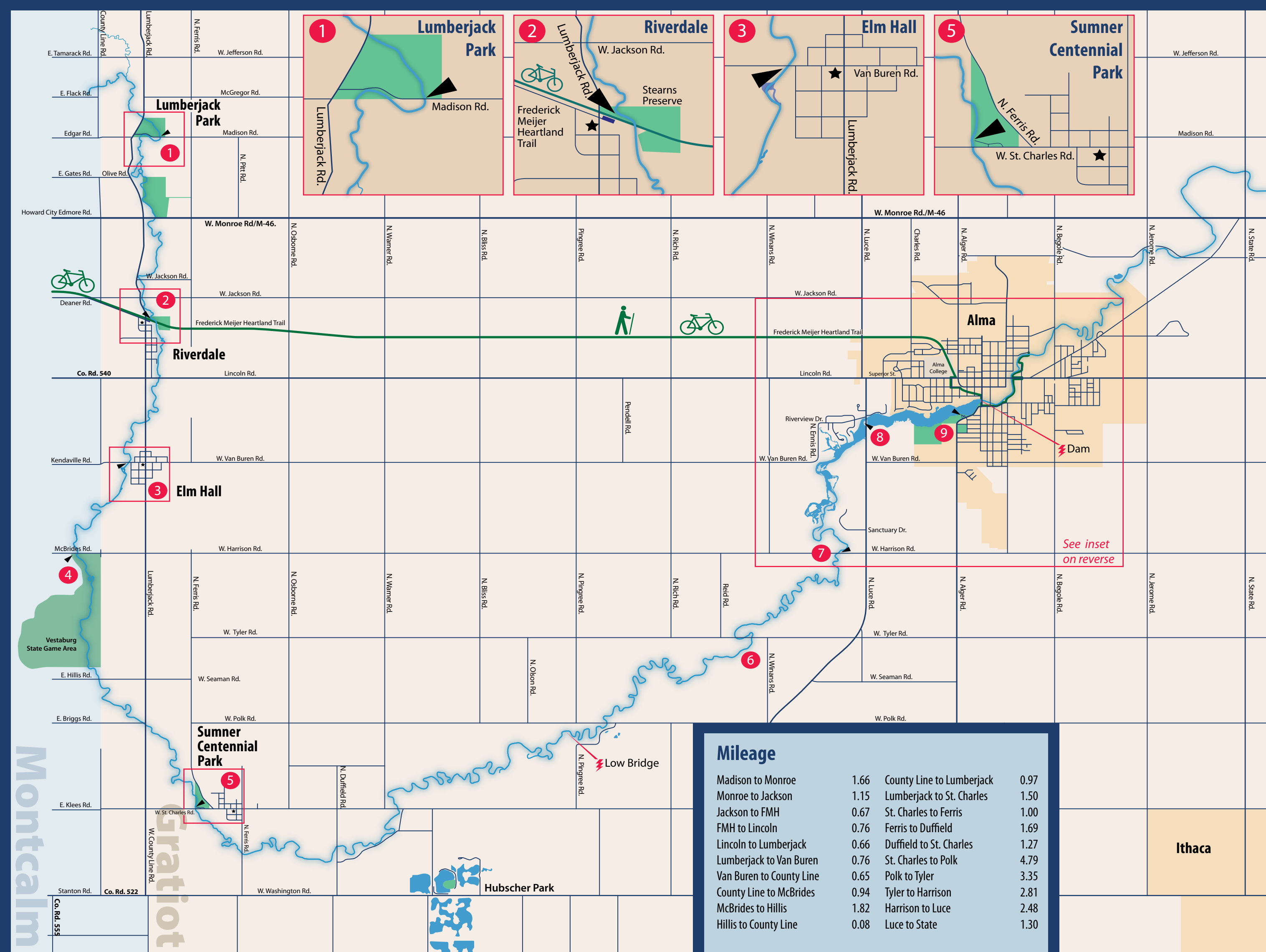
Let Them Be!



Gratiot County's Pine River Canoe Trail

Lumberjack Park to Alma
2nd Edition





Access Sites

	Put-In	Restroom	Bridge	Parking Lot	Miles to Next Access
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.				roadside	2.81
7 W. Harrison Rd.	◆				2.48
8 N. Luce Rd.	◆		◆		1.30
9 Pine River Park	◆	◆		◆	0.00

Legend

- Hazard
- Access Site
- Provisions
- County Line
- Parks
- City Boundary

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>

Mileage

Madison to Monroe	1.66	County Line to Lumberjack	0.97
Monroe to Jackson	1.15	Lumberjack to St. Charles	1.50
Jackson to FMH	0.67	St. Charles to Ferris	1.00
FMH to Lincoln	0.76	Ferris to Duffield	1.69
Lincoln to Lumberjack	0.66	Duffield to St. Charles	1.27
Lumberjack to Van Buren	0.76	St. Charles to Polk	4.79
Van Buren to County Line	0.65	Polk to Tyler	3.35
County Line to McBrides	0.94	Tyler to Harrison	2.81
McBrides to Hillis	1.82	Harrison to Luce	2.48
Hillis to County Line	0.08	Luce to State	1.30

Ithaca