



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.

Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
www.ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org

The Little Forks Conservancy
www.LittleForks.org

Want to know how high or fast the water is flowing?
Find out online at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt> and select the Chippewa River, MI

Promotional support provided by WCZY/WMMI radio, Mount Pleasant, MI
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Contact Numbers:

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| EMERGENCY - 911 | | |
| Chippewa Nature Center | 989-631-0830 | |
| Isabella County Central Dispatch | 989-773-1000 | |
| Isabella County Parks & Recreation | 989-772-0911 x340 | |
| Mecosta County Central Dispatch | 231-796-4811 | |
| Midland County Central Dispatch | 989-839-6464 | |
| Midland County Parks & Recreation | 989-832-6874 | |
| Midland Parks and Recreation | 989-837-6930 | |
| Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation | 989-779-5331 | |

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 of the sections of the river remain isolated and undeveloped. Paddling between Sherman City and Wyman Roads, Isabella and Leaton Roads, and M-20 and Geneva Road 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.

Project Partners:

- Bay Area Community Foundation
- Central Michigan University
- Chippewa Nature Center
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
- Isabella County Community Development Department
- Isabella County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Department
- Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- The Little Forks Conservancy
- Union Charter Township
- University of Michigan-Flint

Historical Points of Interest

- Drew Dam**
A sawmill was located here according to the 1879 plat map. Much of this rock dam remains, although some rocks have been removed in the center. The water flows rapidly and it should be portaged (left).
- (Former) Gilmore Road Bridge**
Evidence of the old bridge remains visible on both sides of the river bank.
- Mt. Pleasant Mill Pond**
The site of several sawmills from the 1850s–1870s (including the Harris sawmill). Much of the original mill pond disappeared via siltation over the years. The dam was removed in 2002.
- (Former) Isabella City Dam and Indian Mills**
A sawmill, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, and the Council House of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe formed the heart of the original settlement from 1858-1888. This site served as the county seat until July 12, 1860.

Chippewa River Water Trail