

## What YOU Can Do to HELP

Public Awareness and appreciation of rivers is critical for the protection and enhancement of these resources. Preserving a river corridor through cooperative planning and management is an effective way to improve water quality, enhance aesthetic and scenic qualities, improve boating and fishing, maintain wetlands, floodplains, and wildlife habitat, and to generally improve the river experience.

### Citizens can...

- Learn about and get involved in river protection
- Organize or help with river trash cleanups
- Respect private land when using the river
- Maintain native vegetation along the river banks and in streams
- Voice concerns to State and local government officials
- Initiate or help with educational activities
- Support river management programs
- Avoid floodplain construction

### Local Governments can...

- Educate residents in proper land management
- Develop waterfront protection
- Dedicate undeveloped land and flood-prone land for parks
- Take an active role in environmentally sound planning and development

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY...

*Enjoy and protect the Grand River!*

### Grand River Expedition Sponsors & Partners:

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports; Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance; Lansing Oar and Paddle Club; Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds; Sierra Club Michigan Chapter; Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

**THANK YOU!** *Without you, the expedition would not be possible.*

## Grand River Expedition 2010 Itinerary

From the opening ceremony in Liberty to closing festivities in Grand Haven, every day will feature fun educational activities, music and camaraderie! **Please plan to join us on Grand River Expedition 2010.** Online registration open from April 15 to June 15, 2010 for Multi-Day Participants. For other options or more info see <http://www.tiny.cc/grandriverexpedition2010>

Day / Date		Start	End	Miles daily & cumulative	
Day 1	Wed July 14	Liberty	Michigan Center	0	0
Day 2	Thurs July 15	Michigan Center	Rives Junction	25	25
Day 3	Fri July 16	Rives Junction	Eaton Rapids	20	45
Day 4	Sat July 17	Eaton Rapids	Lansing	23	68
Day 5	Sun July 18	Lansing	Grand Ledge	17	85
Day 6	Mon July 19	Grand Ledge	Portland	27	112
Day 7	Tues July 20	Portland	Lyons	18	130
Day 8	Wed July 21	Lyons	Saranac	17	147
Day 9	Thurs July 22	Saranac	Ada	16.5	163.5
Day 10	Fri July 23	Ada	Grand Rapids	16.5	180
Day 11	Sat July 24	Grand Rapids	Allendale	18.8	198.8
Day 12	Sun July 25	Allendale	Nunica	11.5	210.3
Day 13	Mon July 26	Nunica	Grand Haven	14.7	225

### Important Contacts:

<http://www.tiny.cc/grandriverexpedition2010>

[grandriverexpedition2010@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverexpedition2010@gmail.com)

Chair Doug Carter at 517-627-7690

Rivermaster Charlie Parmelee at 517-589-5237



*"It takes more than water to make the River Grand!"*

July 14—26, 2010

**Grand River Expedition 2010** is a 13-day public journey of discovery to document conditions and opportunities of Michigan's Grand River and its watershed in order to foster awareness and responsibility for the River.

**This family-friendly expedition** is led by a diverse team of historians, educators, students, civic leaders, and scientists from natural resource and other professions. The Expedition team will travel by canoes, kayaks, and boats, conduct studies, and provide demonstrations, interactive displays, and exhibits to communities along the Grand River. Well known Michigan paddler Charlie Parmelee will serve as Rivermaster.

**Please join us for a day or longer!** Come for a day, a weekend, or for the whole family-friendly adventure. Children and parents can help with river studies, and learn about the Grand's history. **However you participate, it's sure to be an adventure of a lifetime!**

**Registration open April 15—June 15, 2010  
for Multi-Day Participants**  
<http://www.tiny.cc/grandriverexpedition2010>

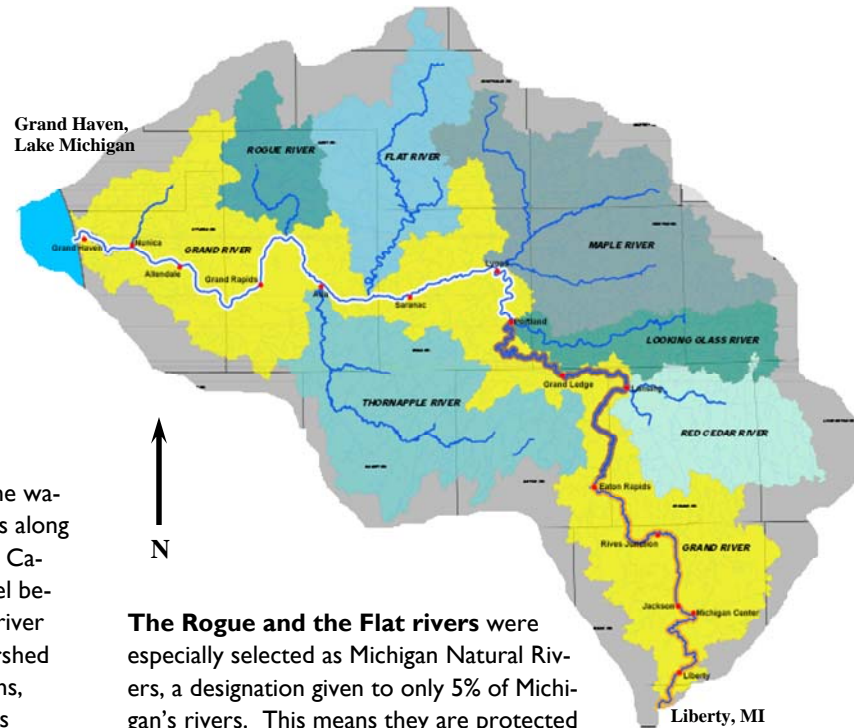
# Grand River Expedition 2010—from Liberty to Lake Michigan: July 14—26

**The Grand River Watershed**, shown at right, is the area of land that collects water from streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater, rain and snow, draining it to the Grand River and then Lake Michigan. The Grand is Michigan's longest river, flowing 260 miles from its source in Hillsdale County to Grand Haven at Lake Michigan. The watershed is the State's second largest at 5570 square miles. Major tributaries are the Portage, Red Cedar, Looking Glass, Maple, Flat, Thornapple, and Rogue rivers. The watershed is also home to three large Michigan cities: Grand Rapids, Jackson, and the capital city

**Historical and Archaeological Surveys** of the watershed have revealed numerous prehistoric sites along the Grand, including Indian villages and mounds. Canoes and flatboats were common modes of travel before roads and railroads, and the importance of river travel predates European settlement. The watershed was homesteaded from 1825 to 1840, when farms, businesses, and cities began to be established. As roads and railroads gained more use, rivers lost their prominence as avenues of travel and trade. New towns settled near road and rail junctions instead of rivers.

**Three of Michigan's four remaining** authentic covered bridges are found in the Grand watershed—two on the Flat River, and a third on the Thornapple.

**Topography and land features** of the Grand River watershed were formed 10,000—15,000 years ago. As glacial ice advanced and melted back, glacial moraines, outwash plains, and other features were left behind. These are evident in the topography today. Glacial debris is the parent material of present-day clay soils, which vary from fine textured clays in the northeast, medium textured in the central and southern areas, to sandy soils in the northern and western areas of the watershed.



**The Rogue and the Flat rivers** were especially selected as Michigan Natural Rivers, a designation given to only 5% of Michigan's rivers. This means they are protected through combined state and local efforts that assure appropriate use of the river corridors.

**Outdoor recreation within the Grand River** watershed is closely associated with its water resources. Public land and access points to water are plentiful. These include several state game and recreation areas, state parks, numerous county, city, and township parks, walkways, and public fishing sites. Private facilities like marinas, golf courses, ski areas, and campgrounds also provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities.

**The Grand supports a wide variety of fish and wildlife.** The River is home to around 70 species of fish. There is excellent fishing for bass, northern pike, walleye, black crappie, bluegill, bullhead, catfish, suckers, and carp. Salmon and steelhead are present in spring and fall spawning runs, and many tributaries are designated trout streams.

**The Grand River watershed boasts a diversity of nongame species** including song birds, shore birds, like the Great Blue Heron, raptors, reptiles, and amphibians. Species on Michigan's endangered/ threatened/special concern list include the common loon, Cooper's hawk, American bittern, bald eagle, eastern box turtle, Blanchard's cricket frog, and many other animal and plant species. The Grand supports a diverse freshwater mussel fauna, some of the most threatened forms of aquatic life because of their sensitivity to poor water quality and susceptibility to poaching.

**There are many species of ducks** and Canada geese to be found in wetlands and waters throughout the watershed. Ruffed grouse, quail, and ring-necked pheasant are often found in upland areas, while mammals such as white-tail deer, raccoons, squirrels, mink, beaver, cottontail rabbits, red fox and muskrat are common throughout.

**Despite remarkable improvements** in the Grand's overall environment over the last few decades, some parts of the river and its tributaries exhibit many problems typical of populated river basins. Industrial and commercial uses, agricultural activities, residential development, and stream channel alterations (dams, diversions, channelization) have resulted in the alteration of flood flows, elimination of important wetlands, increased bank erosion and sedimentation, and other non-point source pollution problems. Sewage overflows during high-precipitation storms are still a problem. All these impacts combine to reduce water quality, and the aesthetic, recreational, and resource values. **The good news is** that projects are underway to remove these untreated sewage inputs, with the last project (Lansing) scheduled for completion by 2020.