

THE LIVING GRAND CURRENT REPORT



URBANWATERS

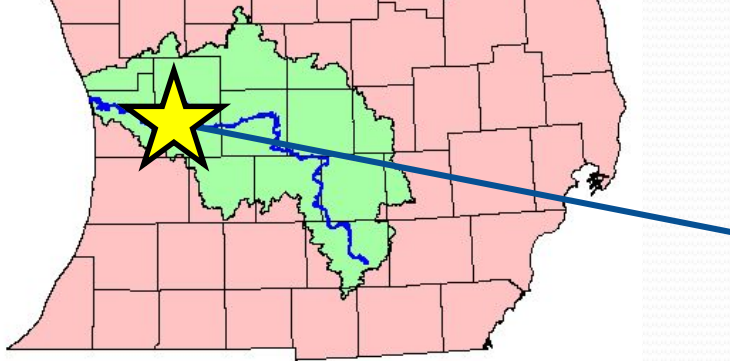
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The partnership offers an opportunity to realize urban waterway and watershed revitalization goals that are larger than, and beyond the resources of any individual community, agency, or mission.
-- Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Grand River Watershed, Michigan

- 270 river miles
- Longest river in Michigan
- Tributary to Lake Michigan
- 4,900 square-mile watershed



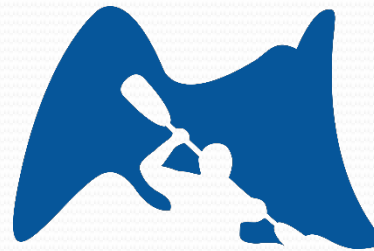
Grand Rapids

Grand River Restoration Project Location

- 5 river miles
- 1,300 acres
- 18-foot drop in 2.5 miles
- All within the City of Grand Rapids



Primary Project Partners



Grand Rapids
WhiteWater



CITY OF
GRAND
RAPIDS



Engineers | Architects | Scientists | Constructors



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Project Goals



- Restore the rapids for everyone
- Improve habitat and connectivity, water quality, riparian functions
- Launch significant public & private investment in the Grand River Corridor
- Improvements to trails, parks, green spaces along East & West Banks of the Grand River

Permitting

Numerous regulators

- Michigan EGLE/EPA (formerly MDEQ) is the primary permitting agency
- The Great Lakes Fishery Commission will determine the site of the lamprey barrier

Substantial issues

- Flood control
- The invasive species --Sea lamprey escapement
- The endangered species – snuff box mussel
- Fish Passage
- Hydraulic modeling
- Wetland and environmental impact



Biggest Challenges

- Distinguishing Grand Rapids from “whitewater” projects
- Multiple and conflicting regulatory processes
- Understaffing/overwork of governmental employees - lack of experience with like projects, and inability to lock in on recommended approach

Permitting Status

- Biological Assessment for the Endangered Mussels -- GRWW and the City submitted the BA to USFWS on June 9, 2020. In Formal Consultation, Biological Opinion expected by October 22, 2020.
- Watershed Project Plan/Environmental Assessment (WPP/EA) – the Grand Valley Metro Council, City of Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Whitewater submitted this document to the Natural Resources Conservation Service on September 21, 2020.
- Final preparations underway to submit state permit application to Michigan Department of Energy Great Lakes and Environment (EGLE) in October 2020.
- Goal: Begin construction of lower reach in July of 2021.

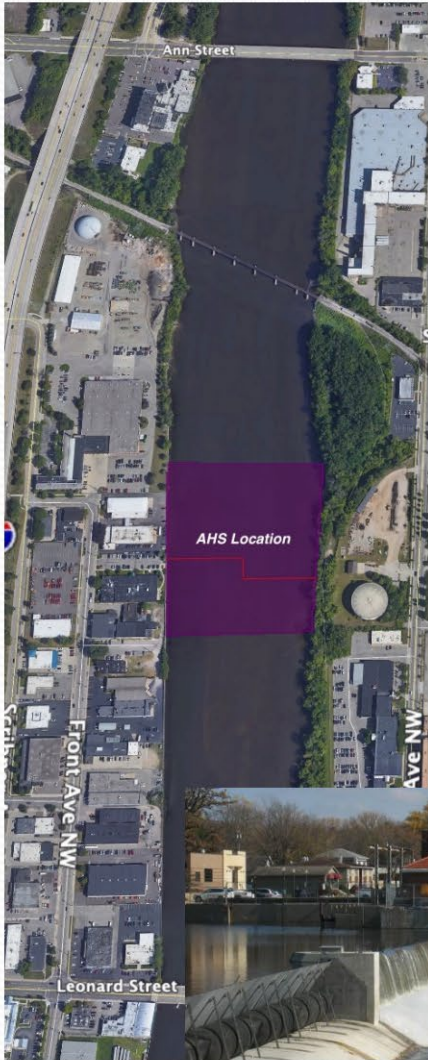
Update on Lower Reach Bridge Street to Fulton Street



- \$8 million Federal awarded for instream habitat improvements and farmland conservation practices -- \$4.1 million of which will be used as part of the Grand River Restoration Project.
- Remove four smaller beautification Dams
- Import rocks/boulders to improve habitat and enhance recreational opportunities



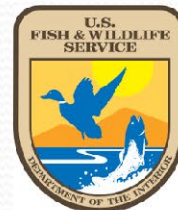
Construction of Proposed Adjustable Hydraulic Structure (AHS) Phase II



- Priorities of the AHS: Public Safety/Flood Control, Sea Lamprey Control, Fish Passage, Recreation
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission now contracting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build the lamprey barrier.
- The \$19.5M structure will be built entirely with federal dollars with the exception of \$148,000 in private dollars to support the environmental permitting process
- Project partners include:



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Sixth Street Dam to I-196 Phase III



- Removal of Sixth Street Dam
- Enhanced recreational opportunities
- Restructuring river channel to provide increased habitat and improved fish passage
- Fish Ladder will remain and likely still used to pass fish



Project update - Finance

ESTIMATED COST

Administrative	\$ 2,423,909
Design and Engineering	\$ 7,430,402
Construction	<u>\$ 34,817,606</u>
	\$ 44,671,917

FUNDING

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Committed</u>		<u>Remaining</u>
Private	\$19,723,000	\$13,900,060	70.48%	\$5,822,940
Federal Government	\$15,202,000	\$15,202,000	100.00%	\$ 0
State/Local Government	\$9,746,917	\$11,146,917	114.36%	\$ 0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$44,671,917	\$40,248,977	90.10%	\$5,822,940

Youth Programming & Education



- Fishing
- Swimming Lessons/Water Safety
- Environmental Education
- Citizen Science/Water Quality Monitoring
- Kayaking/Canoeing Lessons
- Whitewater Rafting
- StandUP Paddle boarding
- Bird/Wildlife Watching
- Canoemobile
- Physical fitness in river edge parks

Public Engagement

Photo Monitoring Stations



Angler Counts

ANGLER COUNT FORM: GRAND RIVER

Date: 7/9/2020 Time: 7pm

Sampler: W. Ogilvie

Weather: After A storm 78°
(was 94° earlier)

ENCMPASS
Socio-ecological Consulting

Count 6th Street to Leeward

X	0
#	0
O	0
V	0

Total = 8

Site 1A	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

Site 1B	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

Site 2A	Count	4
X		1((1))
#		
O		
V		

Site 2B	Count	4
X		1((1))
#		
O		
V		

Site 3A	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

Site 3B	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

Site 4A	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

Site 4B	Count	0
X		
#		
O		
V		

GVMC

Fish Ladder

X-Yank

I-196

Post Office

Low-head Dam

Bridge Street

Symbols: X—Shore Angler #—Wading Angler O—Boat V—Other

Total Page 1 = 8

Fish Ladder Site





Grand River Restoration Updates: Equity, Ordinance, & Governance

4.27.2020

Equity Update

- The City launched initiative to help micro-local business enterprises (MLBE) access river restoration contracts. The primary goals of the initiative are:
 - Ensure future restoration of the Grand River embeds racial and economic equity principles in the water and along the riverbanks
 - Decrease systemic registration barriers facing MLBEs
 - Encourage local jobs and wealth creation
 - Build capacity within City partner agencies



Funding Opportunities

- NFWF 5 Star and Urban Waters Grant (3)
- USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (2)
- GLRI Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER)
- EPA Environmental Education (3)
- EPA GLRI Green Stormwater Infrastructure Information & Education
- GLRI US Forest Service
- USFWS Fish Passage Program (2)

Success Defined

- ❑ Remove the 6th Street dam, a nearly 100-year-old low-head dam, and replace it with a safer, more viable structure designed specifically to prevent sea lamprey and other invasive species.
- ❑ Remove the 4 low-head dams – making a 2.5 mile stretch of the Grand River through the City's downtown more natural, safe and accessible.
- ❑ Preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, including the natural bedrock shelf that was a key historical sturgeon spawning area.
- ❑ Create recreational opportunities with the natural gradation of the River, especially near and downstream from the 6th Street dam, both to provide broad access to recreation for residents of the City but also to attract visitors to West Michigan.

Questions/Contact

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