THE CLINTON RIVER WATER TRAIL 19 WATERPROOF MAPS



81.5 MILES OF RIVER IN YOUR BACKYARD

WWW.CRWC.ORG

THE CLINTON RIVER WATER TRAIL EXPERIENCE

THE CLINTON RIVER WATER TRAIL

The Clinton River is 81.5 miles long, 72 miles of which is navigable as the Clinton River Water Trail. The paddling trail meanders through multiple environments, including urban areas, marshland, woodlands and parks. The river offers a variety of experiences for beginners to experienced paddlers. These experiences (along with access sites) are identified on the maps in this guide. The Clinton River Water Trail intersects and often parallels other recreational trails throughout the region, and many communities have access sites near their downtowns, giving paddlers easy access to restaurants and shops.

THE CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED

Located in southeast Michigan, the Clinton River Watershed is home to thousands of lakes, ponds, and wetlands. The Watershed is also home to hundreds of miles of clear, cold streams, making it ideal for fishing.



ABOUT US

Since 1972, the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) has provided opportunities for citizens, schools, governments, businesses, and other community groups to get involved and active in ensuring a healthy Clinton River and Lake St. Clair for us all through education, stewardship, and watershed management—to make a difference in your community...today and for future generations.



SAFETY ON THE WATER

These safety tips will increase your chances of having a safe and enjoyable paddle on the Clinton River:

- CHECK WATER GAUGES AND STREAM FLOW. Prior to getting on the river, paddlers should check stream flow data at www.waterdata.usgs.gov. Check stream flow at the USGS gauge nearest to your intended trip. Also visually check stream flow before you embark—if the river is too fast for your comfort level, wait until it recedes.
- ALWAYS PADDLE WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT. Life vests, helmets, a whistle, a first aid kit and a phone are standard equipment.
- NEVER PADDLE ALONE. Always paddle with at least one other person and do not become separated.
- BE AWARE OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE. Cold water is extremely dangerous. Take steps to protect yourself from hypothermia.

5. BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER.

Conditions can change rapidly. Be aware of forecasts and do not go out during thunderstorms or other adverse weather events. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.

BE AWARE OF THE DAYLIGHT. Make sure you leave enough daylight to comfortably finish your trip.

 BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN A DRY BAG. It is very likely you will get wet. Bring a change of clothes in a dry bag to avoid hypothermia.

8. WEAR RIVER FOOTWEAR.

Protect your feet from sharp river rocks—always wear footwear.

9. KNOW HOW TO SWIM.

Make sure you know how to swim before embarking on a river trip.

10. KNOW HOW TO GET HELP.

Make sure you are aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the safety markers (right) along the water trail to communicate your location to emergency responders. **To get help, dial 911.**

11. NEVER CLIMB ON A LOG JAM.

Log jams may be encountered when paddling due to the flashy nature of the river and numerous dead trees in the system. Jams can be unstable and risky with deep waters and dangerous currents.

CHECKING WATER LEVELS

Prior to getting on the river, all paddlers should check the stream flow data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). USGS gauges are set at different locations along the river, including Waterford, Auburn Hills, Sterling Heights, and Mt. Clemens. Data is typically recorded at 15- to 60-minute intervals and transmitted every one to four hours. To learn more about gauges and current data visit the USGS site at:

www.waterdata.usgs.gov.

High, fast water is to be avoided. If the gauges show a high-flow spike in water levels, paddlers should stay off the water. During high water, there is also the risk of bacterial contamination from sewage overflows that could affect several stretches of the river.

SAFETY MARKERS

Safety markers along the water trail mark your position on the river for emergency responders.



For Emergencies Dial 9-1-1

WATER ELEVATION AND RIVER DIFFICULTY RATINGS

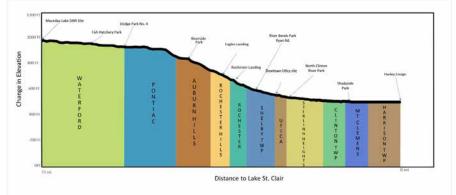
The Clinton River Water Trail drops about 400 feet in elevation from Maceday Lake in Waterford Township to Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township. The flow rating and level of difficulty is influenced by this drop in elevation. Because of this, portions of the Clinton River Water Trail are classified as Class 3 rapids.

The Clinton River uses the *International Scale of River Difficulty* to classify the levels of difficulty on the river. The three levels on the river are:

- 1. Class 1: Very small rough areas, requires no maneuvering. (Skill Level: None)
- Class 2: Some rough water, maybe some rocks, small drops, might require maneuvering. (Skill Level: Basic)
- Class 3: Whitewater, medium waves, maybe a drop of 3-5 ft, but not much considerable danger. May require significant maneuvering. (Skill Level: Experienced)

PADDLER RESPONSIBILITY

Due to the dynamic nature of the river, this guide book cannot alert you to every hazard, nor can it anticipate the skills of different users. This guide does not represent that a particular excursion or place will be safe for your paddling party. When you follow the trail, you assume responsibility for your own safety.



WATER TRAIL ELEVATION PROFILE

SIGNS ALONG THE WATER TRAIL

The Clinton River Watershed Council has placed interpretive, directional and safety location signs at key locations along the water trail.



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



1 Contraction Co

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

SAFETY LOCATION SIGNS

RIVER ETIQUETTE

Paddlers on the Clinton River Water Trail follow the Share the River Code of Conduct from American Whitewater. Paddlers have a responsibility to be good ambassadors of the paddling community. Use the following common-sense guidelines on the river and when traveling to and using the river access sites.

DRIVE COURTEOUSLY

Drive your car courteously and within the speed limit. Paddlers should always remember that they have large neon signs on the tops of their vehicles that let everyone know that they are boaters. Good driving etiquette, particularly in residential areas, is essential for maintaining positive relationships with those that live near paddling destinations. Park in designated areas and make sure not to block driveways or interfere with traffic. Change clothes discretely. Do not play loud music.

INTERACTING WITH ANGLERS

Stay in the main river flow whenever possible while paddling past anglers or while paddling in heavily fished waters. Anglers generally work their way upstream while fishing, so be courteous as soon as you see a downstream angler. Avoid shouting or being loud. Anglers and other backcountry recreationists generally appreciate quiet interactions with other recreational users. Voices carry over water, so avoid shouting when in the presence of other recreationists unless necessary for safety reasons.

BE RESPECTFUL

At put-ins and take-outs, behave in a friendly, positive manner and be helpful to those who might need assistance. Be mindful of the time you spend occupying the launch or take-out area.

Allow for spacing up and downstream of others, particularly in a rapid, and take care to avoid collisions. Colliding boaters should not leave the scene without checking with the other paddlers and making sure that they are unhurt.

AVOID PRIVATE PROPERTY

In most cases, the shorelands and riverbanks are private property. Plan to only exit the river at public access points.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is an international program designed to empower outdoor enthusiasts to reduce their impact on the environment when hunting, paddling, camping, picnicking, fishing, skiing, or climbing. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts, as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Leave No Trace is best understood as an educational and ethical program, not as a set of rules and regulation.

THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE:

- Plan ahead and prepare

 know your route,
 weather and wind
 conditions, and your own
 capabilities
- 2. Travel and camp on established surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly — bring your trash with you when you leave, and clean up more if you can!
- 4. Leave what you find
- **5.** Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife Do not attempt to harass or feed wildlife, and give wildlife a wide berth
- Be considerate of other visitors

SUGGESTED PADDLING ROUTES

SLOW/BEGINNER

CLINTON RIVER CANOE SITE IN WATERFORD TOWNSHIP TO DODGE #4 STATE PARK IN WATERFORD TOWNSHIP

Approximate duration: 1.5 hours

Map: 5 and 6

Tips: Add another 45-60 minutes to the trip by putting in behind the Buffalo Wild Wings at M-59 and Crescent Lake Road in Waterford Township (Map 4).

BUDD PARK IN CLINTON TOWNSHIP TO SHADYSIDE PARK IN MOUNT CLEMENS

Approximate duration: 2 hours Map: 17

iviap: 17

Tips: Add 45 minutes to the trip by continuing down the river to MacArthur Park in downtown Mount Clemens (Map 18).

INTERMEDIATE

YATES CIDER MILL IN ROCHESTER HILLS TO HERITAGE PARK IN UTICA

Approximate duration: 2.5 hours Map: 12-14

Tips: Route can be very challenging due to urban hazards. Danger increases with high water flows after a rain event. There are also potential log jams throughout this stretch. Please check the stream gauges before attempting this paddle.

ADVANCED

RIVERSIDE PARK IN AUBURN HILLS TO EAGLES LANDING IN ROCHESTER HILLS

Approximate duration: 2.5 hours Map: 9 and 10

Tips: Route can be very challenging due to urban hazards and a drop in elevation. Danger increases with high water flows after a rain event. There are also potential log jams throughout this stretch. Please check the stream gauges before attempting this paddle.

EAGLES LANDING IN ROCHESTER HILLS TO YATES CIDER MILL IN ROCHESTER HILLS

Approximate duration: 2 hours Map: 10-12

Tips: You will need to portage around the dam at Yates. This route can be very challenging due to urban hazards and a drop in elevation. Danger increases with high water flows after a rain event. There are also potential log jams throughout this stretch. Please check the stream gauges before attempting this paddle.

SUGGESTED GEAR

- Extra paddle tied to your craft
- 2. Insect repellent
- 3. This guide book and a compass, GPS, and other navigational tools
- Emergency equipment like radios, whistles, and repair kits
- 5. First aid kit
- 6. Extra ropes
- 7. Pocket knife
- 8. Flashlight
- 9. Waterproof matches
- Cell phone (keep in a dry sack)
- Extra drinking water and food
- 12. Waterproof bags
- Clothing for bad weather (even if the forecast looks good!)
- Sun protection (sunscreen, wide brim hat, light-colored longsleeve shirt and pants)

LOCAL RESOURCES

OUTFITTERS/RENTALS

Simple Adventures

simpleadventures.net rentals@simpleadventures.net 586-533-0141

Heavner Canoe Rental

heavnercanoe.com 248-685-2379

Clinton River Canoe

& Kayak Rentals clintonriverkayak.com 248-421-3445

RECREATION ALONG THE WATER TRAIL

MULTI-USE TRAILS

These inter-jurisdictional land trails follow the path of old railroad lines (and in some cases, the shores of major waterways) and provide wonderful opportunities for walking, jogging, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding (where permitted), and nature observation.

- 1. CLINTON RIVER TRAIL www.clintonrivertrail.org
- 2. PAINT CREEK TRAIL www.paintcreektrail.org
- POLLY ANN TRAIL www.pollyanntrailway.org
- 4. MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL www.orchardtrail.org
- 5. WEST BLOOMFIELD TRAIL www.westbloomfieldparks.org

FISHING

The Clinton River, its tributaries, and Lake St. Clair provide excellent fishing opportunities for all types of anglers. The Clinton River watershed includes three DNR-designated trout streams and several more tributaries that are known to harbor trout yearround. There is an established steelhead run in the lower mainstream of the Clinton. The Paint Creek is Clinton's premier designated trout stream tributary. Find maps and conditions for specific stretches of the Clinton River by visiting www.crwc.org.



Throughout the summer there are a variety of paddling events and opportunities. Check out a full list of river events going on throughout the summer at www.crwc.org.





A beautiful brown trout caught on the Paint Creek.

SUGGESTED FISHING ACCESS LOCATIONS

- 1. Yates Park
- 2. River Bends Park
- 3. Dodge Park
- North Branch at Wolcott Mill Metropark
- Lower River at Shadyside Park
- 6. Paint Creek at Dinosaur Hill
- Rochester Municipal Park



WaterTowns[™] is the Clinton River Watershed Council's Trail Towns initiative. Whether you live in the watershed or are just visiting for the weekend, the communities along the Clinton River Water Trail have something for everyone. From the boutiquestyle shops, colorful art galleries, bed-and-breakfasts and unique bars and restaurants in the walkable downtowns of Mount Clemens, Rochester, Utica and Harrison Township, to the nationally renowned restaurants and shopping opportunities in Clinton Township, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights and Rochester Hills—these Trail Towns are working together to create a friendly and accommodating destination for paddlers.

ACCESSIBILITY

Communities along the Clinton River are working hard to provide universally accessible launches and trailheads. Accessible launches are designed to be used independently by people of all ages and abilities. Look for the 👸 icon in this guide book to locate all the accessible launches along the river.

The Clinton River Watershed Council has developed a comprehensive plan to install universally accessible launches and trailheads at 12 locations along the Clinton River Water Trail by 2020. As sites become fully accessible, the paddling guide will be updated to indicate when full accessibility has been achieved.





ABOUT WATERTOWNS™

WaterTowns[™] is a community-based initiative designed to help towns and cities in the watershed leverage the assets of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair for water-oriented community development.

WATERTOWNS[™] GOALS

- 1. Develop strong connections to the community, its surroundings, and the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair
- 2. Provide high-quality recreational and cultural amenities
- 3. Promote and implement Green Infrastructure (GI)
- Celebrate the nature, history and culture of the community and the watershed

WATERTOWNS[™] 2016

- 1. Clarkston
- Rochester Hills
- 3. Trov
- Rochester
- 5. Shelby Township
- 6. City of Utica
- 7. Sterling Heights 8. Clinton Township
- 9. Mount Clemens
- **10.** Harrison Township
- 11. Chesterfield
- Auburn Hills



WaterTowns[™] is made possible by support from the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

PADDLING THROUGH HISTORY

CLINTON-KALAMAZOO CANAL

When Michigan was granted statehood in 1837, a canal was proposed to connect Lake St. Clair with Lake Michigan, spanning 216 miles on the banks of the Clinton River and continuing through the state to the mouth of the Kalamazoo River. However, financial troubles related to the Panic of 1837 caused funding for the canal to disappear. All



Photo: riverbendshollandpondsparks.wordpress.com

construction stopped in 1843 after only 13 miles had been completed. Much of the canal is clearly visible in the parks along Canal Road in Clinton Township. The remains of the aqueduct built over the Clinton River can be seen in Yates Park in Rochester Hills, and the remnants of two wooden dams can be seen in the river in Canal Park and Bloomer Park.



Photo: Centennial History of Mount Clemens, Michigan, 1879-1979. ©1980 by Mount Clemens Public Library. All rights reserved.

MINERAL SPRINGS ALONG THE CLINTON RIVER

During the 1870s, attempts to develop salt wells had proved unsuccessful but resulted in the discovery of the area's famed mineral waters. Soon a mineral bath industry flourished that made Mount Clemens famous throughout the world as a health spa. During the heyday of the mineral bath era, 23

major hotels and bath houses prospered, along with many smaller hotels and rooming houses. The only bath house remaining today is the 1898 building of St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital at 215 North Avenue.

PONTIAC AND THE CLINTON RIVER

The City of Pontiac was first inhabited by members of the Ottawa Indian Tribe under Chief Pontiac, for whom the city was named. Pontiac is centrally located along the Clinton River as it flows to Lake St. Clair. This location proved to be valuable, and the river was used to power woolen and grist mills in the area (City of Pontiac website). Today little is seen of the river that provided the basis of industry in the city. Due to major flooding events, the Clinton River was piped underground in 1963 to alleviate the effects of the flooding in the central district of the city (Urban Land Institute, 2013).

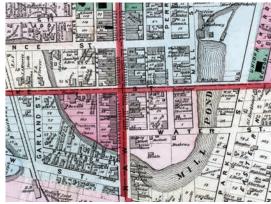


Photo: City of Pontiac

YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

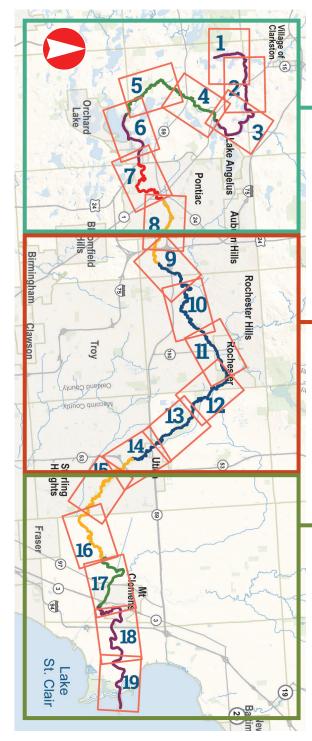
This guide provides information to help you plan your trip along the Clinton River Water Trail.

RIVER MILES

River Mile numbers begin at zero and increase farther upstream. River Mile 0 is located at Lake St. Clair. You can also refer to a table of distances between access points in the back of this guide.

The maps are divided into three sections: Headwaters, the Heart of the Clinton, and the Lower River. The key below shows water trail features and amenities to enhance your experience. For the most updated list of amenities and river alerts, use the QR code on the back of this guide or visit **www.crwc.org.**





MAP INDEX

The map pages are color-coded and numbered to correspond to the section areas listed below. The North symbol indicates the page position relative to due north.

HEADWATERS

Maceday Lake to Dodge #4 State Park

Placid and tranquil, the Headwaters section features glacial lakes and wetlands, offering the opportunity for quiet reflection and immersion in the natural environment.



HEART OF THE CLINTON

Auburn Hills to Utica

Definitely not for the faint of heart, this section of the river features steep gradients, hairpin turns and fluctuating water levels. Experience advised!



THE LOWER RIVER

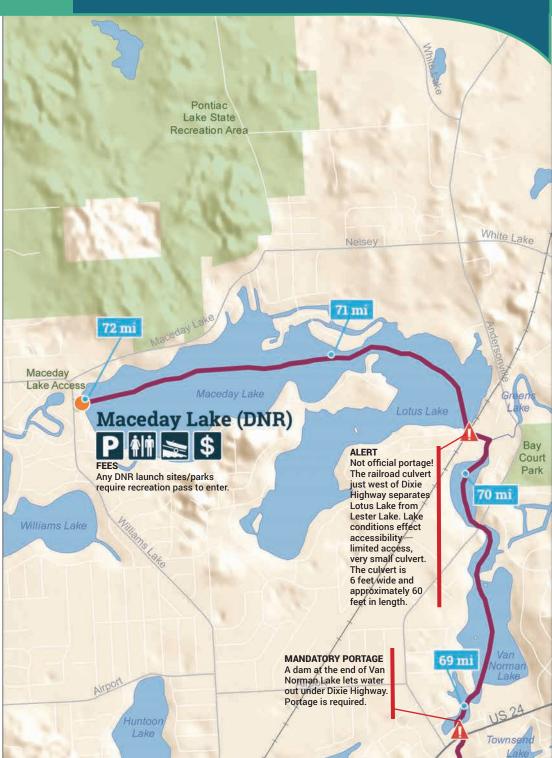
Sterling Heights to River's Mouth at Lake St. Clair This section features some of the most scenic areas, with heavily

most scenic areas, with heavily forested riverbanks and stretches of slow-moving water before emptying into Lake St. Clair.



MACEDAY LAKE TO VAN NORMAN LAKE RIVER MILES 72 TO 69

HEADWATERS



Maceday Lake

2

ALERT

The railroad culvert just west of Dixie Highway separates Lotus Lake from Lester Lake. The culvert is 6 feet wide and approximately 60 feet in length. Bay Court Park

70 mi

Greens Lake

Van Vorman Lake MANDATORY PORTAGE Airport A dam at the end of Van Norman Lake lets water out under Dixie Highway. 69 mi Portage is required. Townsend Lake 68 mi Eagle Floradale Sashabaw Woodhull 67 mi ake Sashabaw

> LOTUS LAKE TO WOODHULL LAKE RIVER MILES 70 TO 67

HEADWATERS





Maybee

67 mi

LAKE OAKLAND (DNR) TO LOON LAKE (DNR) **RIVER MILES 67 TO 63**





65 mi

Lake Oakland Access

Lake Oakland (DNR) P 🚉 \$ FEES

baw

66 mi

Any DNR launch sites/parks require recreation pass to enter.

Woodhull Lake

Williams Lake

PORTAGE

At Donzi Cove, just north of Walton, a dam on the south end of Lake Oakland blocks access to the channel leading into Loon Lake. The shoreline is private residential units on all sides, making a portage impossible. This represents a major obstacle to paddlers who desire to continue on past Lake Oakland to the downstream portions of the water trail.

Loon Lake (DNR)



63 mi

Wormer Lake

Morgan

oolhouse ake

64 mi

Loon Lake (DNR) \$ P ili



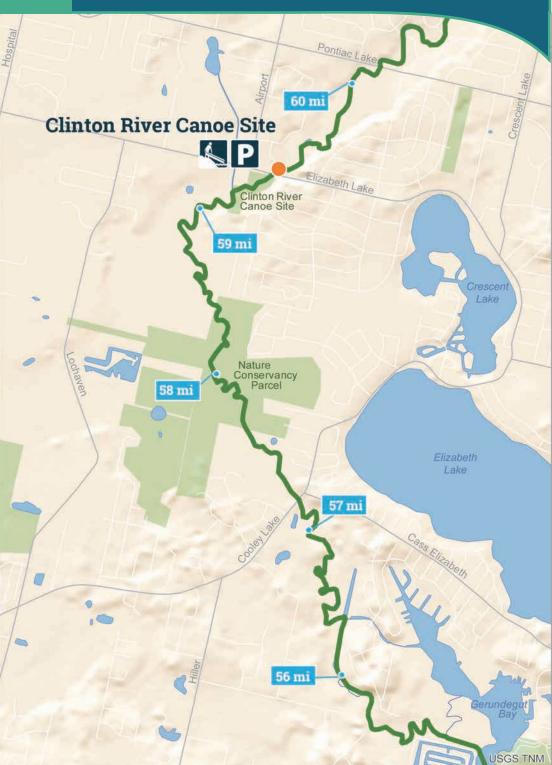
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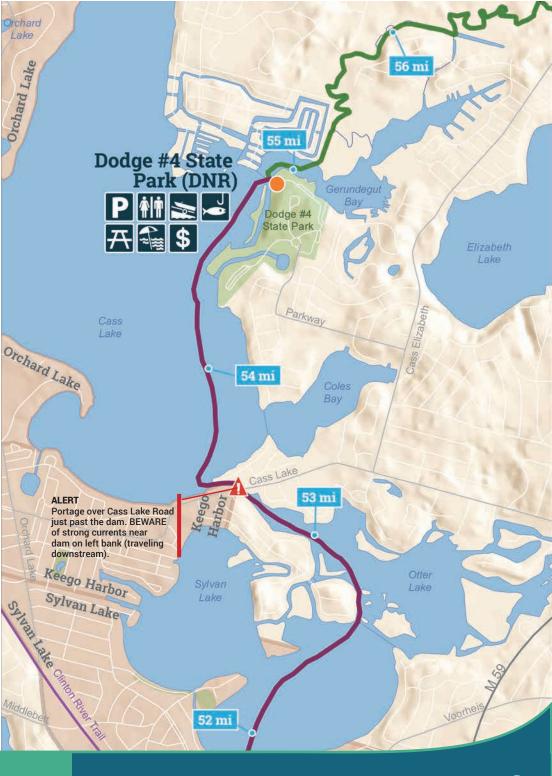
HEADWATERS







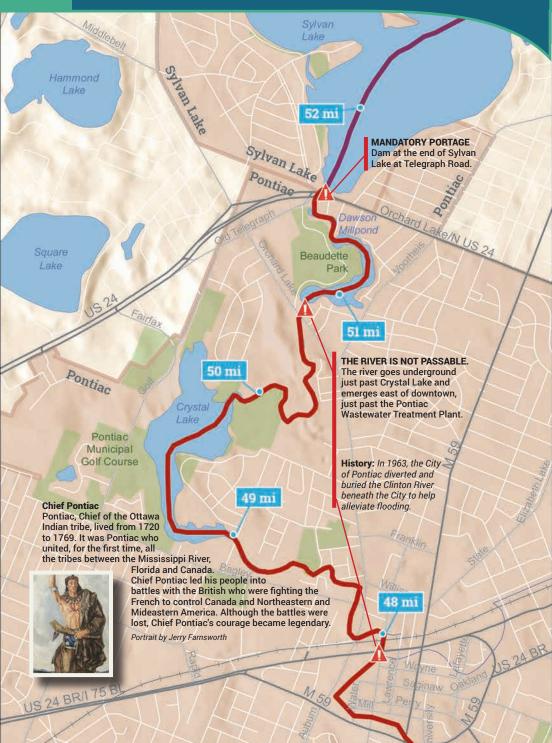




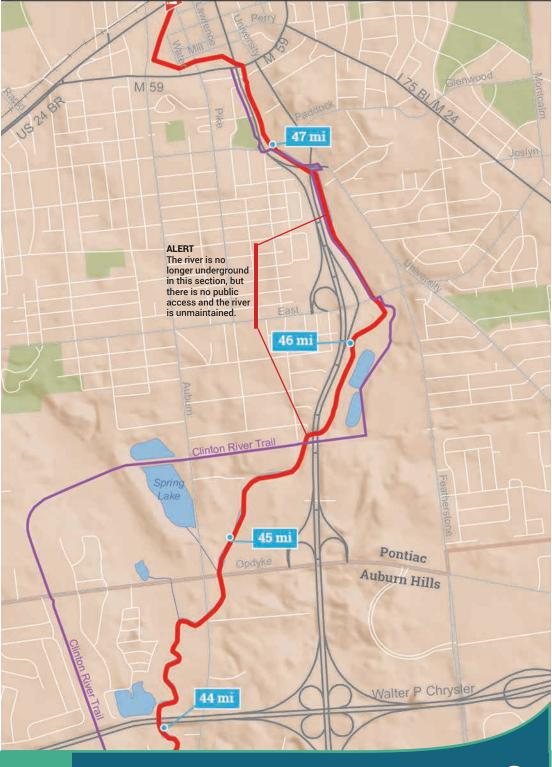


SYLVAN LAKE TO US 24 BUSINESS ROUTE RIVER MILES 52 TO 48





USGS TNM



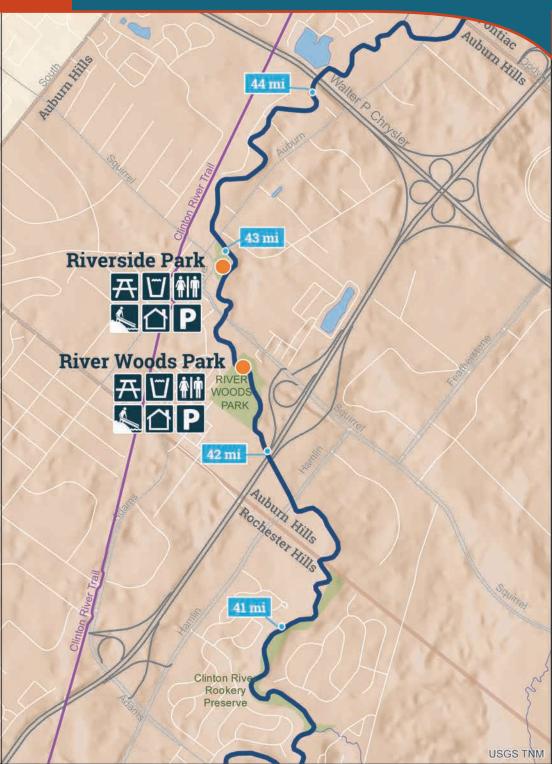
US 24 BUSINESS ROUTE TO AUBURN HILLS RIVER MILES 47 TO 44

HEADWATERS



RIVERSIDE PARK TO RIVER WOODS PARK RIVER MILES 44 TO 41 HEART OF THE CLINTON







CRWC/EAGLES LANDING RIVER MILES 40 TO 36

10



CRWC/EAGLES LANDING TO ROCHESTER LANDING RIVER MILES 36 TO 33 HEART OF THE CLINTON





ALERT

P 🔬 🔊

Weting Park

The section between Eagles Landing and Yates Dam is a 2- to 3-hour trip, and home to the most intense rapids, turns, currents, and drop in elevation along the entire Clinton River! During high water events, this section can become a Class 3 river, while lower water levels make it virtually unnavigable. Always check water levels before your trip. This section is for experienced paddlers. We do not recommend this section for children.

Rochester Landing 式 P 🔌

35 mi

opportunity to glimpse remnants of the canal in Rochester Hills, Shelby Township, Utica, and Clinton Township. Much of the canal is clearly visible in the parks along Canal Road in Clinton Termaine of the Rochester remains of the aqueduct built over the Clinton River can be seen in Yates Park, and remnants of dams can be seen in the river in Bloomer Park and Canal Park.

-KALDAN

Park Clinton Kalamazoo Canal

Bloomer

33 mi

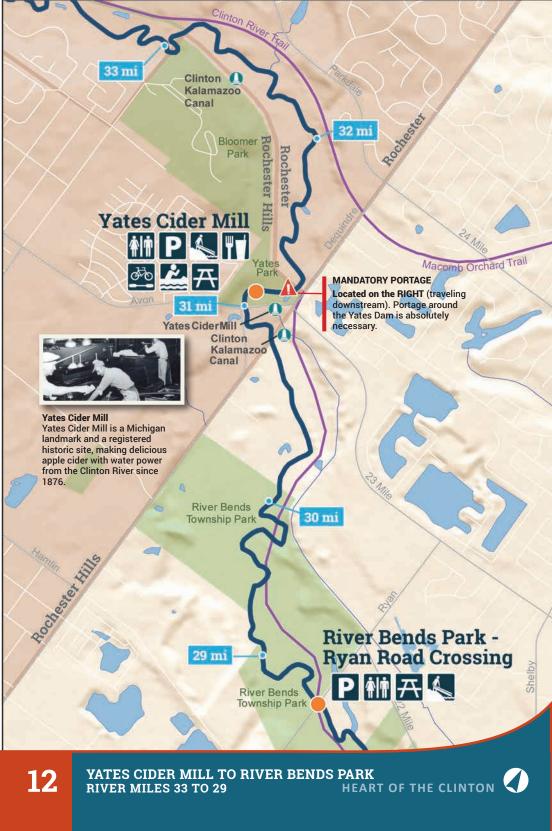
34 mi

Downtown Roch

Roohester Pochester Him

Trail

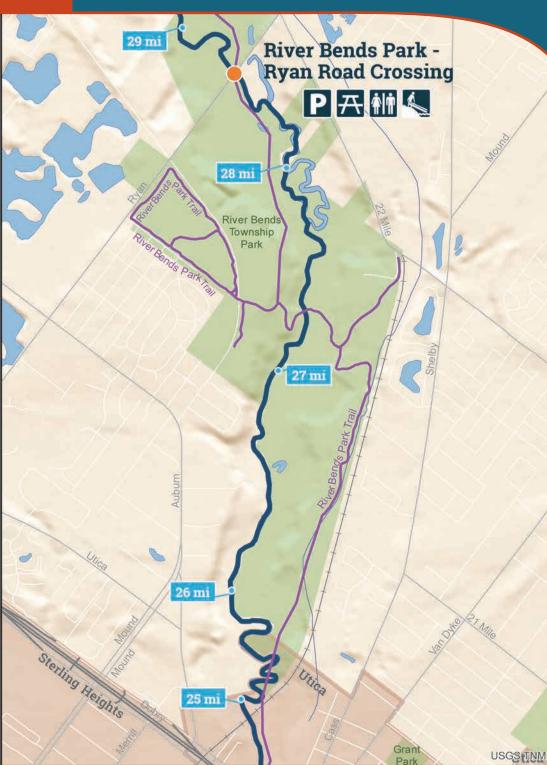
Paint Creek

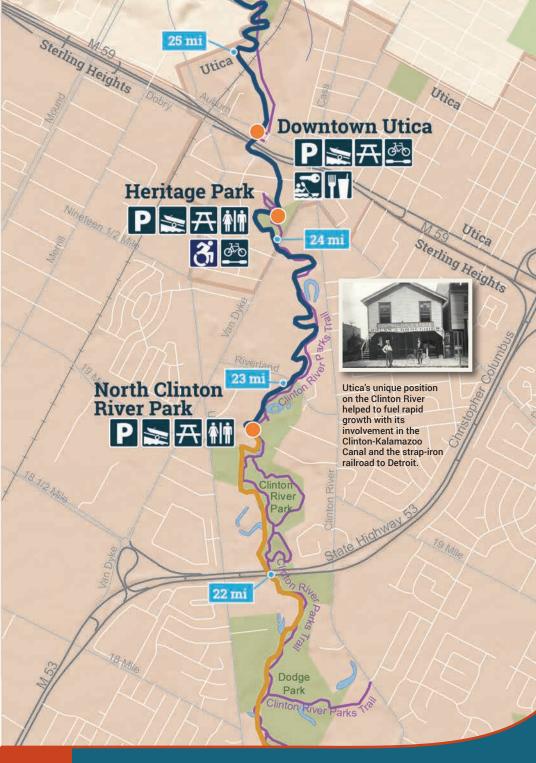


RIVER BENDS PARK RIVER MILES 29 TO 25

13

HEART OF THE CLINTON

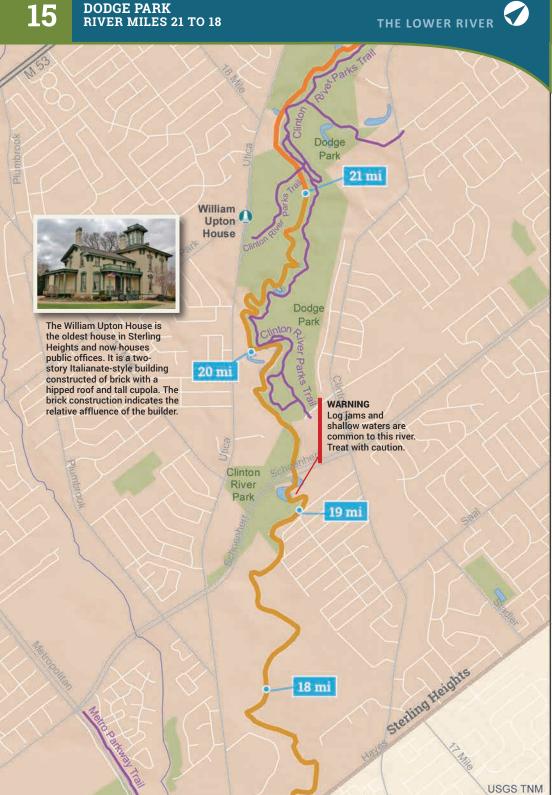


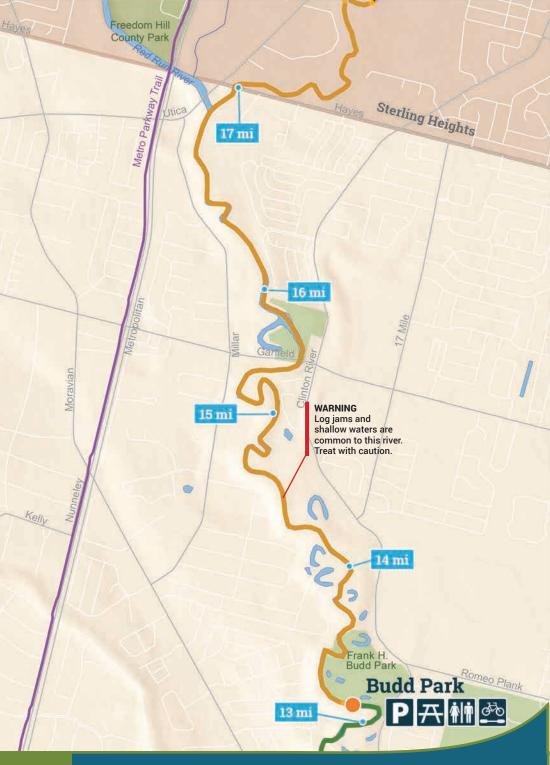




DODGE PARK RIVER MILES 21 TO 18

THE LOWER RIVER

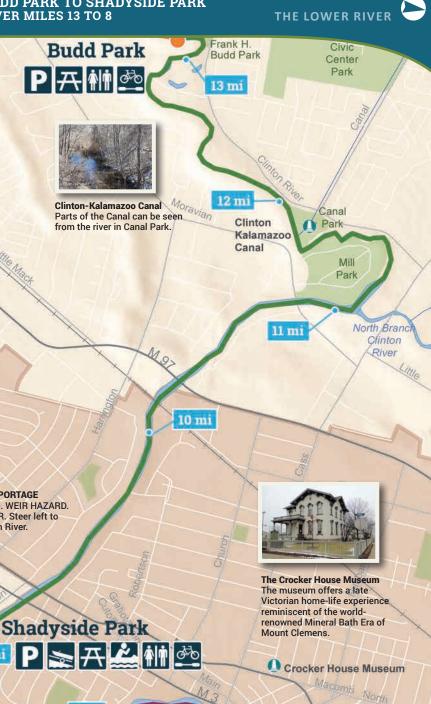






BUDD PARK TO SHADYSIDE PARK RIVER MILES 13 TO 8

17



MacArthur Park

MANDATORY PORTAGE Dam Structure. WEIR HAZARD. DO NOT ENTER. Steer left to stay on Clinton River.

Mt Clemens

ratiot

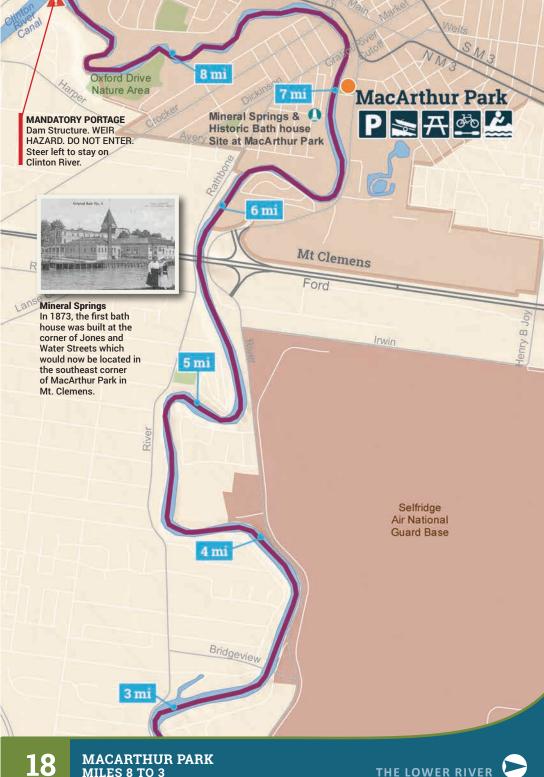
Clinton River

Canal



8 mi

Oxford Drive Nature Area



19 HARLEY ENSIGN (DNR) RIVER MILES 3 TO 0

THE LOWER RIVER





TABLE OF DISTANCES BETWEEN ACCESS POINTS IN MILES

Access Site	Miles from Last Access
Maceday Lake (DNR)	0.0
Lake Oakland (DNR)	6.5
Loon Lake (DNR)	2.2
Fish Hatchery Park	0.9
Clinton River Canoe Site	3.3
Dodge #4 State Park (DNR)	4.7
Riverside Park	1.0
River Woods Park	0.5
CRWC Office/Eagles Landing	6.9
Rochester Landing	3.1
Yates Cider Mill	2.0
River Bends Park - Ryan Road Crossing	2.4
Downtown Utica	3.3
Heritage Park	0.5
North Clinton River Park	1.8
Budd Park	9.6
Shadyside Park	4.4
MacArthur Park	2.0
Harley Ensign (DNR)	7.2

WARNING

Canoeing and kayaking can be dangerous. Serious bodily injury and loss of life can and does occur. Varying water levels, holes, drop-offs, fallen trees, sharp objects, rocks, dams, water current, undertow and other phenomena of the Clinton River create constantly changing conditions and hazards. Do not attempt to swim or wade in the river. Avoid rapid areas. Do not dive head-first into the river. There is danger of being swamped by waves when attempting to take canoes or kayaks into Lake St. Clair. This map is provided only as a general guide and is not to be relied upon to identify all hazards. All distances and times are approximate. Prior to any canoe trip, it is essential the route be thoroughly scouted.



PADDLING GUIDE BOOK WATER TRAIL CLINTON RIVER THE

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Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric under the National Coastal Zone Management Program, of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Office Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part,



WWW.CRWC.ORG

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CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

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