

# LAKE ST. CLAIR COASTAL WATER TRAIL

PADDLING GUIDE BOOK

16 COASTAL MAPS



55 MILES OF COASTAL  
ADVENTURES

[WWW.CRWC.ORG](http://WWW.CRWC.ORG)



# THE LAKE ST. CLAIR COASTAL WATER TRAIL EXPERIENCE

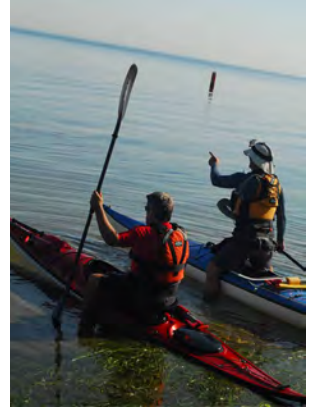
## THE LAKE ST. CLAIR COASTAL WATER TRAIL

Lake St. Clair is your paradise next door. With over 430 square miles of fresh water and 160 miles of coastline to explore, you are sure to discover your own personal paradise on Lake St. Clair.

## WHAT IS CRWC?

The mission of the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is to protect, enhance, and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair. Individual and community actions protect and improve the health of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair, assuring that their natural, economic, and recreational values enhance the quality of life of those who live, work, and play in the Clinton River watershed and Lake St. Clair.

Since 1972, 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 everyone through education, stewardship, and watershed management—to make a difference in your community...today and for future generations.



## SAFETY ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

These basic safety tips will increase your chances of having a safe and enjoyable paddle on Lake St. Clair:

- 1. PLAN AHEAD AND DETERMINE YOUR ROUTE AHEAD OF TIME.**  
Planning your trip ahead of time will help ensure the safest paddle possible.
- 2. ALWAYS PADDLE WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.**  
Life vests, a whistle, a first aid kit and a phone are standard equipment.
- 3. NEVER PADDLE ALONE.**  
Always paddle with at least one other person and do not become separated.
- 4. BE AWARE OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE.**  
Cold water is extremely dangerous. Take steps to protect yourself from hypothermia.
- 5. KEEP TO THE SHORELINE.**  
Paddling far from shore can result in becoming lost. Keep the shoreline in sight at all times.
- 6. BE AWARE OF SHIPPING LANES.**  
When the need arises to cross a shipping lane, do so quickly and cautiously.
- 7. UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.**  
The rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sail boats.
- 8. 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.
- 9. BE AWARE OF THE DAYLIGHT.**  
Make sure you leave enough daylight to comfortably finish your trip.
- 10. 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.
- 11. KNOW HOW TO SWIM.**  
Make sure you know how to swim before paddling on Lake St. Clair.
- 12. KNOW HOW TO GET HELP.**  
To get help, dial **911**. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings and can communicate your position to emergency responders.

## INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO LAKE ST. CLAIR

Paddling on Lake St. Clair requires an understanding of various hazards and laws.

- 1. Weather:** High winds and accompanying waves can easily overwhelm small watercraft.
- 2. High wakes** trailing behind fast-moving, motorized watercraft are equally dangerous, and collisions can be deadly.
- 3. Safe Landing Areas:** In addition to the public launches, several other parks and areas of interest are also indicated on the guide maps. These can be used in case of an emergency, but they are not public launch sites.
- 4. Crossing into Canadian Waters:** U.S. and Canadian vessels (including kayaks, canoes and rubber flotation devices) can freely cross the international boundary to explore neighboring waters. **However, U.S. paddlers who land (anchor, wade or touch bottom with a paddle) in Canadian waters must immediately call Canadian authorities at (888) 226-7277 to report their arrival.** Upon return to the U.S., paddlers who landed in Canada must also report to U.S. Customs at (877) 227-5511. Violation of international border crossing laws can result in severe penalties. For more info visit [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).

# PADDLING ETIQUETTE

## UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT OF WAY

Prior to getting on the water, be sure you understand the right-of-way rules. In general, the rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sail-powered craft, and lastly to motorized craft. **However, this rule does NOT apply to freighters! Steer clear of such vessels and exercise extreme caution. All boaters bear the responsibility to do whatever is needed to avoid a collision.**

## MINIMIZE HAZARDS

Stay close to the shore and away from recreational boating and shipping channels. When paddling close to the shore, watch for fishing lines, swimmers and diving activities.

## CROSS CAUTIOUSLY AND QUICKLY

When the need arises to cross a recreational or shipping channel, do so with caution by checking in all directions for approaching vessels.

## STAY STARBOARD AND PASS PORT TO PORT

If you alter your route in response to an approaching vessel, steer to your right (starboard). This is standard boating procedure.

## AVOID PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

## BE RESPECTFUL

Offer assistance if another person is in distress! Remain aware of your surroundings and respectful of others' right to also enjoy the water.



## 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 regulations.

## THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE:

1. Plan ahead and prepare — know your route, weather and wind conditions, and your own capabilities
2. Travel and camp on established surfaces
3. 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
6. Respect wildlife — Do not attempt to harass or feed wildlife, and give wildlife a wide berth
7. Be considerate of other visitors

# SUGGESTED PADDLING ROUTES

## ANCHOR BAY – NORTH COAST

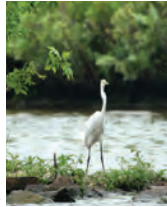
Calm water and minimal motorboat traffic make this area an easy paddle, even for beginners. The City of

New Baltimore offers a soft-shore launch site from Walter and Mary Burke Park and many other leisure activities for the entire family, including a popular sandy public beach for sunning and swimming.

Shopping and dining venues in

New Baltimore's quaint downtown district surround the park. Private residences and an occasional marina line most of Anchor Bay's north coastline.

The Salt River Intra-coastal Water Trail is easily accessed from several launch sites on Anchor Bay's west end. After passing a marina near the river's mouth, the riverbank transitions to marshlands and forests. Here, scenic views of waterfowl and aquatic habitat are abundant. The Webber Paddle Park is located about a half-mile inland from the lake and is being established as a regional recreation hub. It is here that the water trail will connect with a 72-mile hiking and biking trail.



## LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK

From a soft-shore launch on the park's south side, playful paddling is experienced when heading east along the park's popular beach area. A westerly voyage offers views of the 96-acre Point Rosa Marsh. Both of these trips are suitable for beginners and can be accomplished in about one hour.

The Black Creek Marsh is on the park's north side, offering a labyrinth of premier bird watching, and is easily accessed from the North Marina Boat Launch located within the park. Both natural marsh areas are brimming with wildlife. When on land, paddlers can enjoy the park's many walking trails, have a picnic or visit the Nature Center.

The larger lake is accessible by the Black Creek canal and is less than a mile paddle from the Black Creek boat launch. Please watch for motorized boats as this is also their access to the lake.

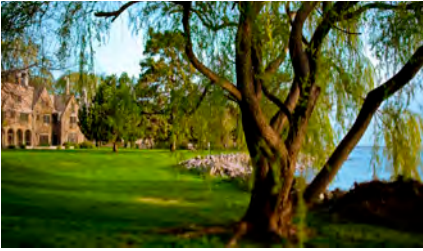
## SUGGESTED GEAR

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



## SOUTHERN COASTLINE

Some of southeast Michigan's finest residential architecture graces Lake St. Clair's waterfront from the City of St. Clair Shores to Belle Isle in Detroit. Launch sites are limited along this stretch of coastline, but paddlers can see many of the magnificent Grosse Pointe Community's estates from their most attractive side, or head to the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores to view the shoreline's greatest concentration of marina, restaurants, and gift shops.



Lake St. Clair's southern coast features a large expanse of open water. Paddlers should be aware that conditions can change quickly. Strong currents are also

present, particularly when approaching the Detroit River. Freighter traffic can be encountered in this area and is best seen from a distance. Extra caution should be taken near seawalls due to wave action against the walls that prohibits beaching your paddlecraft.

## BEACH CLOSINGS

The Michigan Public Health Code sets standards that limit the levels of *E. coli* bacteria at beaches called *Total Body Contact Standards*. A beach is closed whenever these standards are exceeded. Generally, following a heavy rainfall, the beaches may be closed due to polluted stormwater run-off. (Source: St. Clair County Health Department)

The Michigan BeachGuard System provides information on water-quality sampling results and beach advisories and closures. Visit the Michigan BeachGuard System website for information: [www.deq.state.mi.us/beach](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach)

## PARK FEES

Several access points along the Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trail charge fees. It is recommended that you check with the specific park office for the latest information.

All DNR launch sites and parks require a Recreation Passport from the state. Please check the DNR website for current information, [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).



## RECREATION ALONG THE TRAIL

### FISHING

For decades, Lake St. Clair has been renowned for its treasure trove of game fish, but in recent years, it has acquired the distinction as one of the best lakes in North America for both muskellunge and smallmouth bass.

Lake St. Clair's geographic placement within the Great Lakes basin gives it its unique character as a world-class fishing destination. The swift-flowing St. Clair River brings clean, cold and nutrient-rich water into the lake, where it is channeled in a wide delta consisting of the North, South and Middle Channels, plus the main shipping channel. These nutrients spawn bait fish which, in turn, spawn bigger fish — really big fish! From musky to smallies to yellow perch to walleye, and from giant channel catfish to pike and largemouth, you'll find them all in Lake St. Clair (and you might get surprised with other fish that tug on your line from time to time).

Surrounded by the Great Lakes — Lake Huron to the north and Lake Erie to the south — Lake St. Clair is dwarfed in size and legend. However, this lake of 430 square miles is responsible for nearly 30% of the sportfishing catch of the Great Lakes and 50% of all the sportfishing that takes place in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. Over the years, it has gained new respect among the world's anglers, making it the "little lake that could." (Source: *The Skinny On Lake St. Clair: Sportfishing Paradise For Bass, Muskie* by Tom Morrison)

### LAKE ST. CLAIR FUN

Throughout the summer there are a variety of paddling events and opportunities. Check out a full list of events at [www.crw.org](http://www.crw.org).




This muskie shown to the right was caught by Joel Piatek on Lake St. Clair.





WaterTowns™ is CRWC's *Trail Towns* initiative. Whether you live in the watershed or are just visiting, communities along the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair have something for everyone. From the boutique-style shops, colorful art galleries, bed-and-breakfasts and unique bars and restaurants in the walkable downtowns of Mount Clemens, Rochester, Utica, New Baltimore and Harrison Township, to the nationally renowned restaurants and shopping opportunities in Clinton Township, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights, St. Clair Shores, Grosse Pointe and Rochester Hills, these Trail Towns are working together to create a friendly and accommodating destination for paddlers.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Communities along the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair 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.

The Clinton River Watershed Council 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)
4. Celebrate the nature, history and culture of the community and the watershed

### WATERTOWNS™ 2019

1. Auburn Hills
2. Center Line
3. Chesterfield
4. Clarkston
5. Clinton Township
6. Eastpointe
7. Harrison Township
8. Huntington Woods
9. Independence Township
10. Lake Orion
11. Macomb Township
12. Madison Heights
13. Mount Clemens
14. New Baltimore
15. Orion Township
16. Rochester
17. Rochester Hills
18. Shelby Township
19. St. Clair Shores
20. Sterling Heights
21. Troy
22. Utica



## A UNIQUE HISTORY

People have inhabited the Lake St. Clair region for more than 9,000 years. Native Americans, fur traders, European settlers and modern North Americans have all called this region home. Lake St. Clair and the surrounding area remained a wild, untamed place until European settlement in 1679. Although there is some dispute to the true origin of the name, it is believed that the French pioneers christened their find as *Lac Sainte Clair* in honor of Sainte Clare of Assisi, whose feast happened to fall on the day of their discovery.



The St. Clair River delta, referred to as the Flats, offered early Detroiters outstanding hunting and fishing, which eventually stimulated an entertainment economy. Restaurants, hotels and amusement parks prospered throughout the early 20th century. Tashmoo Park opened on Harsens Island in 1897, equipped with a casino, dance pavilion, roller rink, and sports area. The 306-foot Tashmoo steamship, the largest of its kind on the Great Lakes, transported up to 3,500 passengers to the island from Detroit on a regular basis.

Today, Lake St. Clair is a vital pathway for our nation's commerce, as hundreds of lake freighters and international vessels carry approximately 80 million tons of cargo along its shipping channels each year. The highly developed U.S. coastline hosts over 70 marinas, thousands of residential properties, and many paddlesport launch sites, all providing ports for water activities. The lake's clarity and natural beauty are great attractions, and many historic landmarks remain in place for discovery.

## LAKE ST. CLAIR FACTS

Lake St. Clair is the newest and smallest of the six glacially-formed lakes that comprise North America's 1,000-mile-long Great Lakes system. Heart-shaped Lake St. Clair connects the St. Clair River to the Detroit River and separates Canada on its eastern shore from the United States on its western. Lake St. Clair receives 98% of its water from Lake Huron via the St. Clair River. The lake's water level varies seasonally by approximately 1.6 feet, peaking in the summer. The wetlands that are found where that river meets the lake constitute the Great Lakes' largest delta.

## GEOLOGIC HISTORY

Lake St. Clair is widely accepted as a glacial lake formed in congruence with the five Great Lakes. Etched from the landscape by advancing and retreating ice over the last 1.5 million years, Lake St. Clair took on its current characteristics about 14,800 years ago. As the ice withdrew, it left behind long tracks of fertile soil, sand and gravel that shaped the surrounding terrain, as well as deep depressions where the melting ice pooled into the Great Lakes, which are one-fifth of the world's supply of surface fresh water.









# YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

This guide provides information to help you plan your trip along the Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trail.








Mile 0 is located in the northeast corner of Lake St. Clair at the Snooks DNR Boat Launch on the Middle Channel. You can also refer to the table of approximate distances between access points in the back of this guide.

The index map on the next page provides an overall view of the coastal water trail and the corresponding map pages. The key below shows water trail features and amenities to enhance your experience. For the most updated list of amenities and alerts, please visit [www.crowc.org](http://www.crowc.org).

















## MAP FEATURES AND TRAILS

-  River/Stream
-  Blueways of St. Clair Water Trail
-  Lake/Pond
-  City Boundaries
-  State, metro or local park
-  Selfridge Air National Guard Base

## WATER TRAIL

-  **North**
-  **Launch**
-  **Coastal Trail Mile Marker**
-  **Caution** / High Volume Motorized Boat Traffic
-  **Watch for Motorized Boats** Motorized boats and marinas are common on Lake St. Clair. Be alert to your surroundings and other boat traffic.
-  **The Salt River Intracoastal Water Trail**
-  **Lake St. Clair Metropark Paddling Loop**

## AMENITIES

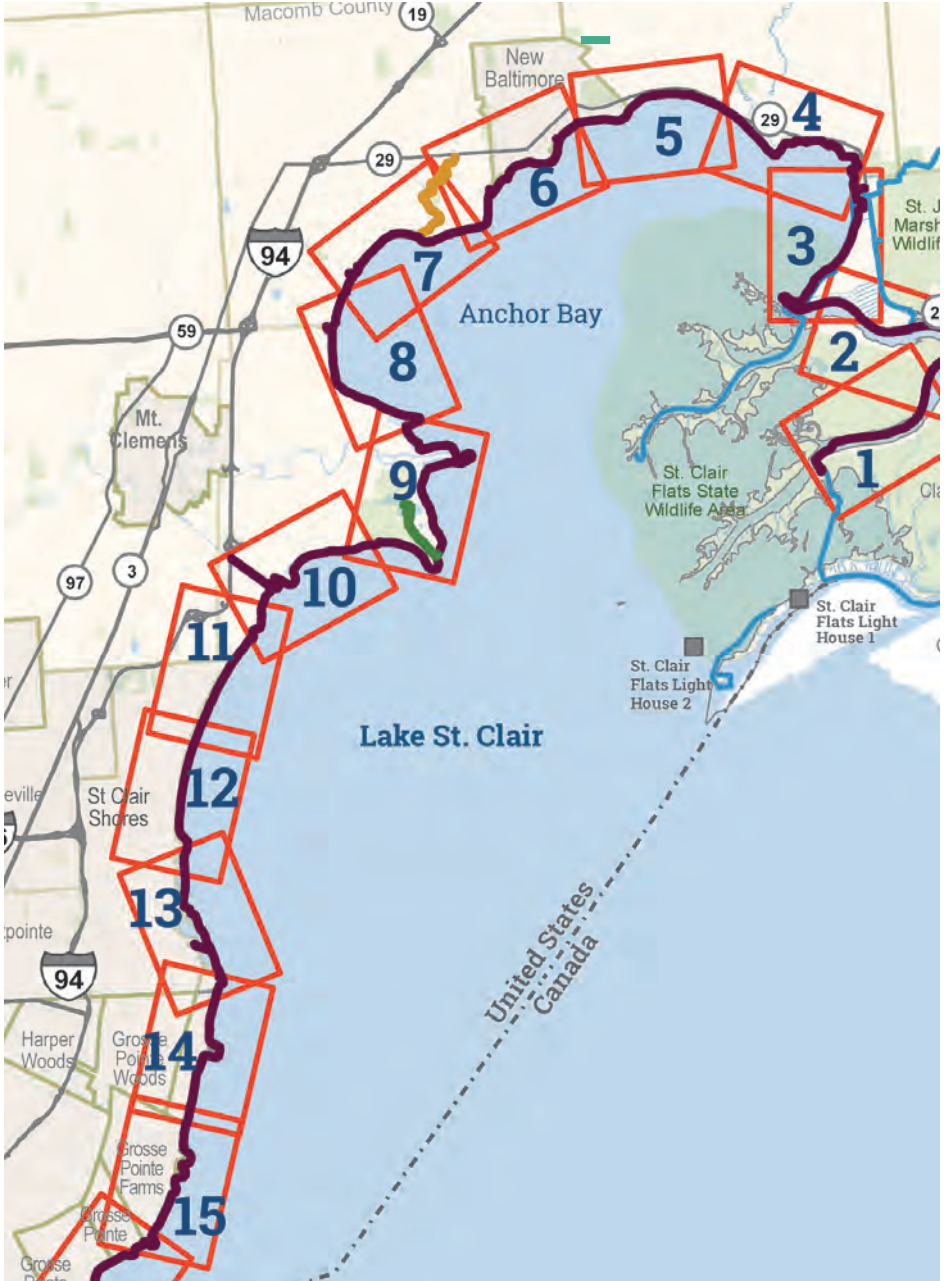
-  **Parking**
-  **Restrooms**
-  **Shelter**
-  **Boat Launch**
-  **Rustic Launch**
-  **Potable water**
-  **ADA Launch**
-  **Beach**
-  **Food**
-  **Electricity**
-  **Picnic**
-  **Outfitter**
-  **Storage**
-  **Park Fee**
-  **Fishing**
-  **Historic Area**

**For Emergencies  
Dial 9-1-1**

These ratings and descriptions provide only a general guide as to the level of difficulty of Lake St. Clair, which can change due to fluctuations in the waves, water level, flooding and bad weather. The degree of difficulty is contingent on the skills and experience of the paddler.

# MAP INDEX

The map pages are numbered to correspond to the sections shown below. The North symbol indicates the page position relative to due north.





## Snooks Launch (DNR)

### FEEES

Any DNR launch sites/parks require a Recreation Passport from the state to enter.  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



1 mi

### St. Clair Flats

St. Clair Flats is a 6,500-acre wildlife area that offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, and nature study.

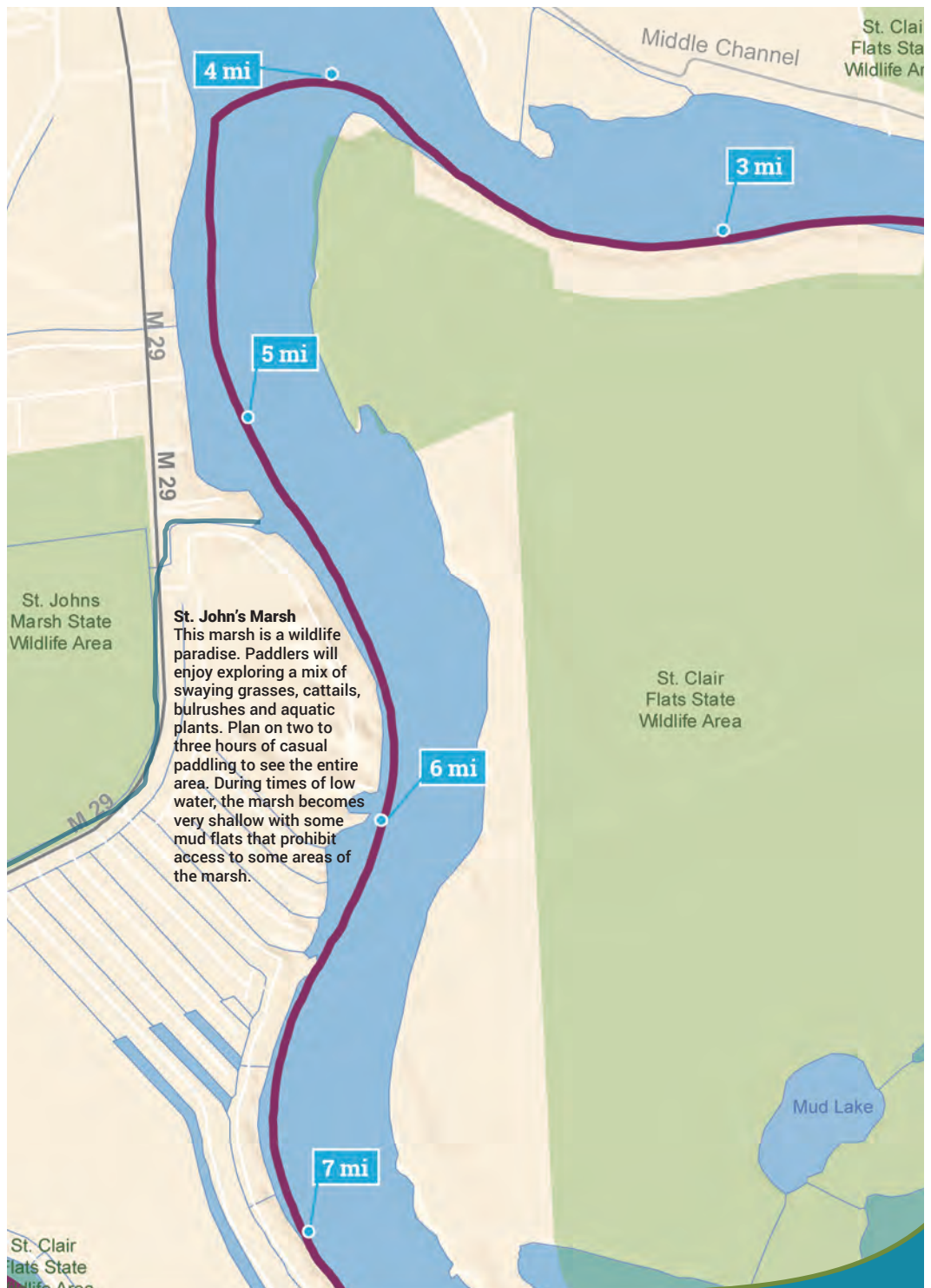
Its marshes, channels and an intricate network of canals and inlets are more important means of transportation than local roads during summer months. The area is reminiscent of fishing villages of the Eastern Seaboard or the bayous of the Mississippi Delta, and is within a one-hour drive from downtown Detroit.

St. Clair  
Flats State  
Wildlife Area

Middle Channel

2 mi

3 mi



4 mi

3 mi

5 mi

6 mi

7 mi

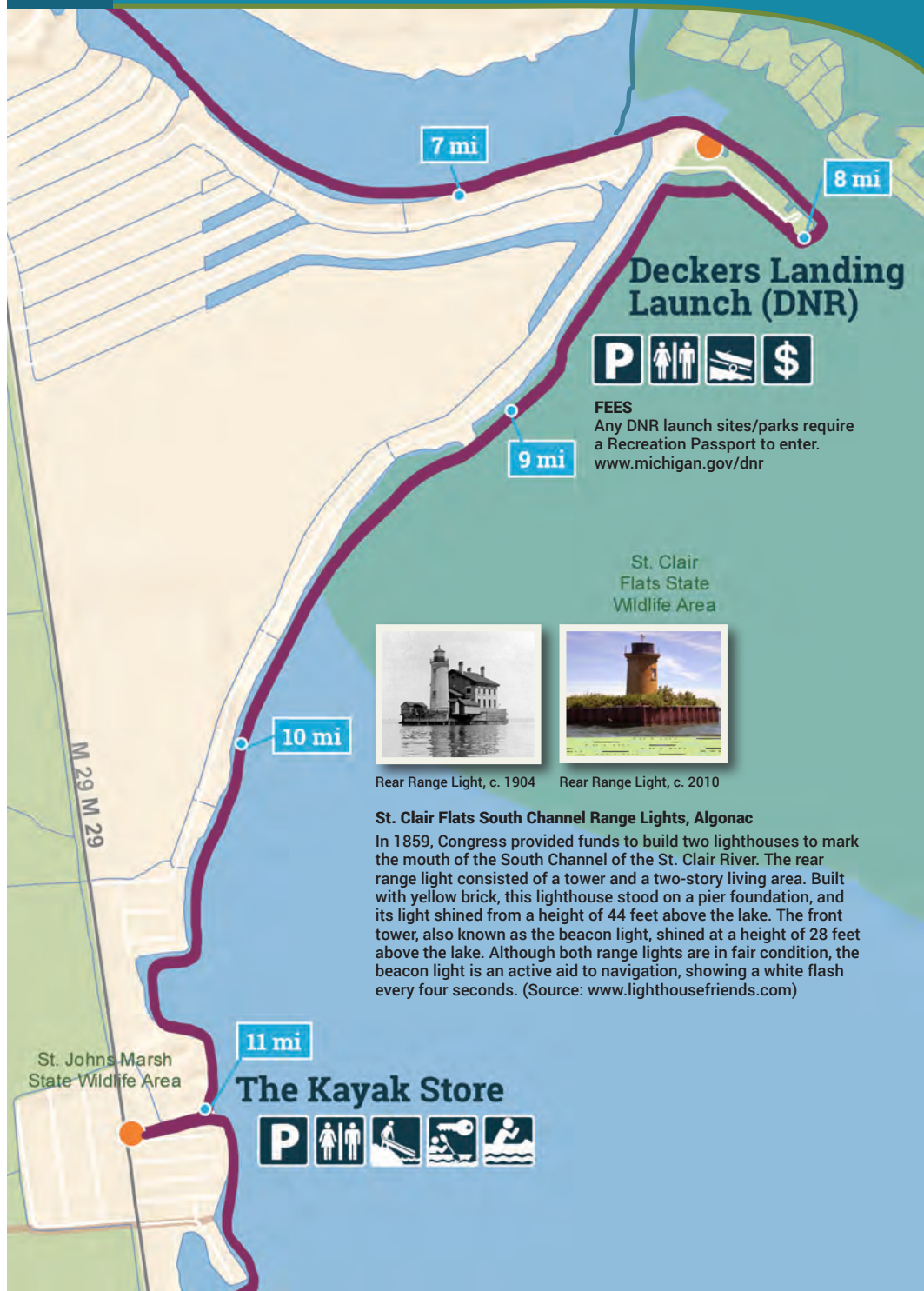
**St. John's Marsh**

This marsh is a wildlife paradise. Paddlers will enjoy exploring a mix of swaying grasses, cattails, bulrushes and aquatic plants. Plan on two to three hours of casual paddling to see the entire area. During times of low water, the marsh becomes very shallow with some mud flats that prohibit access to some areas of the marsh.

St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area

Mud Lake





7 mi

8 mi

## Deckers Landing Launch (DNR)



**FEES**  
Any DNR launch sites/parks require a Recreation Passport to enter.  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

9 mi

St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area



Rear Range Light, c. 1904



Rear Range Light, c. 2010

10 mi

### St. Clair Flats South Channel Range Lights, Algonac

In 1859, Congress provided funds to build two lighthouses to mark the mouth of the South Channel of the St. Clair River. The rear range light consisted of a tower and a two-story living area. Built with yellow brick, this lighthouse stood on a pier foundation, and its light shined from a height of 44 feet above the lake. The front tower, also known as the beacon light, shined at a height of 28 feet above the lake. Although both range lights are in fair condition, the beacon light is an active aid to navigation, showing a white flash every four seconds. (Source: [www.lighthousefriends.com](http://www.lighthousefriends.com))

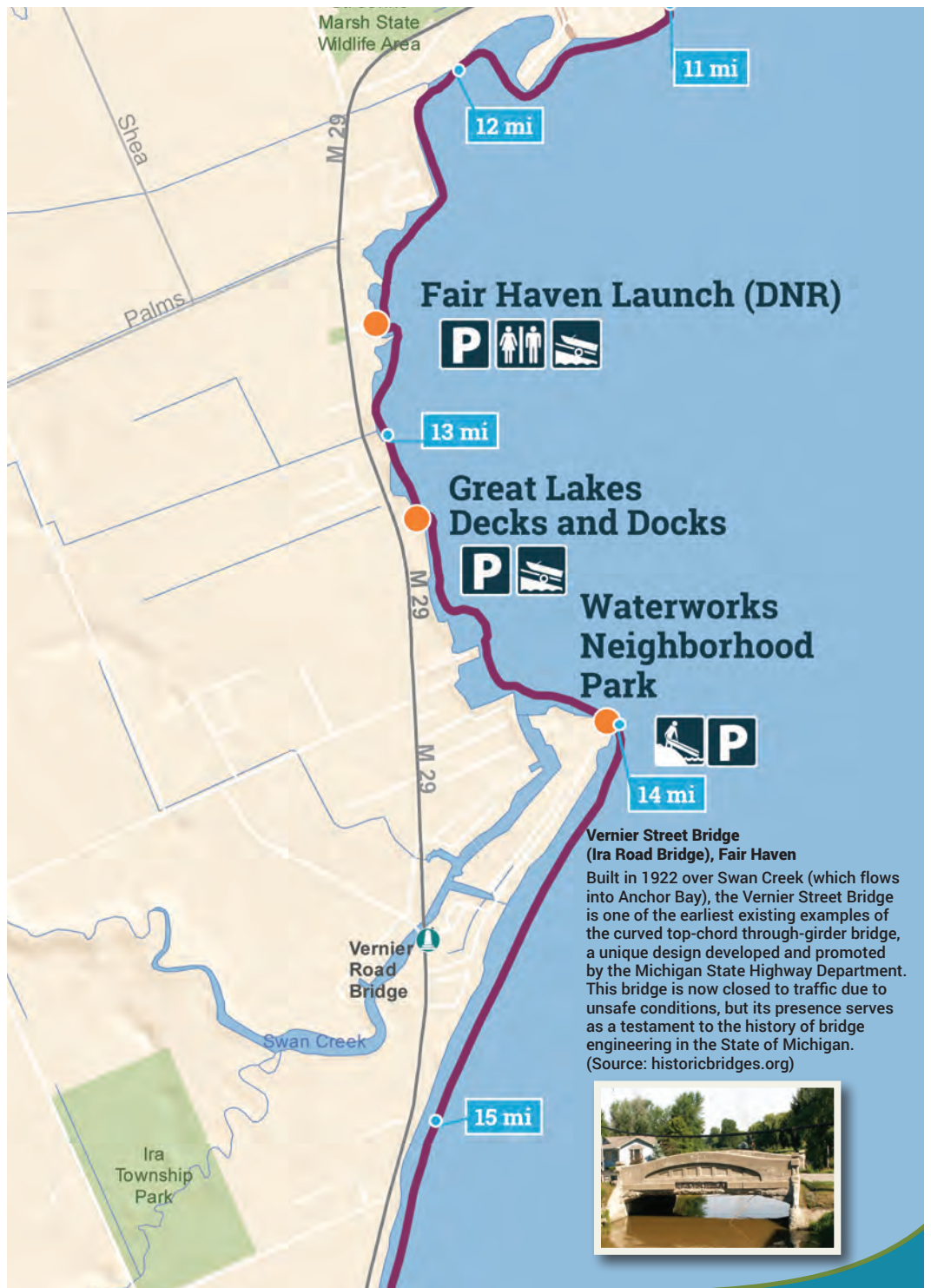
11 mi

## The Kayak Store



St. Johns Marsh State Wildlife Area

M 29 M 29



11 mi

12 mi

### Fair Haven Launch (DNR)



13 mi

### Great Lakes Decks and Docks



### Waterworks Neighborhood Park



14 mi

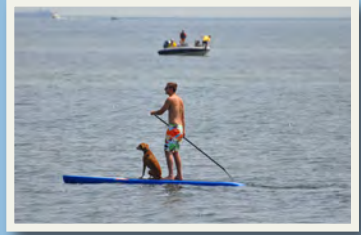
#### Vernier Street Bridge (Ira Road Bridge), Fair Haven

Built in 1922 over Swan Creek (which flows into Anchor Bay), the Vernier Street Bridge is one of the earliest existing examples of the curved top-chord through-girder bridge, a unique design developed and promoted by the Michigan State Highway Department. This bridge is now closed to traffic due to unsafe conditions, but its presence serves as a testament to the history of bridge engineering in the State of Michigan. (Source: [historicbridges.org](http://historicbridges.org))



15 mi





Everyone can enjoy stand-up paddleboarding on Lake St. Clair!

## Ruedisale Point Park



18 mi



## Walter and Mary Burke Park



19 mi

Walter and Mary Burke Park (Downtown Park)



The City of New Baltimore offers a soft-shore launch site from Walter and Mary Burke Park and many other leisure activities for the entire family, including a popular sandy public beach for sunning and swimming. Shopping and dining venues in New Baltimore's quaint historic and walkable downtown district surround the park.

20 mi

New Baltimore

## Brandenburg Park

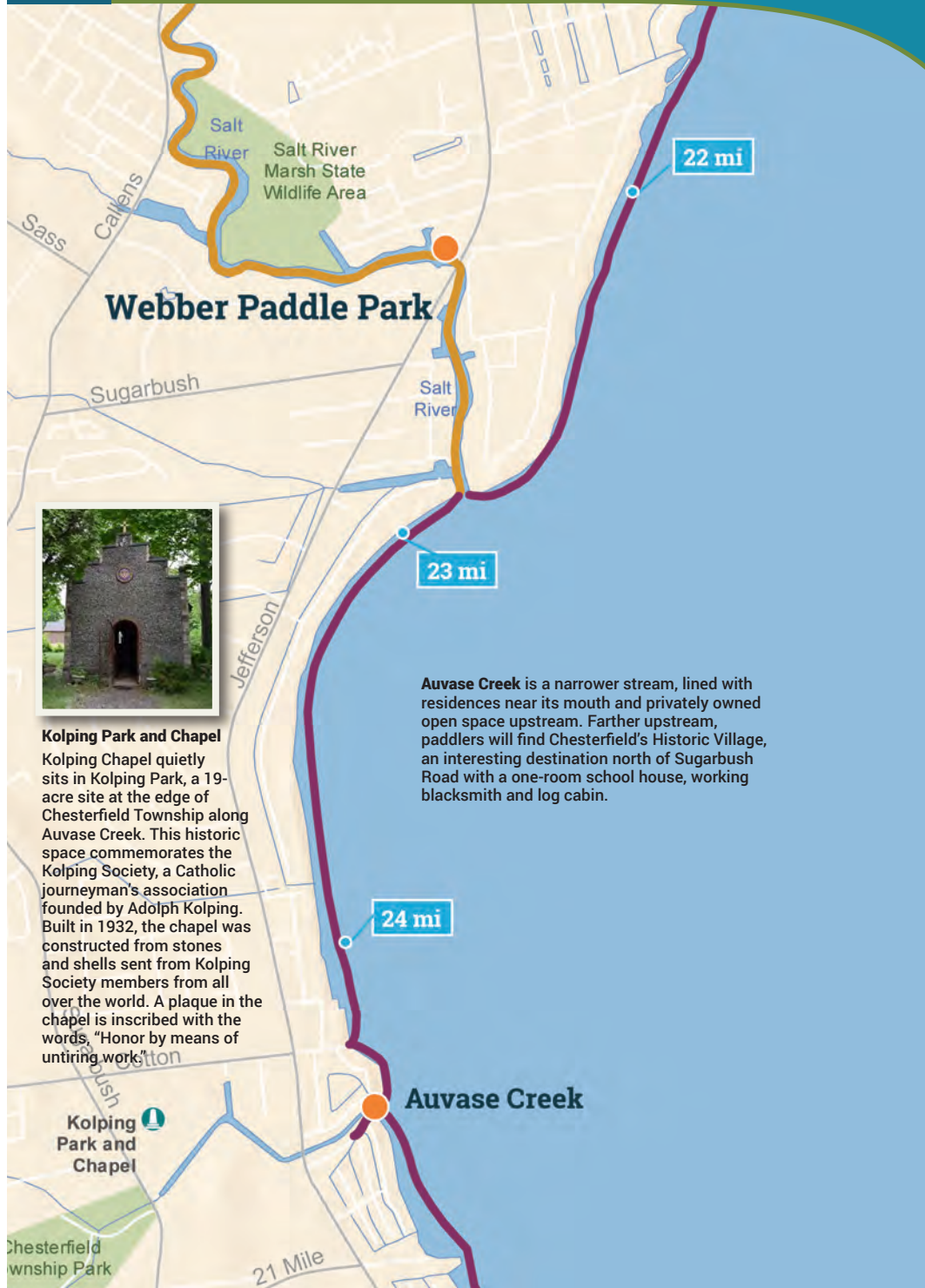


21 mi

Brandenburg Park

Salt River Marsh State Wildlife Area

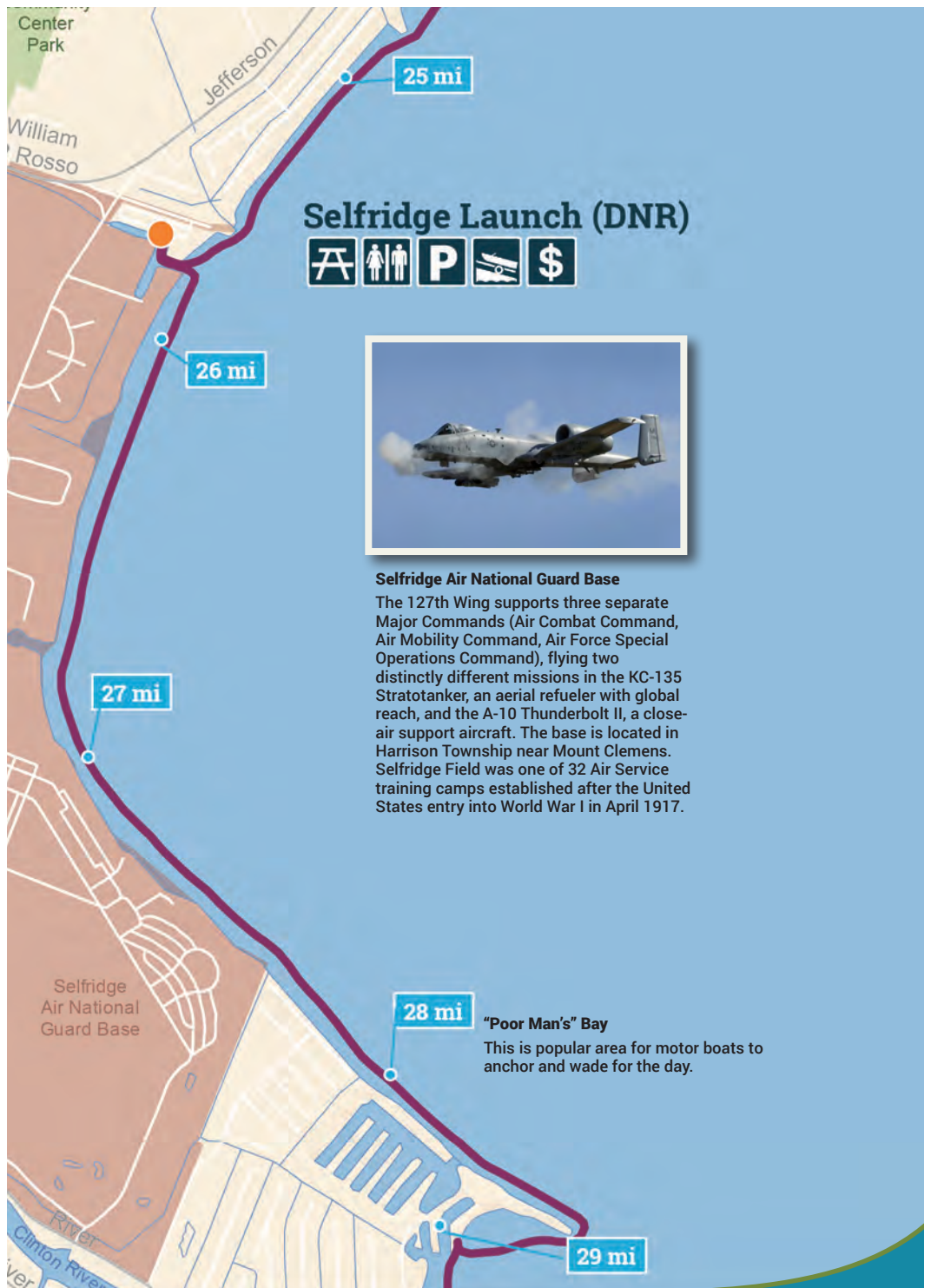




#### Kolping Park and Chapel

Kolping Chapel quietly sits in Kolping Park, a 19-acre site at the edge of Chesterfield Township along Auvase Creek. This historic space commemorates the Kolping Society, a Catholic journeyman's association founded by Adolph Kolping. Built in 1932, the chapel was constructed from stones and shells sent from Kolping Society members from all over the world. A plaque in the chapel is inscribed with the words, "Honor by means of untiring work."

**Auvase Creek** is a narrower stream, lined with residences near its mouth and privately owned open space upstream. Farther upstream, paddlers will find Chesterfield's Historic Village, an interesting destination north of Sugarbush Road with a one-room school house, working blacksmith and log cabin.



25 mi

## Selfridge Launch (DNR)



26 mi



### Selfridge Air National Guard Base

The 127th Wing supports three separate Major Commands (Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Special Operations Command), flying two distinctly different missions in the KC-135 Stratotanker, an aerial refueler with global reach, and the A-10 Thunderbolt II, a close-air support aircraft. The base is located in Harrison Township near Mount Clemens. Selfridge Field was one of 32 Air Service training camps established after the United States entry into World War I in April 1917.

27 mi

28 mi

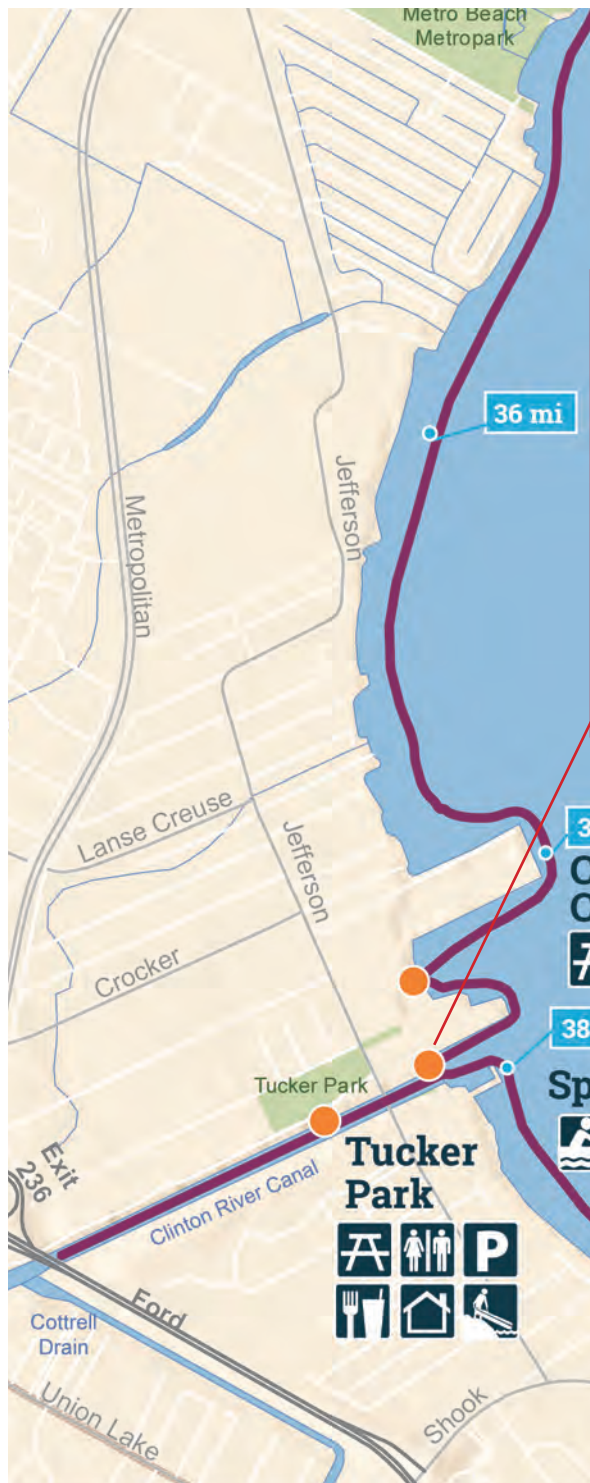
### "Poor Man's" Bay

This is popular area for motor boats to anchor and wade for the day.

29 mi







### Spillway

This loop is accessible at the mouth of the spillway and at Tucker Senior Center. It is important to note here that you cannot access the river from this loop because there is a dam. The Clinton River Spillway was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1950 to provide flood control for Mount Clemens, Clinton Township and Harrison Township. The spillway functions as an intercounty drain for the most urban areas in Macomb and Oakland counties, therefore it should be avoided during times of heavy rainfall which can cause increased flow and pollution. The Spillway has recently undergone a fish and wildlife habitat restoration project to increase habitat for the many fish species found here. The Spillway contains 35 species of fish, with the emerald shiner, spottail shiner, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish and brook silverside being the predominant classes.

36 mi

37 mi

### Clinton River Cut-Off (DNR Launch)



38 mi

### Spillway Park



### Tucker Park



### Harrison Twp. Lakefront Park



39 mi





**Harrison Twp.  
Lakefront Park**



39 mi

40 mi



Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel (above) is enjoying stand-up paddleboarding in the Black Creek Marsh at Lake St. Clair Metropark. Lessons and rentals are provided at this location.

41 mi



41 mi

**Alert!**

**Watch for Motorized Boats**

Motorized boats and marinas are common on Lake St. Clair. Be alert to your surroundings and other boat traffic.

42 mi



Local outfitters can fill a multitude of recreational needs including kayaks, paddleboards and jet skis. Some even offer delivery service!

43 mi



**ALERT**

Lake St. Clair's south coast features a large expanse of open water. Paddlers should be aware that conditions can change quickly. Strong currents are also present, particularly when approaching the Detroit River. Extra caution should be taken near seawalls due to wave action against the walls that prohibits beaching your paddlecraft.



Photo credit: Andrew Jameson - Side of Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

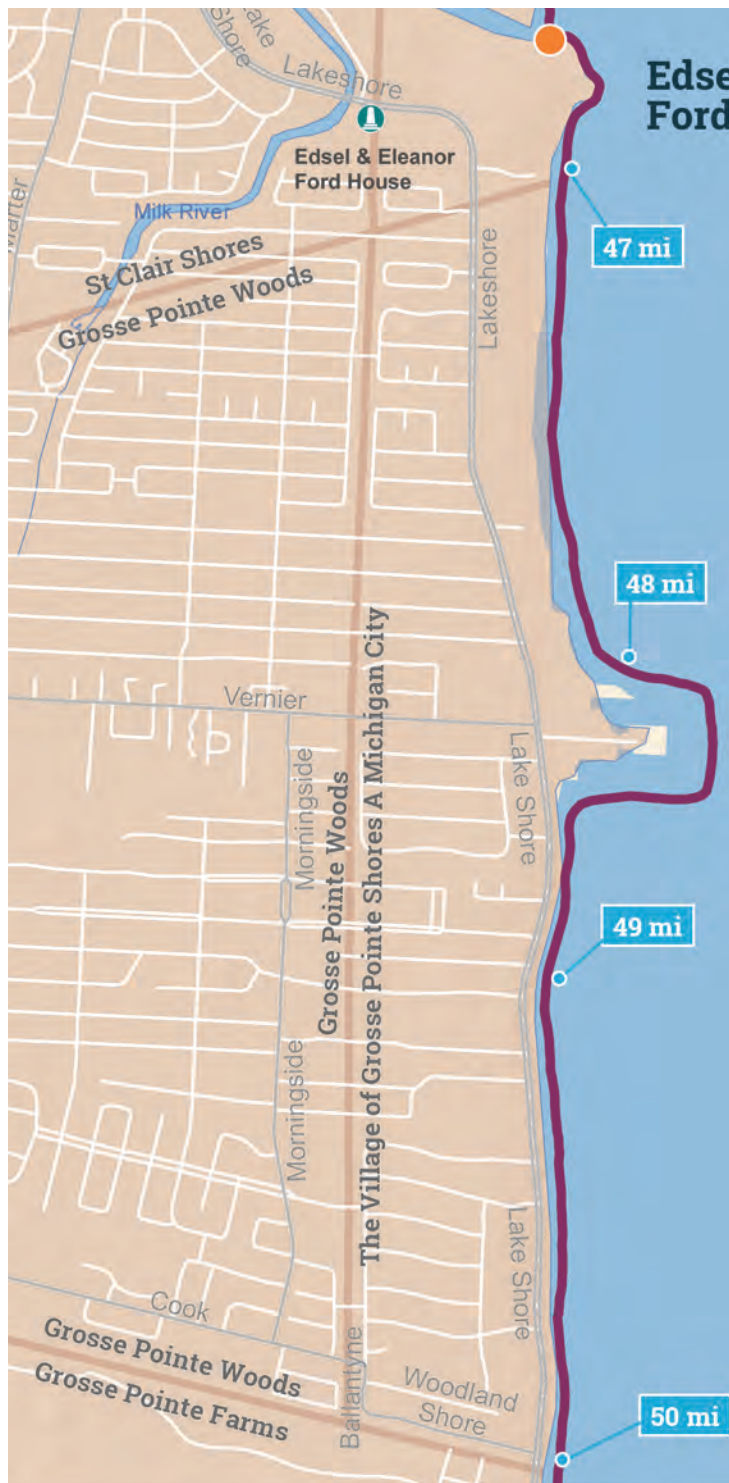
**Edsel & Eleanor Ford House**

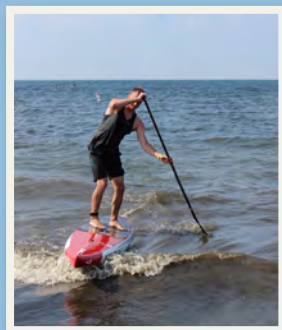
Use the public 9 Mile Launch to access the visitor center or schedule a tour of the historic home and beautiful landscape once belonging to Edsel Ford, Henry Ford's only child. Edsel and his wife Eleanor began construction on their dream home along the shores of Lake St. Clair in 1926. The home still stands on 87 lush green acres where visitors can experience its beautiful gardens and spectacular stonework and water features. The interior is also open for tours and contains a collection of original art and antiques.



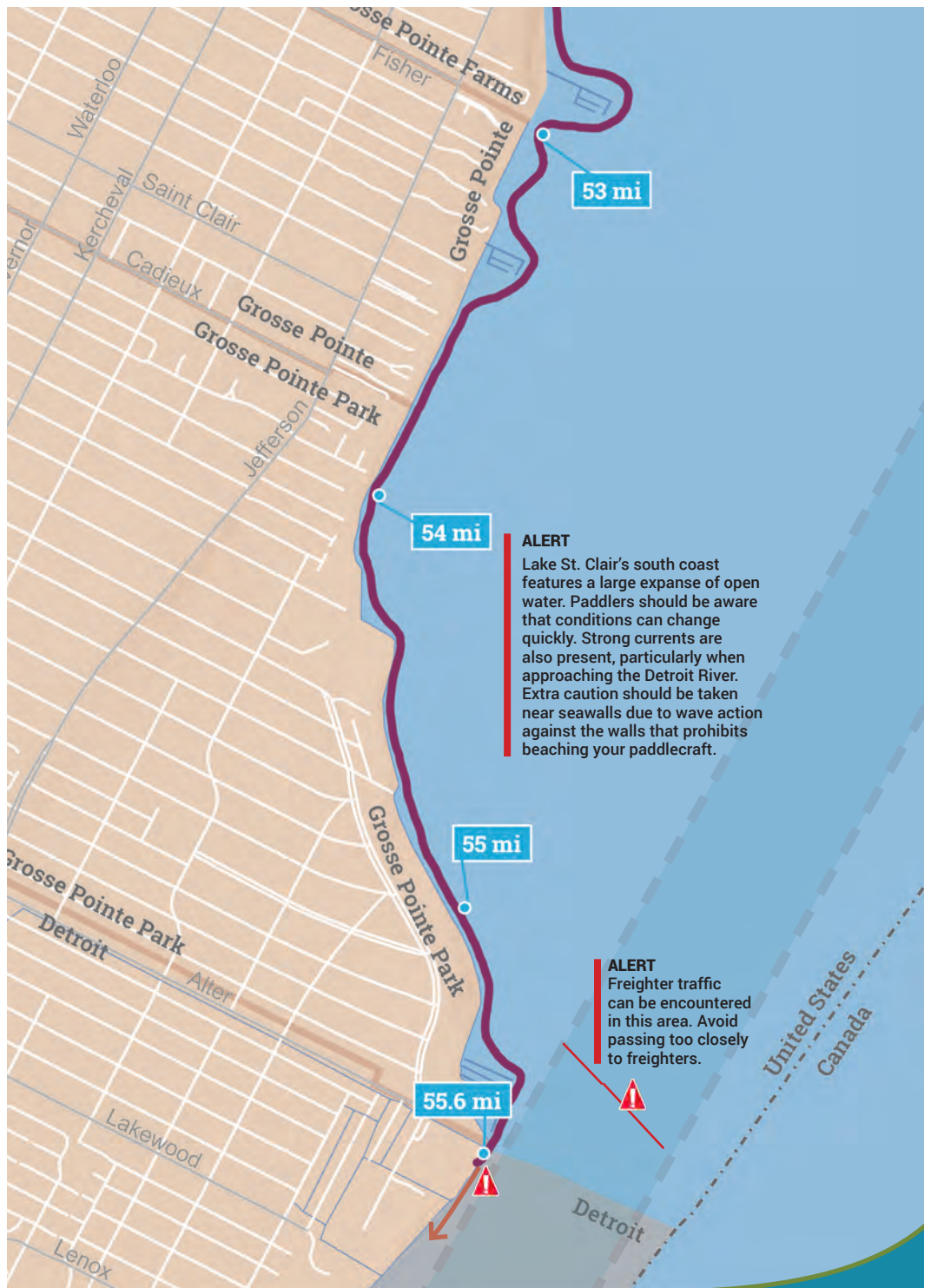
## Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Some of southeast Michigan's finest residential architecture graces Lake St. Clair's waterfront from the City of St. Clair Shores to Belle Isle in Detroit. Launch sites are limited along this stretch of coastline, but paddlers can venture south from the 9 Mile Launch to see many magnificent "Point Community" estates from their most attractive side, or head north to the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores to view the shoreline's greatest concentration of gift shops, marinas and parkland.





Stand-up paddleboarding has become so popular, there is even a Midwest racing series every year. Check out [www.midwestsup.com](http://www.midwestsup.com) for a list of upcoming events.



53 mi

54 mi

**ALERT**  
Lake St. Clair's south coast features a large expanse of open water. Paddlers should be aware that conditions can change quickly. Strong currents are also present, particularly when approaching the Detroit River. Extra caution should be taken near seawalls due to wave action against the walls that prohibits beaching your paddlecraft.

55 mi

**ALERT**  
Freighter traffic can be encountered in this area. Avoid passing too closely to freighters.

55.6 mi



## OUTFITTERS

### Simple Adventures

31300 Metropolitan Pkwy, Harrison Township (in Lake St. Clair Metropark); 36300 Front St, New Baltimore (Walter & Mary Burke Park); and services out of the 9 Mile Launch in St. Clair Shores and on Harsens Island.

1-844-WE-KAYAK | 248-320-2429

[www.simpleadventures.net](http://www.simpleadventures.net)

### Detroit River Sports

14601 Riverside Blvd, Detroit

313-908-0484 | [paddle@detroitriversports.com](mailto:paddle@detroitriversports.com)

[www.detroitriversports.com](http://www.detroitriversports.com)

### Detroit Outpost

11000 Freud St, Detroit

313-422-3618 | [detroitoutpost@gmail.com](mailto:detroitoutpost@gmail.com)

[www.detroitoutpost.com](http://www.detroitoutpost.com)



## TABLE OF APPROXIMATE DISTANCES BETWEEN ACCESS POINTS IN MILES

Access Site	Miles from Last Access
Snooks Launch (DNR)	Beginning
Deckers Landing Launch (DNR)	7.6
The Kayak Store	3.5
Fair Haven Launch (DNR)	1.5
Great Lakes Decks and Docks	0.5
Waterworks Neighborhood Park	0.8
Ruedisale Point Park	3.4
Walter and Mary Burke Park	1.4
Brandenburg Park	1.9
Webber Paddle Park	2.5
Selfridge Launch (DNR)	3.2
Harley Ensign (DNR) Launch	1.4
Lake St. Clair Metropark Day Sail Launch	4.5
Clinton River Cut-Off (DNR Launch)	2.4
Spillway Park	0.4
Harrison Twp. Waterfront Park	1.1
9 Mile Boat Launch	6.9

### WARNING

Canoeing and kayaking can be dangerous. Serious bodily injury and loss of life can and does occur. Varying water levels, holes, drop-offs, boat traffic, sharp objects, rocks, dams, water current, undertow and other phenomenon of Lake St. Clair create constantly changing conditions and hazards. Do not dive head-first into the lake. There is danger of being swamped by waves when attempting to take canoes or kayaks onto Lake St. Clair. This book 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 paddling trip it is essential the route be thoroughly scouted.



# LAKE ST. CLAIR COASTAL WATER TRAIL

DISCOVER  
55 MILES  
OF COASTAL ADVENTURES



PADDLING GUIDE BOOK 16 COASTAL MAPS



1115 W. Avon Road  
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309  
(248) 601-0606 | (248) 601-1280 (fax)

[WWW.CRWC.ORG](http://WWW.CRWC.ORG)

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