

Paddle Trip Attributes

Water Body: Kalamazoo River

Put-in: 15 Mile Rd.

Take-Out: Wattles Rd.

- Water low in some places might require some wading with boat
- Significant open lake water paddling with possible wind and wave effects
- Combination of river and open lake paddling with some wind and wave effects
- Route includes some slow backwater from a dam
- Tight bends in river or debris in river will require maneuvering skills
- Portage around: dam, ~~low bridge(s), and/or fallen trees~~
- Wide river with more gradual bends
- River current mostly slow
- Some places with fast current
- Some places with class one rapids (very mild)
- Some places with class two rapids (moderate; some chance of capsizing)
- Upstream paddle on half of the trip route
- Route through mostly natural areas
- Route through mostly developed or urban areas
- Route has combination of natural and developed areas
- Much of route is through wetlands
- Much of trip through wooded areas
- Water will be somewhat cold; bring extra change of clothes in waterproof bag

Comments:

This is the stretch of the Kalamazoo River which was severely damaged by the 2010 Enbridge Energy oil pipeline rupture and spill on the Talmadge Creek Tributary, just below Marshall. In the last three years, Enbridge has spent millions with a supervised clean-up and restoration of the damaged environment. The EPA and Michigan DNR have now given a safety clearance for public paddling use of the river. As part of its agreement, Enbridge removed the Ceresco Dam and renovated the Historic Bridge Park, where the take-out is. Prior to the put in, there will be a brief presentation of accident and the restoration efforts.