

*Western Michigan Green Infrastructure Conference*



# Ottawa County Parks: Focused on Green Infrastructure

*August 5, 2015*

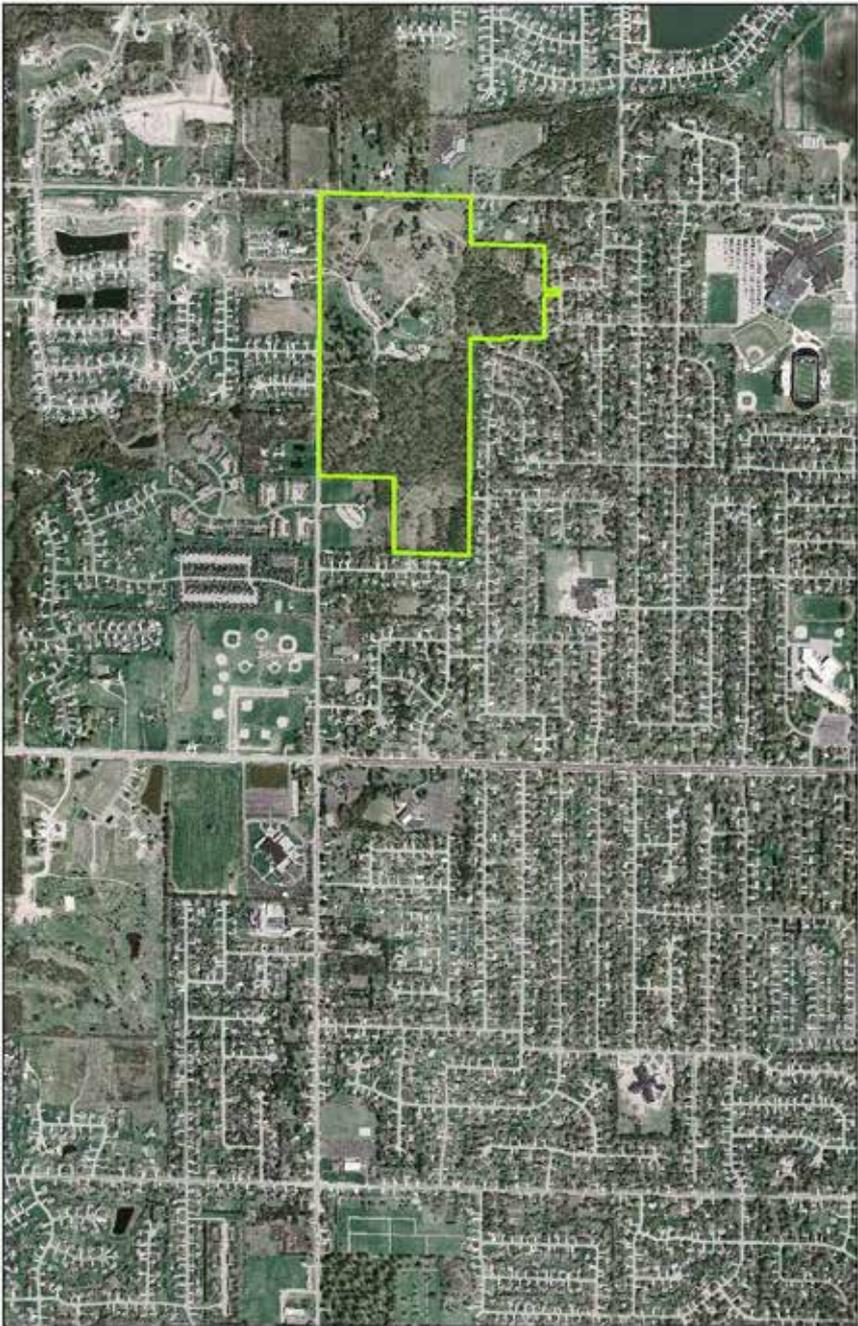


# 1996 Goal: Expand Park System and Implement Greenway Plan

- Respond to rapid growth in county: Fastest growing county in state with population over 200,000
- Natural resource-based park system of 2,000 acres deemed inadequate to meet maintain quality of life with expanded population.
- County-wide Michigan Natural Features Inventory study completed.
- MNFI advice to focus on habitat corridors – not isolated natural areas.



# Hager Park: Island of Green Space



# Green Infrastructure and Greenways

## Green Infrastructure:

An "interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations."

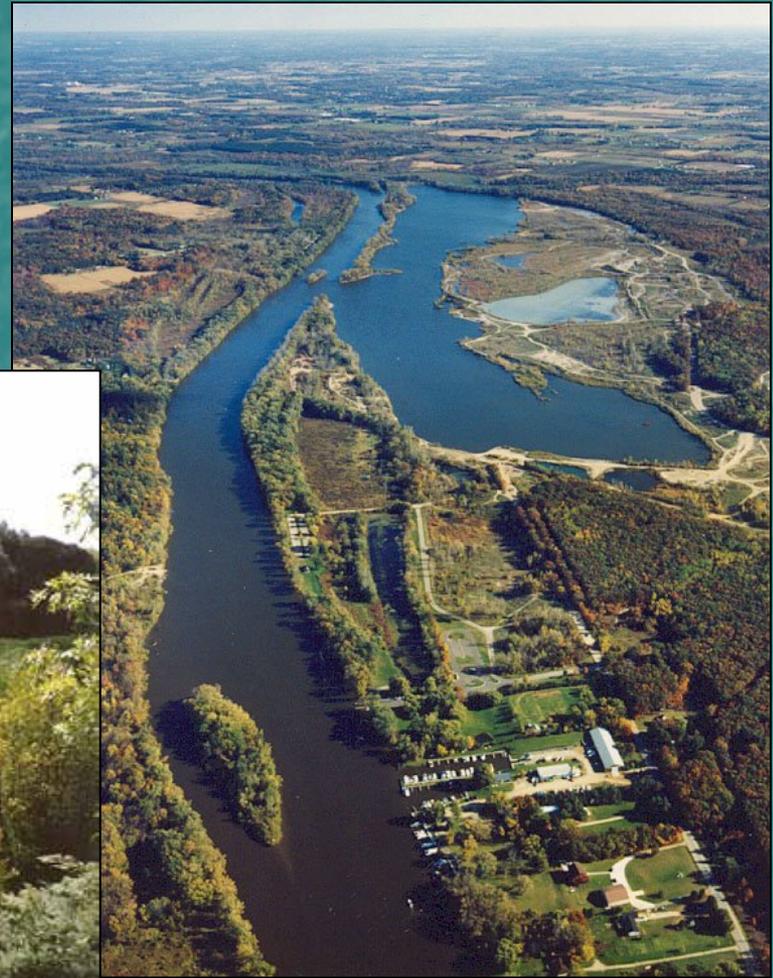
*Mark Benedict and  
Ed McMahon*



Ripps Bayou



Hemlock Crossing



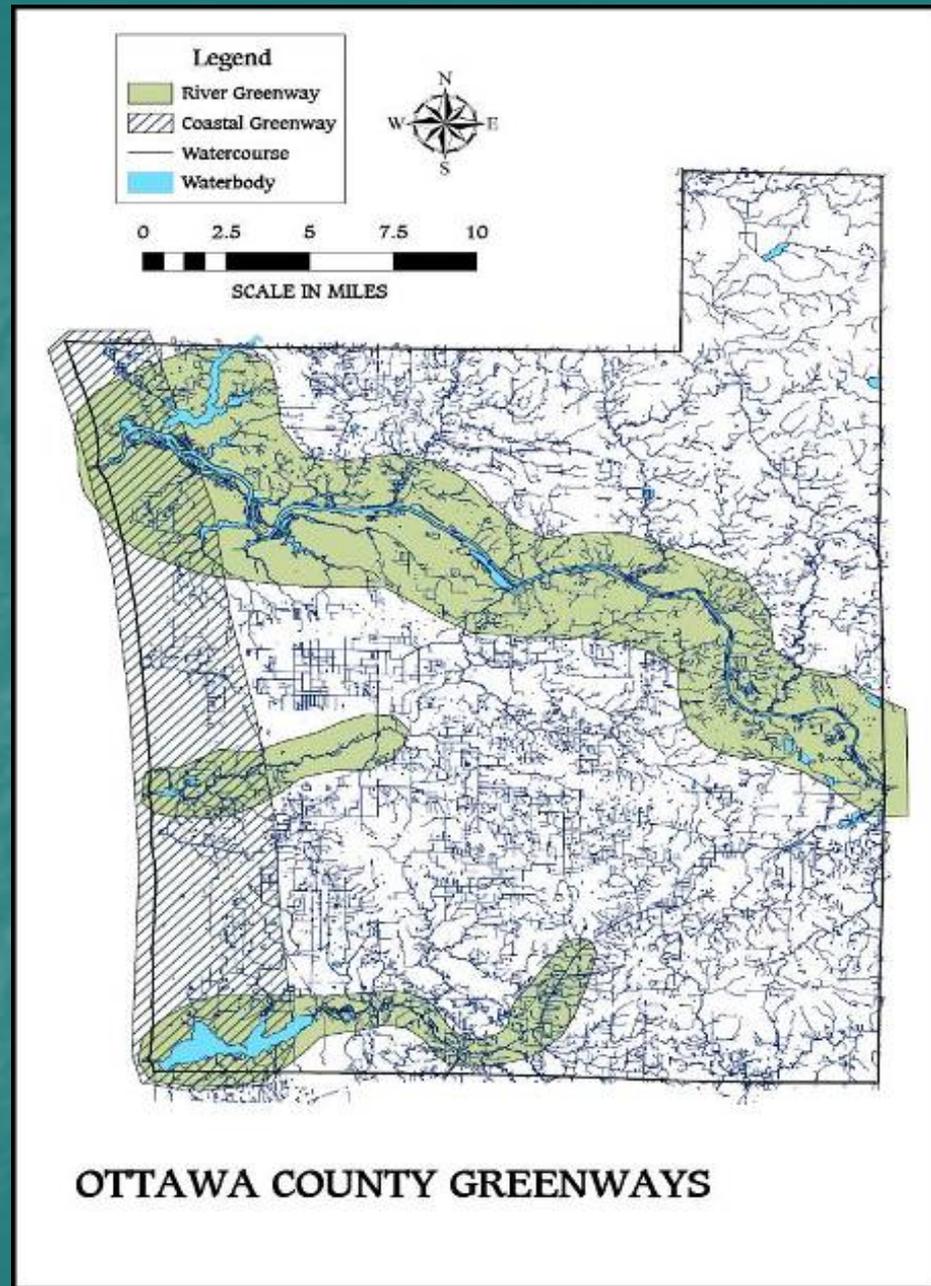
Grand River Greenway

# Greenway Initiatives

- § LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL GREENWAY
- § GRAND RIVER GREENWAY
- § PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY
- § MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

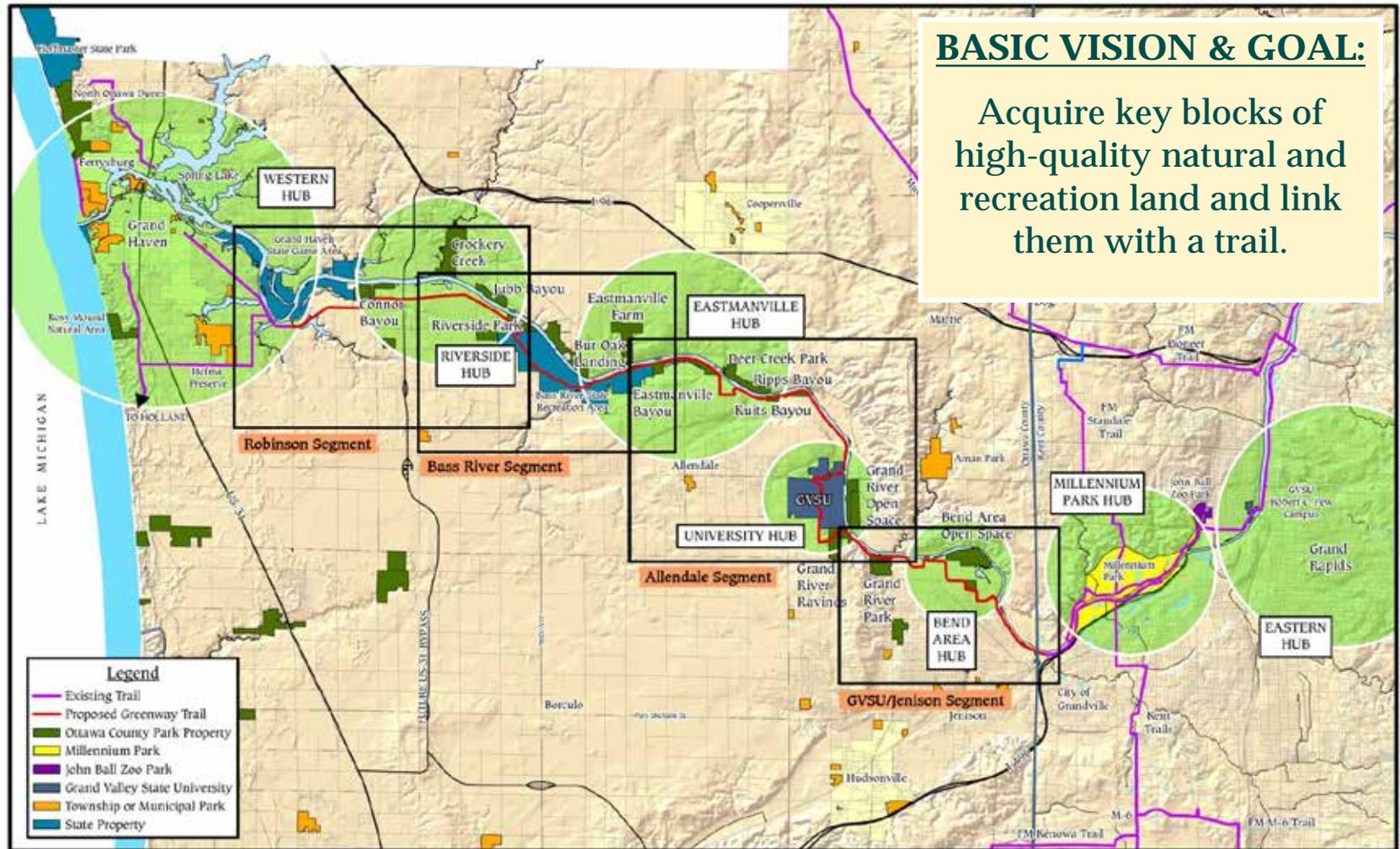


Hemlock Crossing on Pigeon River



## BASIC VISION & GOAL:

Acquire key blocks of high-quality natural and recreation land and link them with a trail.



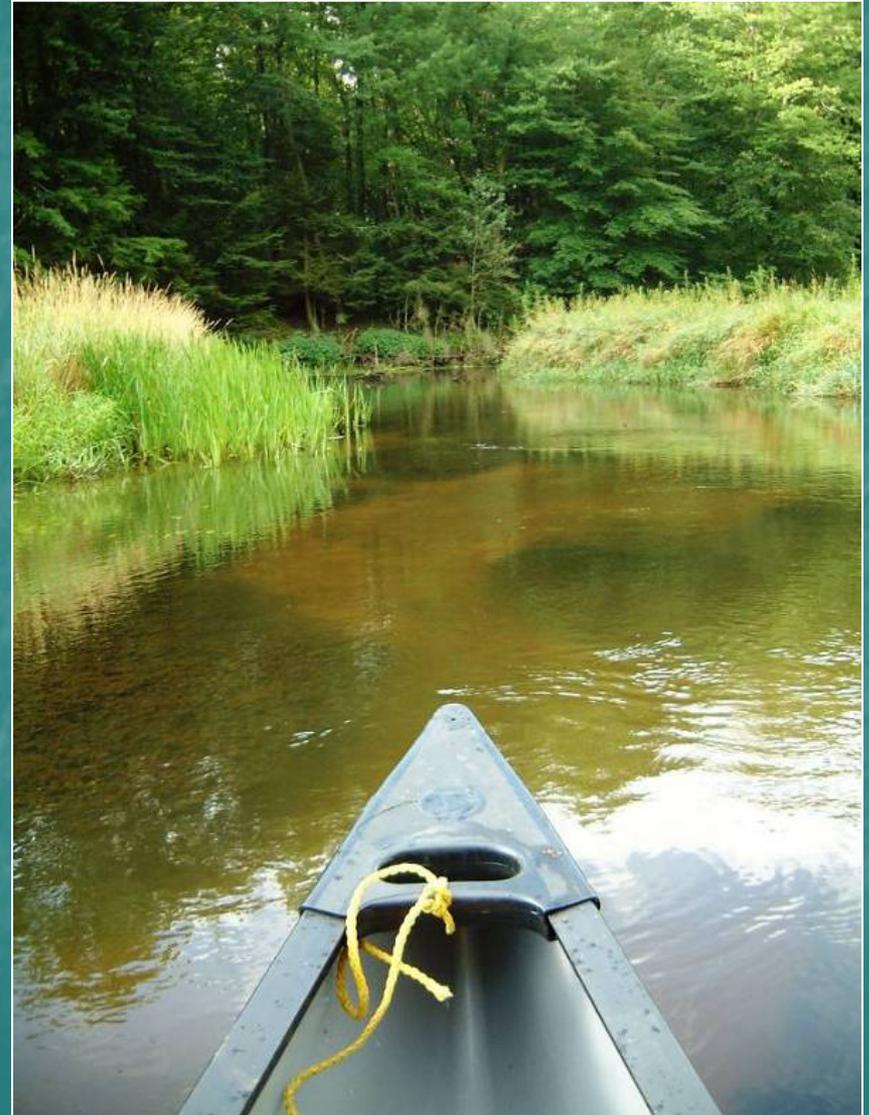
## Grand River Greenway



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

# 1996 Goal: Expand Park System and Implement Greenway Plan

- Greenways integrated into long-range master plan for park system
- Dedicated parks millage approved as cornerstone for parks funding
- Aggressive pursuit of state and federal grant funding with over \$20 million received since 1996
- Park system expanded to 6,450 acres
- 6 parks on Lake Michigan with 1.6 miles of lake frontage
- 20 miles riverfront acquired on 3 key rivers



# Crockery Creek Natural Area



# Habitat Corridor



Bass River State  
Recreation Area

Bur Oak  
Landing



# North Ottawa Dunes

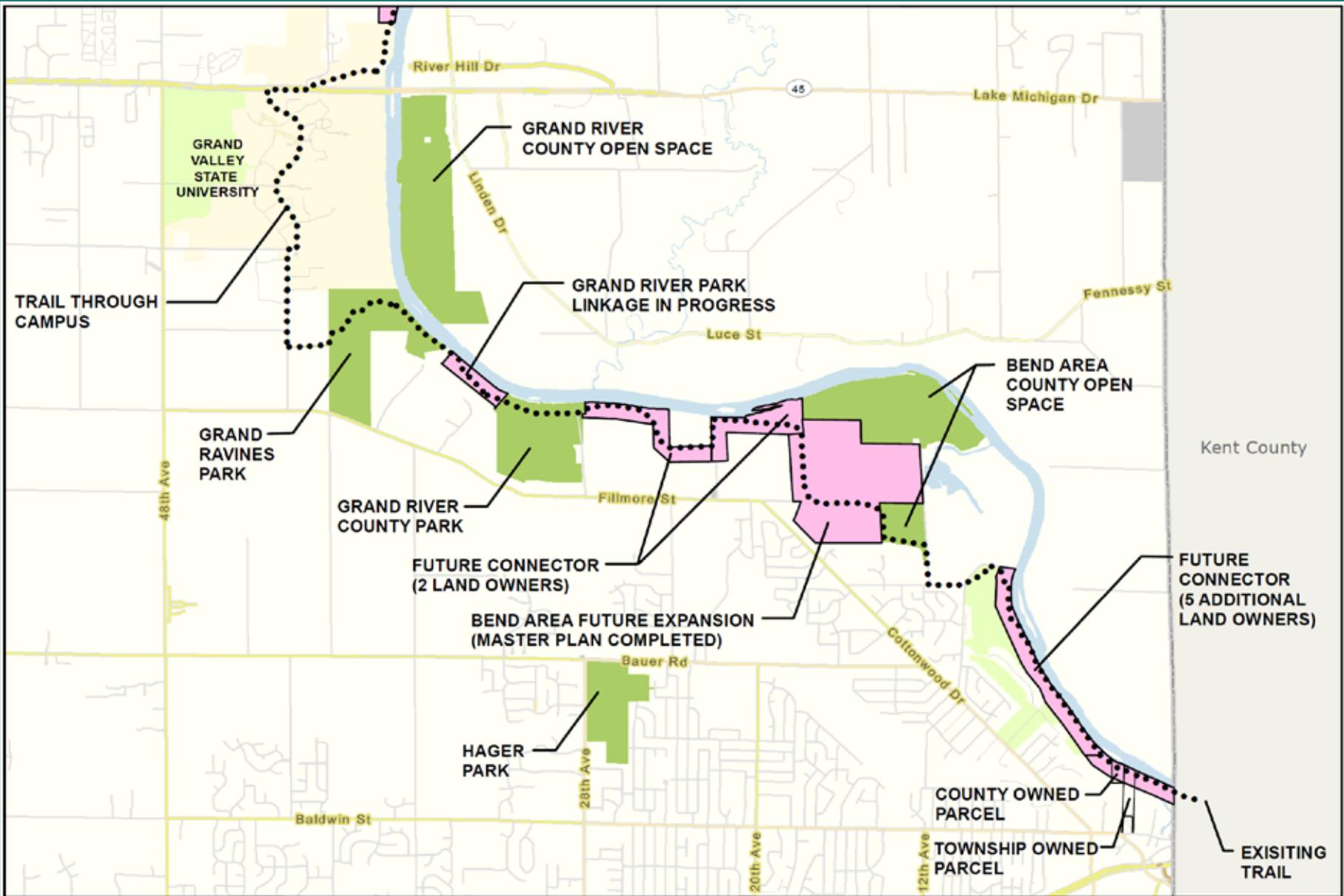
## Funding Sources:

MNRTF Grant	\$3,900,000
County Parks Millage	\$1,800,000
Private Donations	<u>\$1,400,000</u>
<b>PURCHASE PRICE</b>	<b>\$7,100,000</b>

Partnered with Land Conservancy of West Michigan

## Hoffmaster State Park





**EASTERN GREENWAY SEGMENT**  
**GRAND RIVER RAVINES**  
 GRAND RIVER GREENWAY - GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP

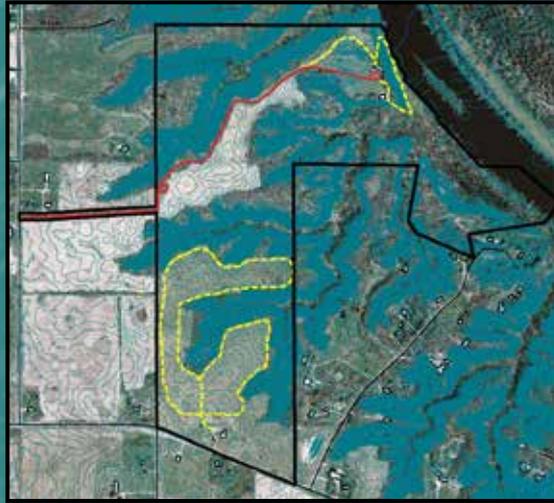


Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



# Grand Ravines

- Two Trust Fund grants assisted in expanding site to 187 acres with ½ mile on Grand River
- Park improvements in 2015 and 2016



# Exploring Partnership with GVSU on Ravine Trail System



# GRAND RIVER OPEN SPACE

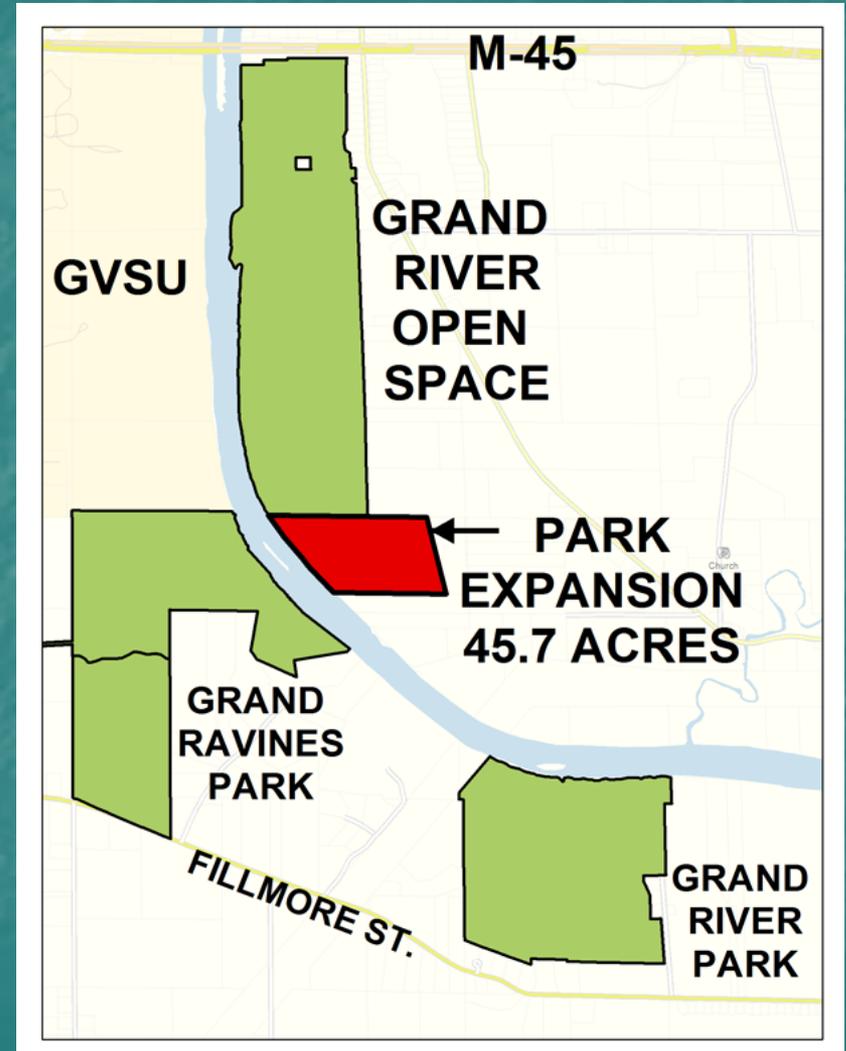
- § 279 acres, 1.6 miles river frontage
- § Hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing
- § Funding assistance from USDA through stimulus Emergency Watershed Protection Project, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- § Floodplain forest restoration – planted 15,000 trees and shrubs – to stabilize eroding soils
- § Archaeological site – Native Americans



Grand River Open Space



# Trust Fund Grant Enabled 2014 Expansion



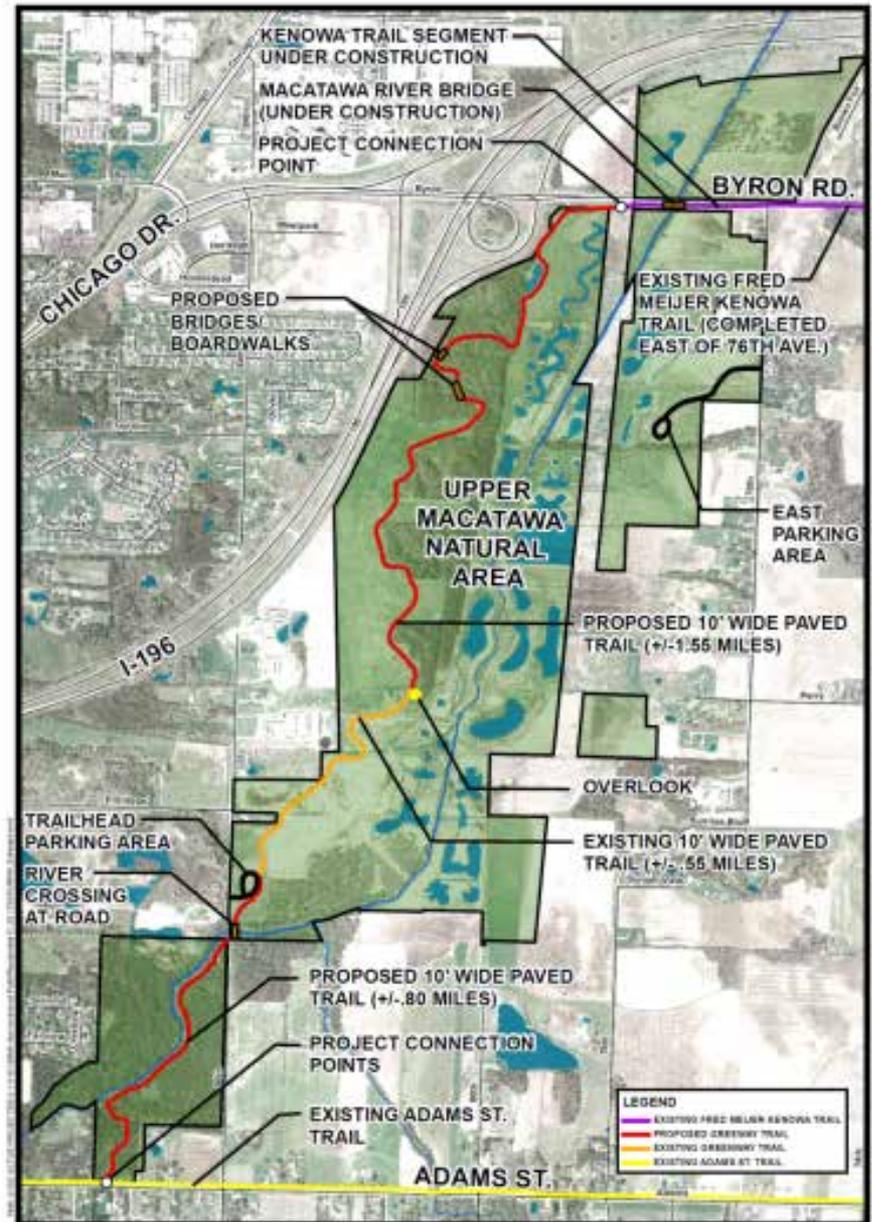
# Upper Macatawa Natural Area

- § Challenge to find high quality greenway park sites.
- § Worked with greenway partners to find large land base with restoration potential.



# Upper Macatawa Natural Area Goals

- § Provide recreational opportunities and preserve open space land
- § Increase wildlife habitat
- § Provide flood storage
- § Improve water quality (primarily phosphorus removal)



**PROPOSED MACATAWA GREENWAY TRAIL**  
AT THE UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA

Legend:  
- Existing Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail  
- Proposed Greenway Trail  
- Existing Greenway Trail  
- Existing Adams St. Trail

Scale: 0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Source: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

# Upper Macatawa: Phase I Construction



- CREP program through USDA
- 130 acres restored
- Plugged drains, broke drain tiles and created serpentine wetlands.
- 60 acre WHIP funded prairie

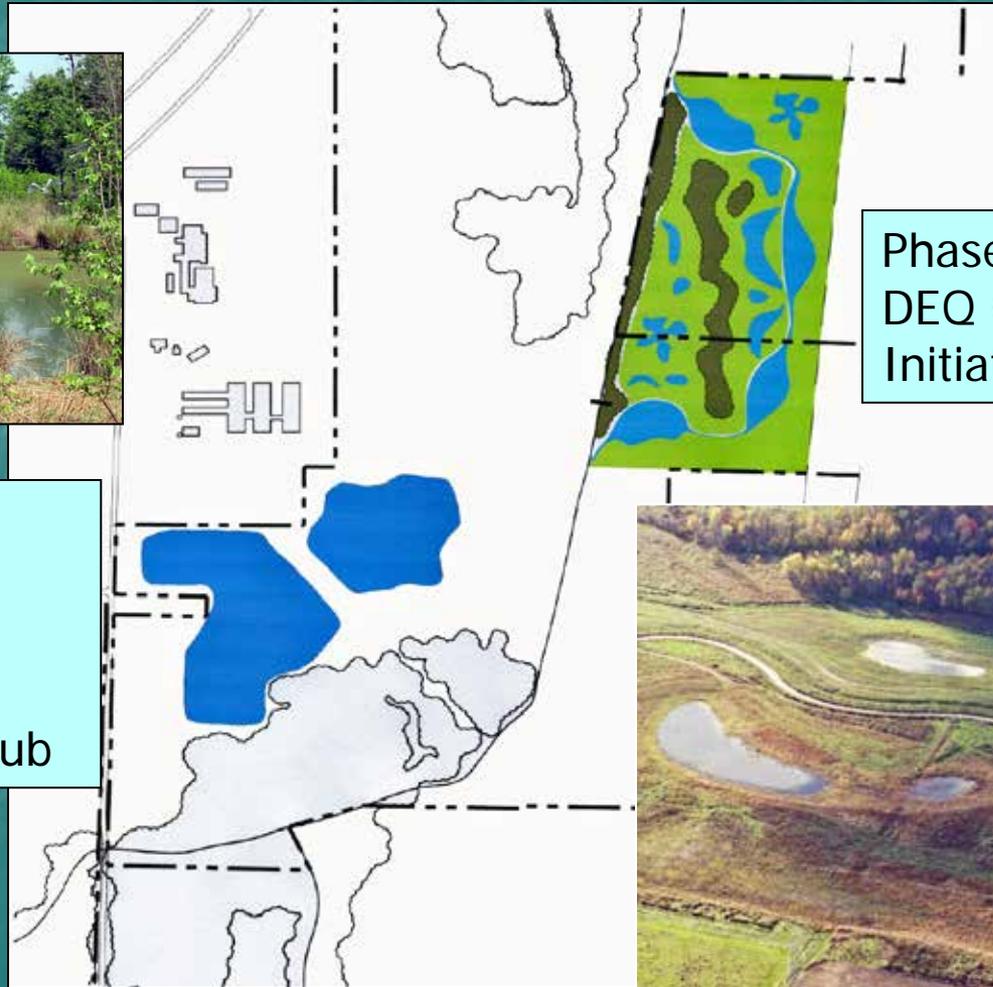


# Upper Macatawa: Construction Phases 2 & 3



## Phase Three MDOT Wetlands

- 12 acres forested
- 7 acres scrub-shrub



Phase Two Project  
DEQ Clean Michigan  
Initiative Grant



# Macatawa River Greenway: Upper Macatawa Natural Area

612 acres – 2.5 river miles



Popular Birding Area



Parking and Wetlands at 76<sup>th</sup> Ave.



Seven mile  
mountain bike  
trail system



Hilltop Overlook



# Wide Range of Project Partners

- Non-profit Outdoor Discovery Center  
Macatawa Greenway
- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- United States Department of Agriculture
  - Conservation Reserve Enhancement program through USDA
  - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Ottawa Conservation District
- MDEQ Coastal Restoration Grant Program and CMI Water Quality Grant Program
- Ducks Unlimited
- MACC Watershed Project
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition
- Holland Audubon
- Private Donors



# Macatawa Greenway

