

The Grand River Greenway

Vision and Framework for Action

FINAL REPORT
2025



Grand
River
Network



The Grand River Greenway

Vision and Framework for Action

The Grand River Greenway is one big idea with many partners. This document serves as an overview of the multifaceted projects – planned and currently underway - that constitute the collective vision of the Grand River Greenway in Ottawa and Kent Counties.

WHO'S LEADING?

In Ottawa County, the Grand River Greenway is a project led by the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission.

In Kent County, the Grand River Greenway is a unique package of individual projects led by an array of community partners, including, but not limited to, Kent County, the City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., Grand Rapids Whitewater, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Action 2.0 and Lowell Recreation Authority, as well as Plainfield, Ada and Lowell.

This Vision and Framework document was developed by the Grand River Network and made possible by funding from the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority.

ORIGINAL STEWARDS

Grand River Greenway project partners hold sincere awareness of, respect for and deference to the history of this place. The Greenway project and, in fact, all West Michigan communities are situated on the traditional homelands of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians.

Wherever possible and appropriate, the Greenway project aspires to genuinely respect and honor the cultures and traditions of the original stewards as implementation efforts move forward.

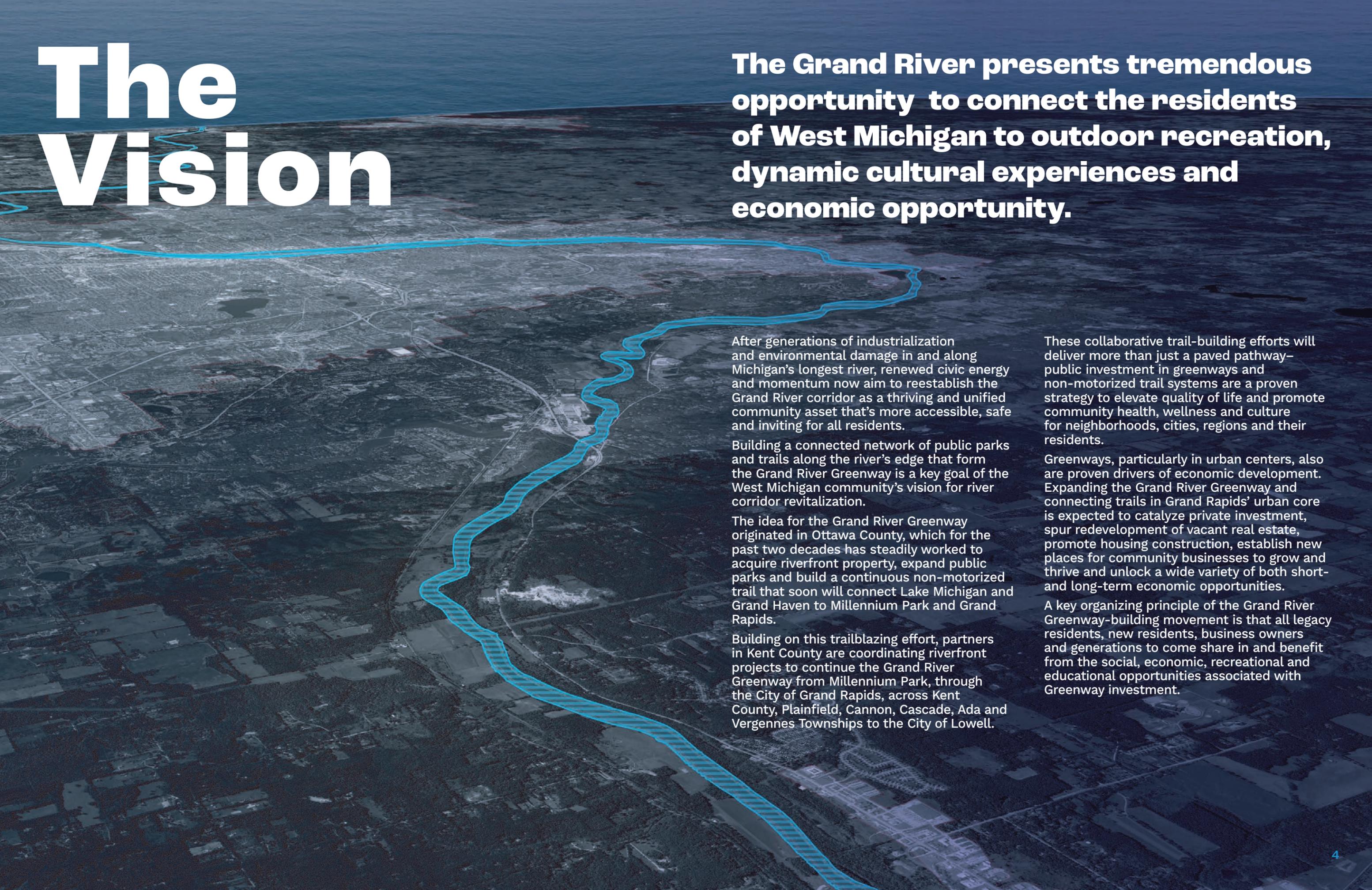


Bicyclists pass safely at the Pettis Avenue crossing.



Tribal members from the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians participate in a water ceremony.

The Vision



The Grand River presents tremendous opportunity to connect the residents of West Michigan to outdoor recreation, dynamic cultural experiences and economic opportunity.

After generations of industrialization and environmental damage in and along Michigan's longest river, renewed civic energy and momentum now aim to reestablish the Grand River corridor as a thriving and unified community asset that's more accessible, safe and inviting for all residents.

Building a connected network of public parks and trails along the river's edge that form the Grand River Greenway is a key goal of the West Michigan community's vision for river corridor revitalization.

The idea for the Grand River Greenway originated in Ottawa County, which for the past two decades has steadily worked to acquire riverfront property, expand public parks and build a continuous non-motorized trail that soon will connect Lake Michigan and Grand Haven to Millennium Park and Grand Rapids.

Building on this trailblazing effort, partners in Kent County are coordinating riverfront projects to continue the Grand River Greenway from Millennium Park, through the City of Grand Rapids, across Kent County, Plainfield, Cannon, Cascade, Ada and Vergennes Townships to the City of Lowell.

These collaborative trail-building efforts will deliver more than just a paved pathway—public investment in greenways and non-motorized trail systems are a proven strategy to elevate quality of life and promote community health, wellness and culture for neighborhoods, cities, regions and their residents.

Greenways, particularly in urban centers, also are proven drivers of economic development. Expanding the Grand River Greenway and connecting trails in Grand Rapids' urban core is expected to catalyze private investment, spur redevelopment of vacant real estate, promote housing construction, establish new places for community businesses to grow and thrive and unlock a wide variety of both short- and long-term economic opportunities.

A key organizing principle of the Grand River Greenway-building movement is that all legacy residents, new residents, business owners and generations to come share in and benefit from the social, economic, recreational and educational opportunities associated with Greenway investment.

Historical Highlights

AROUND 1700

The People of the Three Fires first establishes villages in what is now the Grand Rapids region.

1821

U.S. Government uses Treaty of Chicago to displace the Ottawa, Chippewa and Pottawattamie Nations from their tribal lands along the Grand River.

1835

Grand Rapids constructs first dam to control water levels for logging.

1873

Logging industry peaks production.

1990

Ada Township's Community Recreation Plan calls for greenbelt and non-motorized trail along the Grand River corridor.

1991

City of GR begins \$400 million public works project to modernize sanitary sewer and improve Grand River water quality. Lowell Township acquires 70 acres of property for development of Grand River Riverfront Park.

1995

Ottawa County Parks Commission publishes Grand River Greenway Study.

13,000 years ago...
Glaciers retreat from the Grand River and floodplains.



1911

Grand Rapids constructs first floodwall.

1923

Grand Rapids City Plan proposes first riverfront esplanade.

1970s

Grassroots group Urban Concern Inc organizes to promote forward-thinking river planning.



1981

City of GR adopts Grand River Edges Plan calling for riverfront recreational trail.

1989

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission first identifies concept of Grand River Greenway.

1996

Ottawa County voters approve millage to, among other things, support development of Grand River Greenway.

1998

Ottawa County begins major Greenway expansion with acquisitions of what would become Eastmanville Bayou and Crockery Creek Natural Area.

2000

Kent County begins planning 1,400-acre Millennium Park along Grand River.



2010

Nonprofit Grand Rapids Whitewater organizes to remove dams, restore rapids, improve river health and increase recreational opportunity.

2007

Ada Township's recreation plan calls for expanded access to Grand River and non-motorized connections over river to help complete a coordinated trail system.

2004

Lowell Area Recreation Authority organizes to develop and maintain non-motorized trail network.

2002

Grand Rapids Master Plan recommends expanded riverfront greenspace and improved access.



2019

Kent County Parks, Trails & Natural Areas Master Plan calls for continued development of trails to maximize connectivity between communities, parks and other trails systems.

2020

Recreation plans in Ada, Grandville and Plainfield Township call for connections to the riverfront and regional trail system.

2012

Green Grand Rapids Plan recommends action to promote clean, accessible, beautiful river.

2013

Grand Rapids is selected as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership site.

2014

Cascade Township's recreation plan calls for greenbelt and trail along Grand River.

2015

City of GR completes sanitary sewer improvement project. GR Forward Action Plan calls for establishing Grand Rapids as the urban hub in regional riverfront trail system with improved public access to the waterway.

2016

Ottawa County voters extend Parks & Open Space Millage to 2027; Builds first phase of Grand River Explorers Trail. Cannon Township recreation plan calls for developing trail connections to neighboring communities and White Pine State Trail.

2017

GR Parks & Recreation Plan recommends a unified Grand River waterfront system and utilizing trails along tributaries to make broader neighborhood and community connections. GR River For All Plan sets design guidelines for a riverfront trail from Riverside to Millennium Parks and conceptual design for six riverfront parks in urban core.

WHAT'S NEXT?

2023

The Grand River Equity Framework delivers a common local understanding of "equity" within the context of river corridor revitalization efforts.

2024

The Lower Grand River is named a state water trail, encouraging recreation and education on the waterway.

National and Statewide Connections

Tracing the course of the longest river in Michigan, **the Grand River Greenway will connect the community with the longest hiking and biking trails in the state**, including the statewide Iron Belle Trail system (2,000 miles from Detroit to the Upper Peninsula) and the nationwide North Country Scenic Trail (4,800 miles from North Dakota to Vermont).

The Greenway also connects to many other well-loved hiking and biking trails in Michigan along with the Grand River Water Trail, creating countless opportunities for outdoor adventure close to home.



-  **GRAND RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL**
PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS
-  **REGIONAL TRAILS**
PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS
-  **PARKS & OPEN SPACES**
-  **CITIES**
-  **COUNTY BOUNDARIES**
-  **RIVERS & LAKES**

Connecting What's Important

ACCESS TO DAILY DESTINATIONS

As a linear park system connecting people and places, the Grand River Greenway will link many key assets and destinations in West Michigan, such as:

- **Non-Motorized Transportation:** Existing trail systems such as the White Pine Trail State Park, Musketawa Trail, Grand River Valley Rail Trail and Kent Trails.
- **Parks and Open Space:** 48 riverfront parks totaling 12,700 acres of public open space, 79 linear miles of Grand River waterway, natural areas and two dozen boat launches for fishing and paddling.
- **Employment Centers:** Including Downtown Grand Rapids, Ada and Grand Haven.
- **Education:** Schools, training centers and institutions of higher learning.
- **Cultural Assets:** Museums, historic landmarks and public art.
- **Entertainment:** Performance venues, sports fields and stadiums.
- **Small Business:** Restaurants, commercial corridors and local shops.



Students at the Grand Rapids Public Museum School utilizing the river for interdisciplinary, hands-on learning experiences.

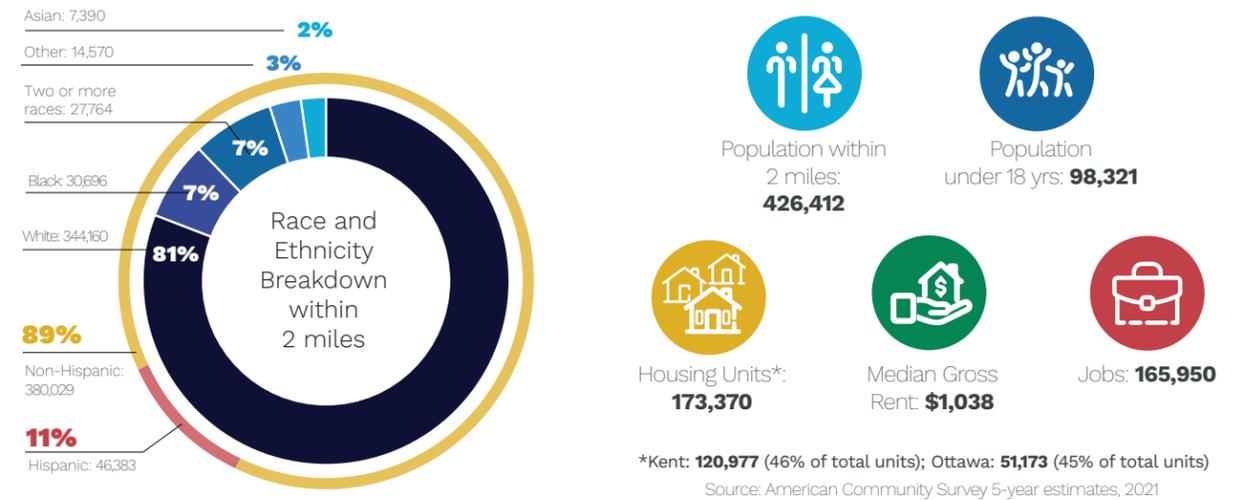


Community events along the river provide moments for celebration and connection.

BY THE NUMBERS

Investment in the Grand River Greenway will touch a lot of people. **426,412 people live within 2 miles of the river corridor.** This is **42%** of the total population in Kent and Ottawa Counties combined. Collaborative and equitable investment will have a positive impact on the region for generations to come.

WITHIN THE 2-MILE AREA SURROUNDING THE GRAND RIVER GREENWAY CORRIDOR:



THE VALUE OF GREENWAYS

The Grand River Greenway will continue to emerge as an increasingly important feature of the West Michigan landscape and can reasonably be expected to deliver the following benefits to communities along and adjacent to the corridor:

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

- Stronger connection to adjacent business districts, neighborhoods and destinations.
- Expanded access to parks, the Grand River and outdoor activities.
- Increasing property values.

RECREATION BENEFITS

- More and safer year-round outdoor access.
- Enhanced community health and wellness.
- More and better public space for special events and festivals.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Encourage redevelopment of blighted and vacant real estate.
- Promote housing construction.
- Foster entrepreneurial opportunity.
- Establish new places for community businesses.
- Attract talent and jobs.
- Generating local tax revenue.

TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

- Expanded mobility choices, including more affordable non-auto options.
- Promote health and wellness through active transportation.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Preserve open and green space.
- Support wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
- Promote and protect water quality.
- Strengthen resilience to increasingly volatile weather events.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- Promote linkages to schools, cultural and civic centers.
- Provide for open-air classrooms and studios.
- Create historical and interpretative landmarks.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Improve quality of life.
- Increase pride in place and community spirit.
- Promote area as an active, outdoor adventure place to live and work.

More Than a Trail

The Grand River Greenway-building effort offers more than just a path from one place to another. It creates spaces to gather and play for people of all ages and abilities, easier access points to the river and a connected corridor that will improve the health of our community and our environment.

The diversity of experiences and destinations along the Greenway from urban to rural settings is likely to catalyze a range of events and programming as well as housing and business development near the trail.



SPACES TO GATHER & PLAY



RIVERFRONT ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT



PADDLING ON THE RIVER



EXPLORING MICHIGAN'S COASTAL ECOLOGY



CYCLING NEAR & OVER THE RIVER



SPACES FOR LOCAL ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE

Corridor Connections

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL
PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS

EXISTING TRAILS
PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

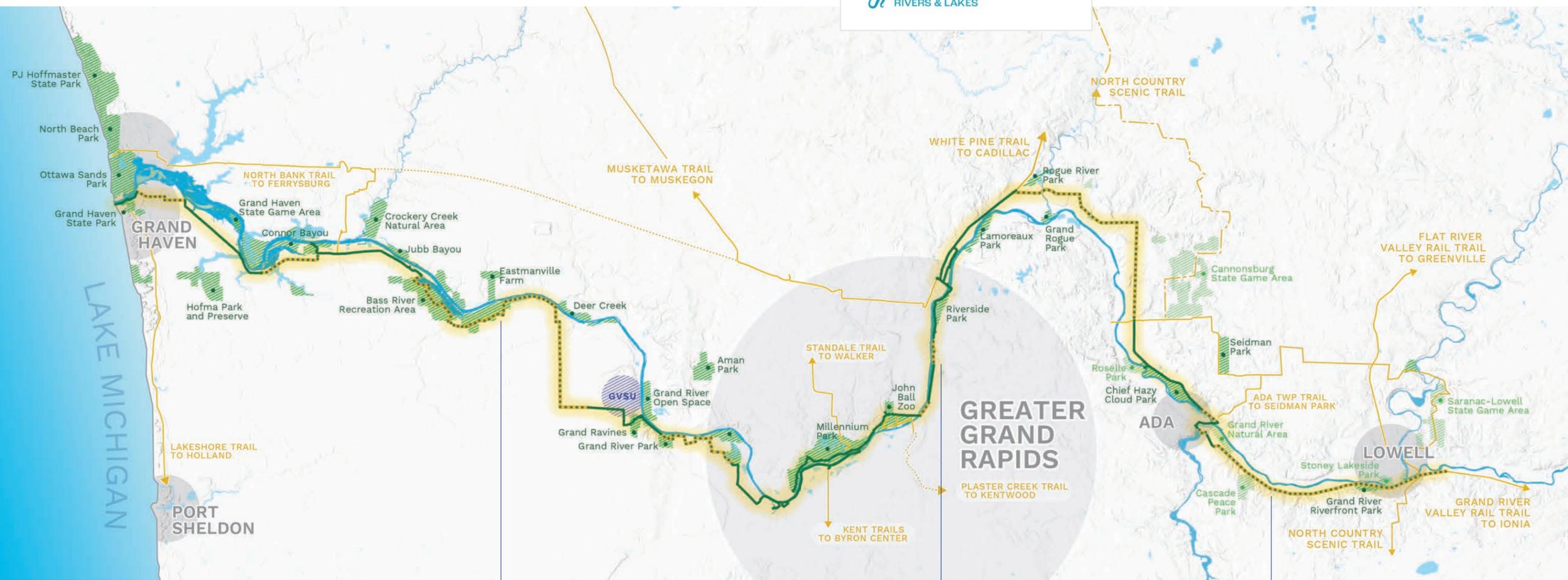
CITIES

COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RIVERS & LAKES

IMPROVING ACCESS TO NATURE AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- 85+ miles of Grand River Greenway
- 48 riverfront parks
- 12,700 acres of public land
- 420+ miles of regional trails will be connected
- 31 access sites for the Lower Grand River Water Trail



THE BACKBONE OF WEST MICHIGAN'S TRAIL NETWORK

The Grand River Greenway will stretch over 85 miles as a connected network of public parks and natural areas following the course of the river as it flows to Lake Michigan. This **“backbone” corridor and trail** will serve as a major new connection point for other trail networks, neighborhoods and communities to link up, expanding access to each other as well as the broader regional recreational system.

PLANNED SEGMENTS: BASS RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA TO GVSU OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS

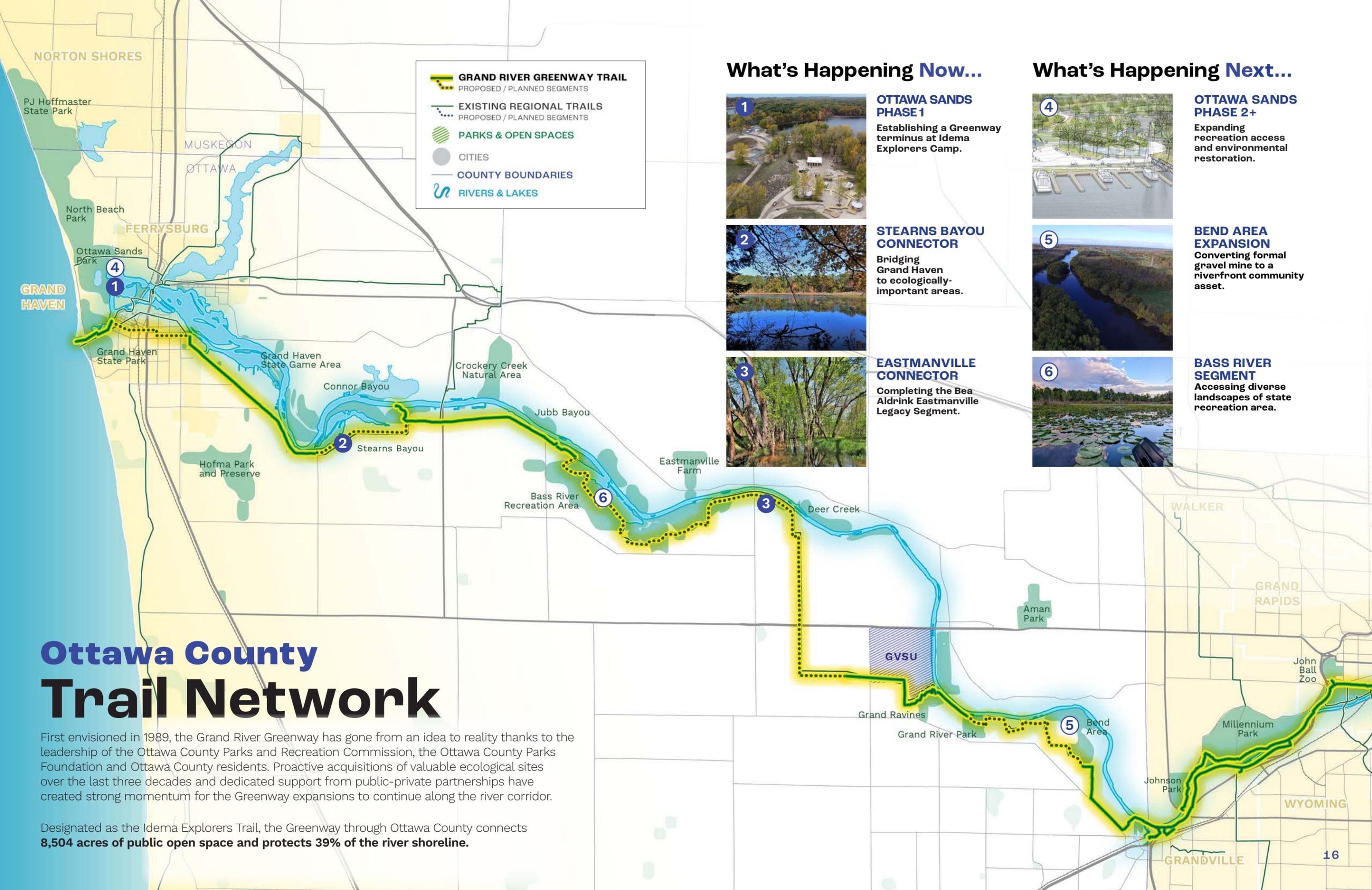
- FEATURES:**
- Scenic stretches along bayous, floodplain forests and open grasslands
 - Allendale connector to M-45 business district and GVSU Allendale Campus
 - Creates 15 new miles of trail

PLANNED SEGMENTS: DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS CONNECTIONS CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

- FEATURES:**
- Downtown trails linked to anchoring parks on the north and south
 - Enhanced river edge, dam removal and flood protection
 - Creates 2 new miles of trail

PLANNED SEGMENTS: GRAND RAPIDS TO LOWELL KENT COUNTY PARKS

- FEATURES:**
- A major missing link in the regional and statewide trail network
 - Includes critical safety improvements, like tunnels and bridges
 - Creates 23 new miles of trail



Ottawa County Trail Network

First envisioned in 1989, the Grand River Greenway has gone from an idea to reality thanks to the leadership of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation and Ottawa County residents. Proactive acquisitions of valuable ecological sites over the last three decades and dedicated support from public-private partnerships have created strong momentum for the Greenway expansions to continue along the river corridor.

Designated as the Idema Explorers Trail, the Greenway through Ottawa County connects **8,504 acres of public open space and protects 39% of the river shoreline.**

What's Happening Now...



OTTAWA SANDS PHASE 1
Establishing a Greenway terminus at Idema Explorers Camp.



STEARNS BAYOU CONNECTOR
Bridging Grand Haven to ecologically-important areas.



EASTMANVILLE CONNECTOR
Completing the Bea Aldrink Eastmanville Legacy Segment.

What's Happening Next...



OTTAWA SANDS PHASE 2+
Expanding recreation access and environmental restoration.



BEND AREA EXPANSION
Converting formal gravel mine to a riverfront community asset.



BASS RIVER SEGMENT
Accessing diverse landscapes of state recreation area.

Kent County Trail Network

The Grand River Greenway across Kent County will connect existing non-motorized trail systems in Plainfield, Grand Rapids, Cannon, Ada, Vergennes, Cascade and Lowell Townships while also expanding access to the river through new destinations like Grand Rouge Park and Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

What's Happening Now...



1 GR TO LOWELL PHASE 1
Setting the backbone connection from the White Pine Trail to Ada.



2 GRAND ROUGE PARK
Developing a riverfront destination in Plainfield Township.



3 GRAND RIVER NON-MOTORIZED BRIDGE
Enhancing safety at Knapp Street for bikers and pedestrians.



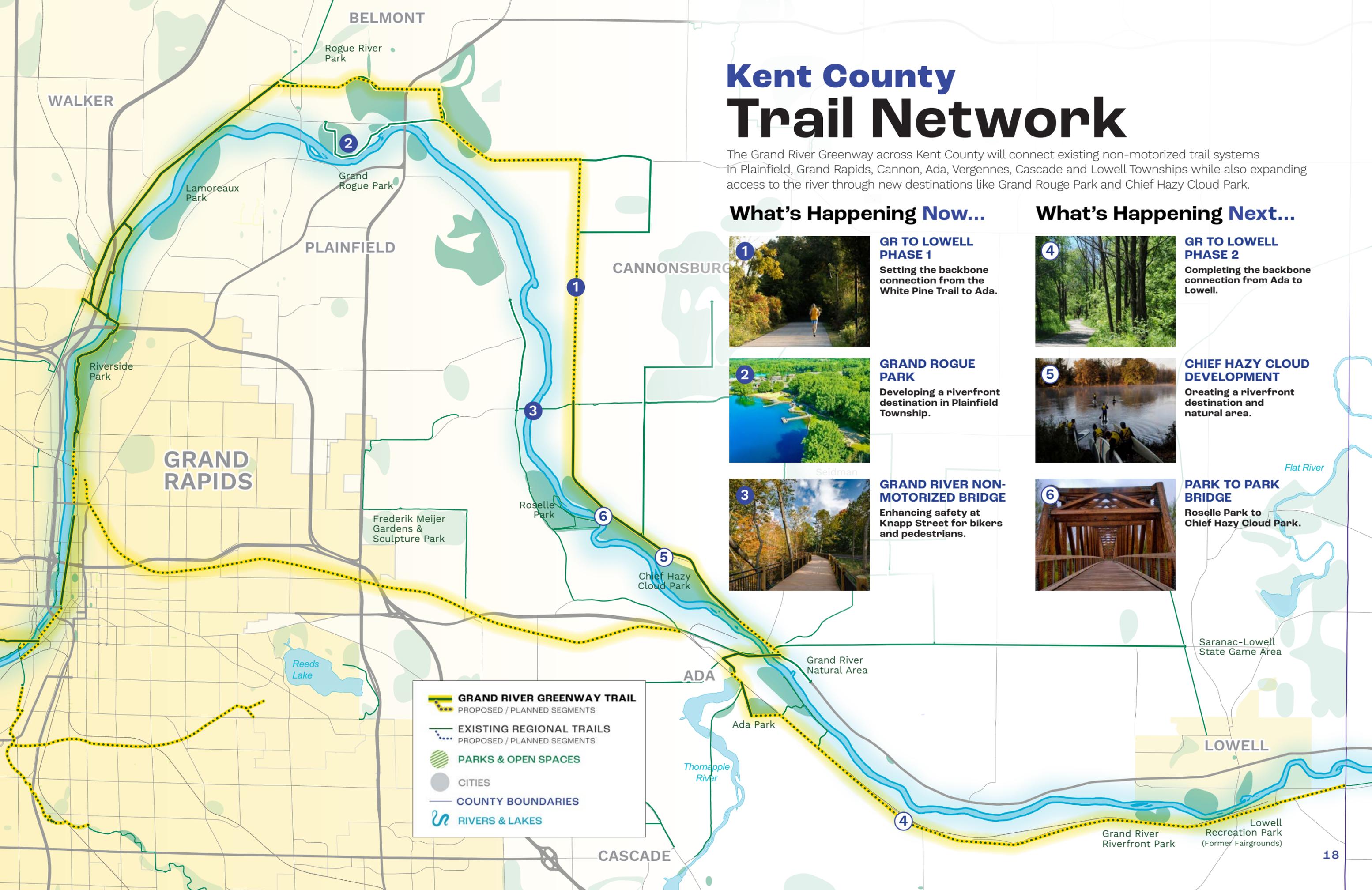
4 GR TO LOWELL PHASE 2
Completing the backbone connection from Ada to Lowell.



5 CHIEF HAZY CLOUD DEVELOPMENT
Creating a riverfront destination and natural area.



6 PARK TO PARK BRIDGE
Roselle Park to Chief Hazy Cloud Park.



- GRAND RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL**
PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS
- EXISTING REGIONAL TRAILS**
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- COUNTY BOUNDARIES**
- RIVERS & LAKES**

The Grand Rapids Hub

Completing the 5-mile stretch of the Grand River Greenway from Riverside Park to Millennium Park will establish Grand Rapids as a major gateway to West Michigan's outdoor recreation system. This elevates the city as a unique destination, a more attractive place to live for residents, a magnet for talent and investment and an anchor of regional prosperity. The Greenway also presents the opportunity to offer new activities and experiences around outdoor adventure not usually found in urban centers.

What's Happening Now...



1 CONNECTING DOWNTOWN TO RIVERSIDE PARK

Blazing new riverfront trail north from Leonard St. to Ann St.



2 CANAL PARK

Enhancing flood protection, trail access and opportunities for inclusive play.



3 CONNECTING DOWNTOWN TO MILLENNIUM PARK

Blazing new riverfront trail and destination south from Fulton St. to Wealthy St. next to the Acrisure Amphitheater.



4 OXFORD TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Rehab and extension of the trail to Hall St.

What's Happening Next...



5 GRAND RIVER DAM REMOVAL

Improving river habitat and public safety in the Lower Reach from Michigan St. to Wealthy St.



6 COLDBROOK OPPORTUNITY SITE

Transforming a historic industrial site into an active destination.



7 AH-NAB-AWEN PARK

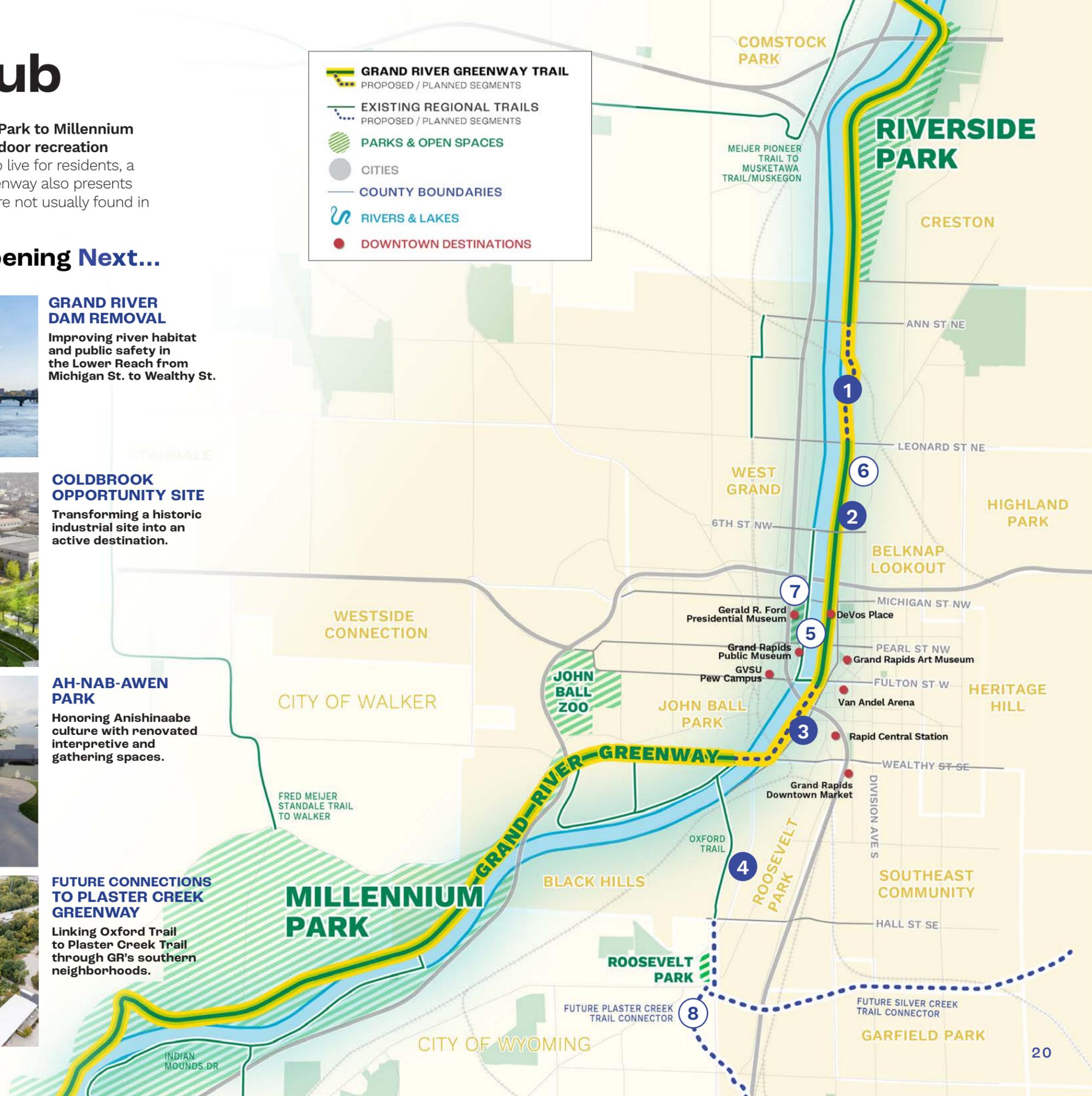
Honoring Anishinaabe culture with renovated interpretive and gathering spaces.



8 FUTURE CONNECTIONS TO PLASTER CREEK GREENWAY

Linking Oxford Trail to Plaster Creek Trail through GR's southern neighborhoods.

- GRAND RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS
- EXISTING REGIONAL TRAILS PROPOSED / PLANNED SEGMENTS
- PARKS & OPEN SPACES
- CITIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- RIVERS & LAKES
- DOWNTOWN DESTINATIONS



The Grand River Greenway Project Inventory

THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

This document, for the first time, presents a comprehensive inventory of the numerous public trail and green space projects that, once completed, will connect to establish the Grand River Greenway across Kent and Ottawa Counties. This project catalogue demonstrates the West Michigan community's shared vision for a connected system of natural, recreational and cultural assets as well as the many public and private partners working to bring the vision to life and success.



Near Term Projects: 2023-2026

The Grand River Greenway features projects across seven key areas of enhancement:



BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY

The project completes an important link in the primary route of the Greenway.



FLOOD PROTECTION

The project improves or enhances the site's capacity to manage flooding events.



ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The project makes the trail easy to use for people of all ages and abilities.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The project restores natural areas by planting native plants, removing harmful species, improving soil and adding wetlands.



EXPANDED AMENITIES

The project provides new spaces for both active and relaxing activities along the trail, such as picnic areas, restrooms, etc.



NEIGHBORHOOD and BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

The project improves safe access to nearby residential and commercial areas.



WATER ACCESS

Creates new ramps to the river's edge for activities such as fishing, swimming, etc.

In Kent County, funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) received through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is a significant catalyst for the Greenway-building effort. Local partners are leveraging this one-time opportunity with other public and private dollars to make substantial backbone trail connections by 2026.

In Ottawa County, public and private partners continue steady progress on completing backbone trail connections while creating an extraordinary destination at the Greenway terminus, Ottawa Sands Park.

YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD	BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY	ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS	EXPANDED AMENITIES	WATER ACCESS	FLOOD PROTECTION	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION	NEIGHBORHOOD/BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
2023	Fulton St./M-21 Underpass	Ada Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Grand Rapids Public Museum	City of GR / GR Public Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lyon Square	Downtown Grand Rapids Inc./City of GR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ottawa Sands Phase 1 - Idema Explorers Camp	Ottawa County	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Near Term Projects: 2023-2026

YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD	BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY	ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS	EXPANDED AMENITIES	WATER ACCESS	FLOOD PROTECTION	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION	NEIGHBORHOOD/BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
2024	Downtown Riverwalk Repair - Louis St./JW Marriott to Blue Bridge	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Grand Rogue Park & Trail	Plainfield Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Idema Explorers Trail - Stearns Bayou Connector	Ottawa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Johnson Park Trailhead Improvements	Kent County	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kent Trails Trailhead Improvements	Kent County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2025	Lower Grand River Water Trail	Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ada Covered Bridge Park Improvements	Ada Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River Segment & B. Aldrink Segment	Ottawa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Canal Park Improvements	City of Grand Rapids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Grand Rapids to Lowell Trail - Phase 1 (White Pine Trail to Ada)	Kent County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Grand River Pedestrian Bridge, Knapp St.	Kent County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Johnson Park Adaptive Mountain Bike Trails	Kent County	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lowell - River Valley Rail Trail Connector Phase 1	Lowell Area Recreation Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Lower Reach - Grand River Revitalization Phase 1	City of Grand Rapids / GRWW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	New Trail Connection, Ann St. to Leonard St. (upland connections)	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Near Term Projects: 2023-2026

YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD	BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY	ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS	EXPANDED AMENITIES	WATER ACCESS	FLOOD PROTECTION	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION	NEIGHBORHOOD/BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
2025	New Trail Connection, Fulton St. to Wealthy St. - Phase 1 (201 Market)	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
	Oxford Trail Rehabilitation and Extension	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Pettis Ave. Connector Phase 2	Ada Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	South Rogue River Trail	Plainfield Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Thornapple River Dr. Pedestrian Bridge	Ada Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2026	Ah-Nab-Awen Park - Lower Park Space	City of Grand Rapids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ah-Nab-Awen Park - Cultural Interpretation Improvements	City of Grand Rapids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Grand River Pedestrian Bridge, Roselle Park to Chief Hazy Cloud Park	Kent County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Idema Explorers Trail - Allendale Connector	Ottawa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Expansion Phase 3	Ottawa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Idema Explorers Trail - Eastmanville Segment	Ottawa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	New Trail connection, Fulton St. to Wealthy St - 509 Wealthy site	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	New Trail Connection, Fulton St. to Wealthy St., US-131 Underpass	City of Grand Rapids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Trail Connection, Fulton/Market Site	Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
New Trail Connection, Lowell Riverfront Park to Lowell Recreation Park	Lowell Area Recreation Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Future Projects: 2026 and beyond

Looking ahead to future phases of the Grand River Greenway-building initiative, community plans and partners identify a series of capital priorities that will continue to strengthen non-motorized connections along the corridor, improve and expand riverfront greenspace and enhance the experience for people in West Michigan. **Investment in the following project priorities will maintain the Greenway momentum in areas already experiencing significant success and extend that progress to communities across the region.**

BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY: NEW TRAILS

Belknap Hill Trail Connection

City of Lowell to Lowell Regional Greenspace

“Connections” Pedestrian Bridge (Downtown GR)

Grand Rapids to Lowell Trail - Phase II
(Ada to Lowell)

Grand Rapids to Lowell Trail - South Pass
(Rails with Trail)

Plaster Creek Greenway Connector

Silver Creek Greenway Connector

Underpass Trail Connections (Downtown GR)

- Ann St.
- Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Bridge
- Leonard St.
- Michigan St.
- Blue Bridge
- Fulton St.

US Postal Service Site Redevelopment
(Downtown GR)

Wealthy St. to Oxford Trail (East)

Wealthy St. to Oxford Trail (West)

BACKBONE CONNECTIVITY: REHABILITATION

Butterworth Site Trail

Riverside Park Trail (Grand Rapids)

Indian Mounds Drive

RIVERFRONT PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Chief Hazy Cloud Park improvements

Coldbrook Creek Opportunity Site

Fish Ladder Park Rehabilitation

Grand River Burial Mounds Stewardship

Grand River Dam Removal Upper Reach

Grand River Natural Area River Edge Trail
Improvements

Indian Mill Creek Restoration and Trail

Indian Mounds Drive Improvements

McGraw Park River Edge Trail Improvements

New Park at 555 Monroe NW

New Park at Decommissioned City GR Water
Storage Yard

Ottawa Sands Dunal Marsh Prairie

Ottawa Sands Sag Access and Riverfront
Promenade

Sixth Street Park Rehabilitation

Butterworth Site River Access Improvements (TBD)

Westside Park (Ann St north to I-96)

Grand River Greenway Interpretive Plan
Implementation

Grand River Public Art Plan Implementation



FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECT DETAILS, VISIT
[GRANDRIVER.NETWORK/UPCOMING-PROJECTS](https://www.grandriver.network/upcoming-projects)

Acknowledgements



The Grand River Network, incubating under the umbrella of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., is an emerging backbone organization working cross-sector within Grand Rapids and Kent County to facilitate the coordination and action required among numerous partners to implement the community’s vision for a revitalized Grand River corridor.

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INITIAL CAPITAL PROJECT SCOPING

West Michigan Regional Trail Leaders Convening (June 30, 2022)

Allegan County
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.
Friends of the Blue Star Trail
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Grand Valley Metro Council
Kent County
Kent County Parks Foundation
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Trails Fund
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance
Muskegon County
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa County
Outdoor Discovery Center
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition
Visit Muskegon

Kent County Trail Leaders Convening (September 28, 2022)

Ada Township
Cannon Township
City of East Grand Rapids
City of Grand Rapids
City of Kentwood
City of Wyoming
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.
Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
Grand Valley Metro Council
Kent County
Kent County Parks Foundation
West Michigan Mountain Bike Alliance
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition

NEAR TERM PROJECT PRIORITIZATION IN KENT COUNTY

Grand River Greenway Advisory Committee

Kate Berens, City of Grand Rapids
Matt Chapman, Grand Rapids Whitewater
Rob Hunter, Amway Corp.
Tim Kelly, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.
Ryan Kilpatrick, Flywheel
Salvador Lopez, KConnect
Jim Meeks, Iris Technology Inc.

Sam Moore, Kent County Parks Foundation
Wendy Ogilvie, Grand Valley Metro Council
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Grand River Network

The Grand River Network facilitates public-private-community partnerships that align and build capacity to implement the community's vision for Grand River Corridor revitalization.

www.grandriver.network