GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL
REACH 3
4.91 MILES

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS (MILES)</th>
<th>TOTAL DISTANCE (MILES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Poor Farm</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Eastmanville Farm</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bass River Landing</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Bass River State Recreation Area</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Bur Oak Tree</td>
<td>0.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Bur Oak Landing</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Riverside Park</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEGEND
- NATURAL FEATURE
- HISTORICAL FEATURE
- MILEAGE MARKER
- KAYAK ACCESS POINT

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
1. **POOR FARM**
   Daniel Reely operated the “Midway House” at this site as a stopover spot half way between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids. Purchased by Ottawa County in 1866, it became Ottawa County’s “poor farm” to house indigent residents. The working farm, which operated until the late 1990’s, provided a place for people who were unable to care for themselves. The property was designated as an Ottawa County Park in 2004 with equestrian and hiking trails. A huge dairy barn, built in the 1920’s and restored by the parks department, can be seen from the river. The “poor farm” cemetery has also been restored through volunteer efforts and interpretive signs describe the site’s history.

2. **EASTMANVILLE FARM**
   Approaching this GPS point, paddle to the south side of the river and look north. You should be able to see the top of a silo and the top of a barn. These features are in Eastmanville Farm County Park. This 229 acre property was acquired by Ottawa County in the early 1800s and established as a “poor farm” to provide housing and services for indigent residents. This operation, called Community Haven, survived until the late 1990s. In April 2004, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners approved the Community Haven property for public park development and use. Following public meetings with potential user groups, a master plan for Community Haven was developed and approved. The plan has resulted in development of an equestrian and pedestrian trail system; a beautifully restored barn; and general recreational use including river access. The original poor farm cemetery has been extensively researched and is being restored by a local historical group – to be rededicated in July 2010. Plans also call for consideration and possible development of an educational farm at some point.

3. **BASS RIVER LANDING**
   Bass River Landing was located on a high gravel bluff on the Grand River west of the mouth of the Bass River. Later known as the Village of Bass River, this farming community included a saw mill, general store and a number of houses. Bass River citizens operated summer resorts which were popular with residents of Grand Rapids, Chicago and as far away as St. Louis. However as time went on, the site became most known for the excellent gravel it contained. Mining interests supplanted the community; which was bought out and literally undermined. Gravel mining began in the 1880’s and slowly the land around the village was eaten away by steam shovels. A mining company called Construction Aggregates began operations in 1920 and operated large scale gravel mining until 1976 with river barges hauling gravel to Grand Haven, where it was processed and loaded onto freighters for many destinations. Gravel from this site has been used for many prominent building footings in Chicago and other cities in the Midwest, not to mention providing the material for almost all of Ottawa County’s early roads. In the 1960’s, mining also yielded two startling artifacts – a large fossil bone that was determined to be part of a prehistoric ‘Mammoth’, and also the tooth of a Mammoth. The bone is currently at the Michigan State University Museum; the tooth resides with the Grand Rapids Museum. The property was acquired by the State of Michigan in 1994 and today is a 1,665 acre undeveloped state park known as the Bass River Recreation Area.

4. **BASS RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA**
   Approaching the GPS point for the Bass River Recreation Area along the south side of the river you will notice a small inland lake that was created from aggregate mining. This is popular place for fisherman and another water feature that is ideal for fishing from a kayak. The Bass River Recreation Area is a 1,665-acre site consisting of open meadows, open brush land, mature hardwoods, small ponds and the 300-acre lake. It includes approximately three miles of frontage on the Grand River and provides for the activities of boating, hiking, mountain biking and horse back riding (on designated trails) as well as hunting.

5. **BUR OAK TREE**
   Most Bur Oak trees like to grow out in the open, away from the forest canopy. They are one of the most massive trees with a trunk diameter that can reach up to ten feet. They are often found near waterways where there is a break in canopy cover. The acorns of the Bur Oak are the largest of any North American Oak and are a very important food source for wildlife. Heavy nut-crops are born only every few years in a strategy known as masting. This strategy overwhelms the ability of seed predators to eat the seeds, ensuring the survival of some seeds. Wildlife such as deer eat the leaves, twigs, and bark of the Bur Oak.

6. **BUR OAK LANDING**
   Approaching this GPS point along the north side of the river you will see a road that ends into the river next to an open field with some large Bur Oak trees. This road end serves as a launch for small boats and kayaks. This County Open Space Land is 261 acres and is divided into two parcels (separated by 90th Avenue) East Bur Oak Landing (116 acres) and West Bur Oak Landing (145 acres) and includes 1.4 miles of Grand River frontage, wetlands, upland and floodplain forest and a large bayou (East Bur Oak Landing). There are no designated trails or restroom facilities at this time.

7. **RIVERSIDE PARK**
   With nearly one mile of frontage along the south bank of the Grand River, this 64 acre park is the perfect place for picnicking, boating or fishing. The park includes a boat launch (fee required), picnic shelter, large pond with a barrier free fishing dock and over 1,000 feet of grassy picnic area along the riverbank. Fishing is allowed along the riverbank and from the edge of the pond.

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