

2016 Kanoe the Kazoo – Back in Time

“Paddle plans may be modified because of weather, water or group dynamics.”

Come join Kanoe the Kazoo as we **Explore the Marsh** on **Sat, Sept 17, 2016**. The Great Lakes Adventure Club will lead you through the Ottawa Marsh, a side channel off the Kalamazoo River Heritage Water Trail northeast of Fennville. “The Marsh” exists in a different world but it will become home to your spirit of adventure.

First time paddlers will want to pass through Tim’s Tunnel as an initiation ritual. Repeat paddlers will want to pass through Tim’s Tunnel, just because it’s there. Help us find Witch’s Hair, the Back Door and the Side Gate. We will have lunch at the Log Jam or possibly on Picnic Beach. Check out the Mooning Tree, Eggert Bayou and Eagle Basin.

Exploring the Marsh is always an adventure. Just when you think you know where you are, you have to start searching again. However, we’ve always found our way out and we have never left any paddlers behind (that we know of). Still, it might be good to carry extra provisions, just in case. Remember you’ve been warned. You won’t be able to Explore the Marsh just once. You will want to return again (and again).

Bring your life jacket, boat, brown bag lunch, snacks, and water (Let us know if you don’t have a life jacket). A few loaner boats are available if you make advanced arrangements.

Directions to Main Ottawa Landing (PAS) Public Access Site - Launch & Take Out

From M-89 East Of Fennville (Equivalent to 124th Avenue)

1. Go North on 52nd Street 1 mile & Turn right on 126th Avenue Go East 1 mile
(Alternative - Go north on 46th Street 1 mile & Turn left on 126th Avenue go West 2 mile)
2. From 126th Ave - Turn North On 2 Track Dirt Drive (no sign marking drive) Go north 2 mile to PAS

Map from M89 to Main Ottawa Landing: <http://www.usatf.org/routes/view.asp?rID=496672>



Kanoe the Kazoo – Back in Time – Explore the Marsh

Kalamazoo River - Paddle Plan - Sat, Sept 17, 2016

This Paddle Plan may be modified due to weather or water conditions or group dynamics.

A. Paddle Route - An exploratory 5 mile paddle on the Ottawa Marsh fork of the Kalamazoo River using shorter (10-14 ft) recreation style kayaks. The pathway will have some twists, turns and obstacles which will require some maneuvering and patience but the stream flow will be gentle.

B. Paddle Time Line – Explore the Marsh

9:30 am – 10:30 am Meet at Main Ottawa Landing (PAS) -Traffic Controller at Top of Hill will Direct Traffic on the Landing, Since Maneuvering at the Landing is Tight because of Limited Space.

- Unload Boats @ Landing - Park Vehicles @Top of Hill

10:20 am – Launch First Wave of “Explore the Marsh” Paddlers – 12+ paddlers

10:40 am – Launch Second Wave of “Explore the Marsh” Paddlers – 12+ paddlers

11:00 am - Launch Third Wave of “Explore the Marsh” Paddlers – 12+ paddlers

Paddle 60-75 min - Lunch Break 30 min - Paddle 60-75 min

ETA at Take Out at Main Ottawa Landing (PAS) 2.5 – 3 hr after Launch

C. Paddle Plan Contact If you plan to participate, please help the planning process by notifying:

Coordinator - Kyak Kenneth TillWeDance@acd.net 269.330.1040

Please furnish your cell phone number for emergency contact during the paddle event.

Host – Great Lakes Adventure Club www.greatlakesadventureclub.com

D. Paddle Planning Comments

1. BBL - Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch, Snacks & Drinking Water as desired.

2. Link to Marine Forecast

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=42.59391825600045&lon=-86.10169585799968&site=all&smap=1#.VCFr9cp0zwo>

3. Sunrise 7:28 am Sunset 7:53 pm

E. Paddle SAFE Comments – Participants understand & agree to the following:

1. Risk Assessment - Individually, you make a **“GoNoGo Decision”** based on the weather & water conditions, your skills, your training and your experience with the understanding that:

a. You are engaging in an activity with inherent dangers,

b. You accept & acknowledge you are participating at your own risk, and

c. You are responsible for your own safety and to use your own judgment.

2. Always Wear a Fully Secured Pfd while on the water, for your safety and safety of the group.

3. Avoid Conditions & Situations Beyond Your Abilities, or your Physical or Emotional Strength

4. Dress for Water Temp & Immersion. Is wet/dry suit needed? Carry dry clothing in waterproof bag

5. Paddle with Others – Each Participant is responsible that we **Stay Together** –

Using either a **Team Paddle** or a **Group Paddle** Format

a. Team – Paddle together in smaller units (12+)– Being sure no paddler is left behind

b. Group – Paddle together as larger unit w/ Lead & Sweep – All Adjust To Pace Of Group

6. Help Care For Our Watershed - Minimize your Impact - **Dispose Of All Waste Properly**

See **“Paddle SAFE”** for additional **“Think Safe”** and **“Journey Safe”** comments.

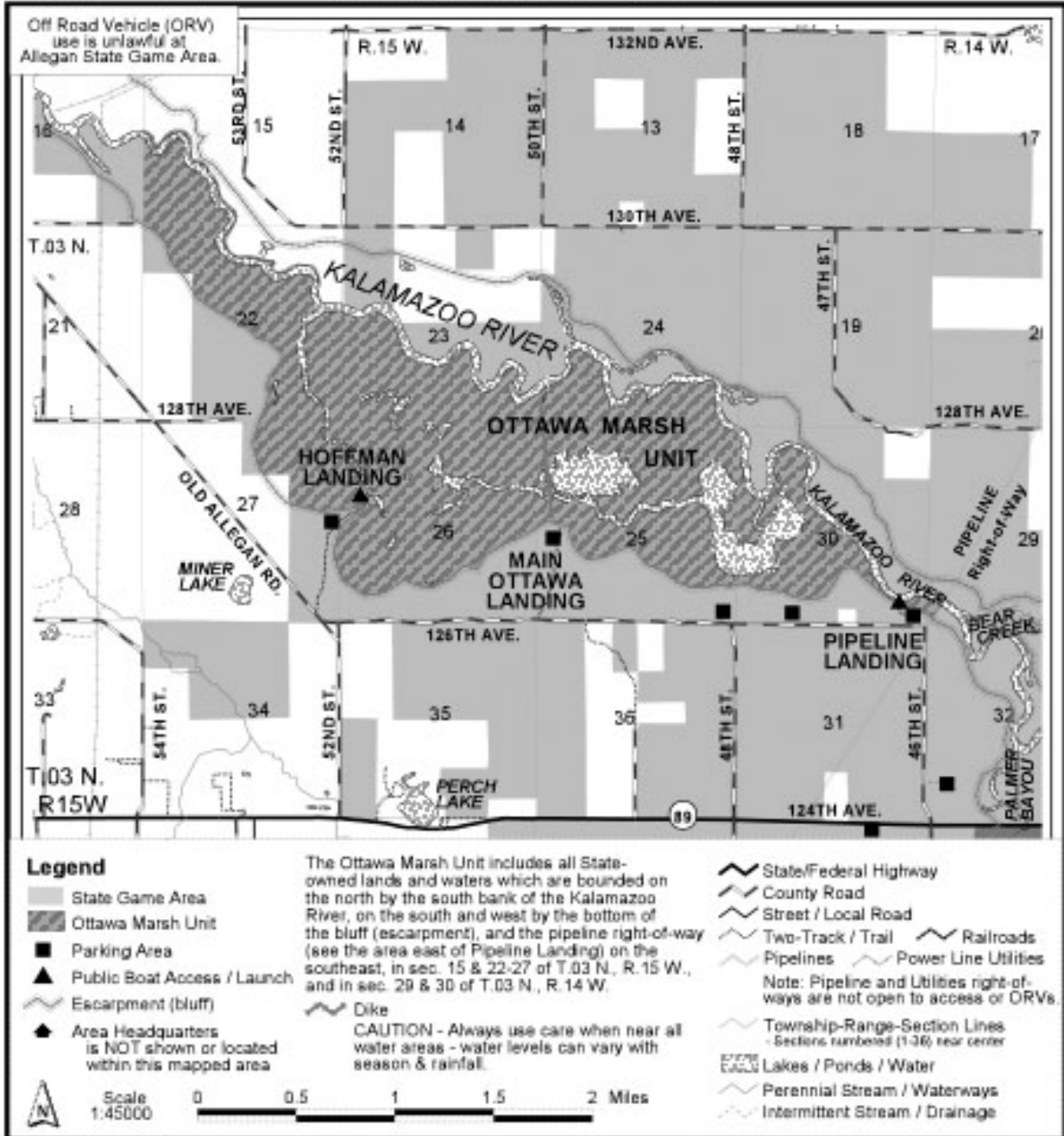


MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OTTAWA MARSH UNIT OF ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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www.michigan.gov/dnr



Portions of this area designated Watchable Wildlife viewing areas.

For more information on this and other areas, contact DNR offices or visit on the internet at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>



Hunter Monies Made This Area Possible

DNR Wildlife Map - area 030101 (page 1201) Rev. 10/17/2005 MLS

OTTAWA MARSH: The Ottawa Marsh is an important part of the waterfowl habitat complex in western Allegan County. This 1,700-acre marsh, south of the Kalamazoo River and north of highway M-89, is owned largely by the State of Michigan and serves as an overnight resting area for geese and ducks during the fall, winter and early spring.