

Part of Kanoe the Kazoo, an annual series of canoe trips on the Kalamazoo River and tributary streams and lakes, this trip offers a unique opportunity to participate on a week night. This relatively short trip will end at Verburg Park on Paterson St. (a public city park with free parking), but will stop at Arcadia Ales to “Drink One Down for Your Town”, where Arcadia Ales will tally their tap sales for the day and make a matching donation to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to support our mission to protect great natural places in our region. Every pint makes a difference!



4:00-5:00PM – DROP-OFF, PARKING AND SHUTTLE

- **DROP OFF BOATS AT MERRILL PARK**
 - Drop off boats and gear at Merrill Park between 4:00-5:00pm – **First 30 to sign-in will receive a goodie bag filled with Kanoe the Kazoo and SWMLC paraphernalia, so PLEASE COME EARLY!**
 - Sign-in at the Registration Table.

- **PARKING AT ARCADIA OR VERBURG PARK**
 - Parking and shuttles are limited, so **please carpool if at all possible.** That will decrease the number of vehicles that need to be parked, as well as the number of drivers who need to be shuttled back.
 - Since parking at Arcadia Ales is limited, **if you are NOT able to stay for the Drink One Down benefit for SWMLC after the paddle, please stage your vehicle at Verburg Park**, which is just about 5 more minutes down the river, and has lots of parking.
 - Designate **one person** from your party to drop off your vehicle at your take-out point (pick one of several options).
 - **ARCADIA ALES** - At Arcadia Ales, there are three options for parking (**this parking is limited, so it's on a first-come, first-served basis**):
 - The back (employee) parking lot – about 10 spaces.
 - The dirt parking lot across Michigan Avenue from Arcadia Ales – about 10 spaces.
 - The parking lots on Harrison Street, just over the bridge – a little bit more of a walk, but about 30 spaces.
 - **VERBURG PARK** – At Verburg Park, you may park in one of the 40 public parking spaces available. No other events are scheduled for this date, so parking should be plentiful.

- **SHUTTLES BACK TO MERRILL PARK**
 - Shuttles from Arcadia Ales and Verburg Park back to Merrill Park **will run only from 4:00-5:00pm** – (look for the vehicles with the SWMLC magnets on the sides). The last shuttles will leave both parking areas at 5:00pm, so please make sure to leave yourself enough time.

5:30PM-7:00PM – PADDLE LAUNCH, PADDLE, TAKE-OUT

- **PADDLE LAUNCH**
 - **The paddle will launch promptly at 5:30pm.**

- Everyone is required to provide his or her own boat and personal flotation device (PFD).
We do not have extras.
- **PADDLE**
 - We will launch as a group and paddle together to Arcadia Ales.
- **TAKE-OUT**
 - Participants who parked at Arcadia Ales are asked to take out and secure their boats to their vehicles right away.
 - Participants who are continuing to Verburg Park, but are stopping at Arcadia Ales for the Drink One Down benefit for SWMLC, may stage their boats on the lawn area by the river until they are ready to paddle the rest of the way to Verburg Park.
 - Participants who are paddling directly to Verburg Park may continue on past Arcadia.
**Please note: This portion of the paddle will not be guided, so paddlers taking out at Verburg should look for the sign on the riverbank that indicates the entrance to the park from the river (it's otherwise easy to miss).
 - If you are taking out at Verburg, please feel free to come back and join us at Arcadia – hopefully, there will be parking available.

WEATHER

- The paddle will continue rain or shine, but will be cancelled in the event of thunder and lightning or extremely high or fast water.
- In the event that we need to cancel the paddle, we will send out an email as early as possible, and post to our website and social media, as well. Please check these sources on the day of the paddle to make sure that everything is proceeding as scheduled.

SAFETY

- Please remember these basic safety tips:
 - Paddle at your own risk according to your own ability.
 - Always wear a fully-secured personal flotation device while on the water!
 - Avoid conditions and situations beyond your abilities.
 - Dress for water temperature and immersion.
 - Paddle with others in case you are in need of help at any point.
 - Dispose of all waste properly – minimize your impact and help care for our watershed!