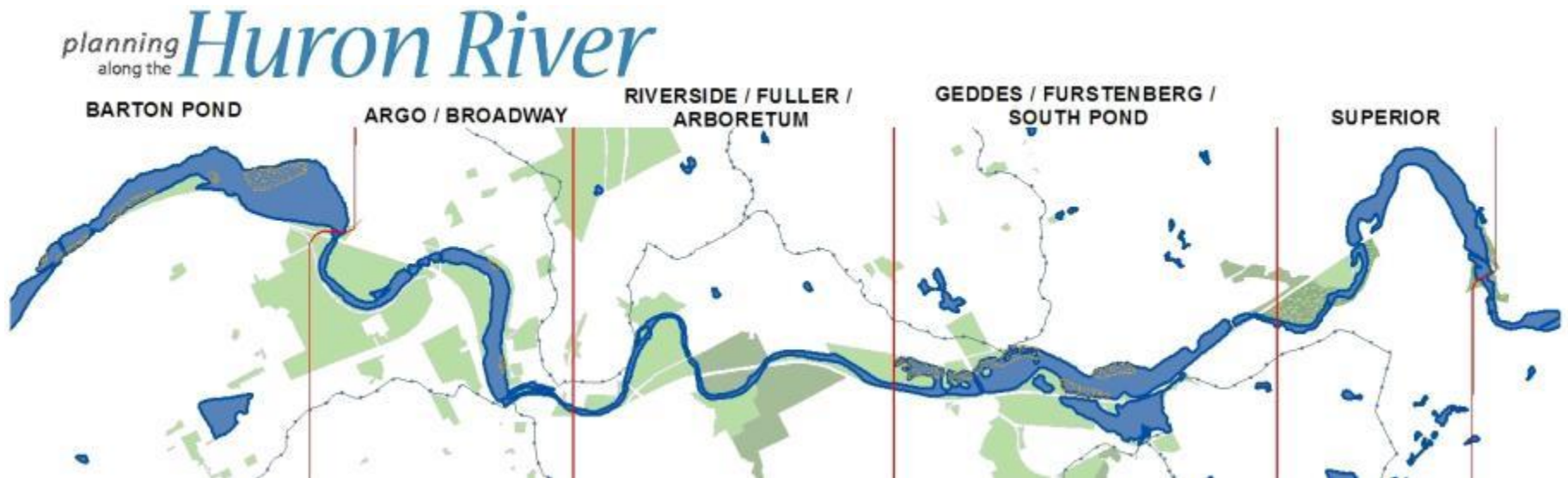


# Huron River and Impoundments Management Plan



Status Update 2017



# Status Update

- Environmental Commission members (Sabra Brier, Bob Needham, Jason Frenzel), city staff (Colin Smith, Amy Kuras, Cheryl Saam, Matt Naud), and the Huron River Watershed Council (Laura Rubin) reviewed the Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan. A progress report was drafted for your review.





- Many projects have been moved forward, to varying degrees, such as work on the water trail, developing the Argo Cascades and pedestrian bridge and trail.
- Several are in the planning stages including monitoring work to be placed in the CIP and the Sourcewater Intake Protection Plan
- And some of the recommendations are roughly in the same state, compared to 2009, when the plan was finalized.





The Committee has two major recommendations:

- The formation of a joint subcommittee of the Environmental Commission and Parks Advisory Commission. Both bodies, including staff liaisons, are committed. This group will meet 2-4 (TBD) times per year, reviewing and coordinating the HRIMP recommendations.
- City Council adopt the HRIMP management plan and its recommendations, excluding the Argo Dam removal (recommendation IM1b).





## RM1 – Create River Stewardship Committee

- Establish a River Stewardship Committee (RSC) to provide oversight to the implementation of the Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan. The RSC should be created with representatives from the Environmental Commission and Park Advisory Commission and others appointed by City Council with expertise in river science (e.g., ecology, hydrology) and river recreation (e.g., canoeing, rowing, angling, and other user groups).
- ***STATUS – Environmental Commission and Park Advisory Commission will establish a joint committee to meet this strategy***





## RM2 – Expand Natural Area Preservation Capacity

- The Committee recommends developing a plan to expand the capabilities of the Natural Area Preservation program to include preservation of local aquatic natural areas including the river, creeks, ponds, and lakes based on sustainable funding .
- ***STATUS – NAP staff have been involved in discussions among staff regarding aquatic vegetation harvesting***





## RM3 – Develop formal policy on recreational user cost sharing for impoundments

- The Committee recommends that a policy is developed to cover appropriate cost sharing by recreational users of the impoundments.
- ***STATUS – Recreation dam costs now assigned to Parks budget***





## IM2- Maintenance Costs for Recreational Dams

The Committee recommends that the City Council should:

- Apportion recreation dam maintenance costs to more appropriate funds.
- Implement the Drinking Water Sourcewater protection plan using funds made available from apportioning recreation dam maintenance costs.
- Develop a long-term recreational maintenance fund for recreational impoundments.
- Develop a cost sharing agreement with recreational user groups for maintenance of recreational dams and impoundments.
- ***STATUS – Recreation dam costs now assigned to Parks budget***







## WQ1 –Reduce the sources of non-point source pollution.

- Reduce the sources of non-point source pollution in an effort to improve water quality in streams and impoundments. This should be accomplished by not only following commitments set forth in the Stormwater Management Plan, but by implementing additional best management practices. The committee recommends expanding upstream educational efforts.
- ***STATUS – The city is actively engaged in the Middle Huron Initiative and implementing the MS4 permit***





## WQ2 – Manage Stormwater onsite or regionally .

- Manage stormwater at the source in an effort to reduce the quantity of stormwater entering the system, and in turn the number of outfalls needed downstream.
- ***STATUS – The city is actively engaged in the Middle Huron Initiative and implementing the MS4 permit***



# WQ3 – Promote clean engine use on the impoundments through public education and other opportunities.



- Install clearly posted signage to encourage boaters to use cleaner four-stroke and electric motors.
- ***STATUS – Discussions with the rowing community to use electric motors but no action.***





## WQ5 –Perform Ecological Assessment of Impoundments

- Assess the river ecology of each impoundment and repeat at appropriate intervals. This assessment will generate data including but not limited to depth of sediments, type of sediments, nutrient and temperature status, dissolved oxygen, extent of aquatic plant growth, turnover rates, sedimentation rates, toxic algal blooms, etc .
- ***STATUS – To be placed in the upcoming CIP***





## RB1 – Improve Riparian Buffers

- Identify areas where expansion of native riparian buffers is possible to further protect the river ecology and improve fish habitat. Set buffer priorities and work with Natural Area Preservation, the Huron River Watershed Council and volunteers to develop and maintain these buffers.
- ***STATUS – Park policy is to maintain a riparian vegetative buffer along the river edge and creeks. HRWC evaluating opportunities in Ann Arbor based on work performed in Ypsilanti***





## AV1 - Harvest and Compost Aquatic Vegetation (annual)

- Harvest aquatic vegetation as a management strategy for invasive and native plants that impair recreation. The committee is recommending purchasing a harvester and associated equipment to harvest at city impoundments and compost at city facilities based on sustainable funding and staffing using a model similar to other recreational space maintenance.
- ***STATUS – Beginning in 2012 the City of Ann Arbor has hired a company to harvest 5 to 7 acres of Geddes Pond. The areas that are harvested are adjacent to the Gallup Park Canoe Livery and a pathway from the Gallup Park public boat launch out to the main river section. Harvesting is done three times per summer so as to provide for boating recreational activities. The annual cost for this work is \$24,900.***





## AV2 – Monitor Aquatic Vegetation

- Monitor aquatic vegetation to determine the presence and absence of invasive and native plants. These data will guide harvesting and other aquatic vegetation management strategies and detect new invasives as early as possible to develop effective responses .
- ***STATUS – To be placed in the upcoming CIP***





## AV3 –Evaluate use of biological controls and herbicides

- The City prohibits herbicide use in Barton Pond. The city evaluates use of biological controls and herbicides through the River Stewardship Committee and the Environmental Commission.
- ***STATUS – No Action***







## CD1 – Development in the Broadway Bridge/Argo area

- Encourage limited development of a restaurant and/or other public-use facilities where the public congregates and can enjoy the river in the Broadway Bridge/Argo area, especially if it generates revenue for river planning and implementation.
- ***STATUS – Significant remediation occurred at portions of DTE site. Limited public discussion about redevelopment of the MICHCON site.***





## RF1 – Barton Livery

- Explore establishing a small livery at the base of Barton Dam.
- ***STATUS – The City of Ann Arbor has determined for now that this is not a viable option due to limited parking at Barton Dam and being able to accommodate the Barton to Gallup river trip out of the Gallup Canoe Livery.***





## RF2 – Evaluate Gallup Facility Opportunities

- To accommodate Gallup Park users, evaluate a multiuse facility to house increased canoeing and kayaking, private non-motorized boat storage, public meetings, expanded concessions, and environmental education programs.
- ***STATUS – In 2011, the City of Ann Arbor received a MNRTF grant from the State of Michigan that was matched by park millage funds. Improved entire facility including dock to meet universal access standards. New barrier free fishing platform. Increased safety by separating service drive from pedestrians.***





## RF3 – Develop Geddes Rowing Facility

- Explore developing an additional rowing facility on the Geddes Impoundment
- ***STATUS – Rowing facility developed at Concordia College – Skyline rowing there***





## RF4 – Evaluate Argo Facility Opportunities

- To accommodate Bandemer and/or Argo park users, evaluate a multi-use facility to house increased canoeing, kayaking, and rowing, private non-motorized boat storage, public meetings, expanded concessions, and environmental education programs. Opportunities to leverage public and private funds should be developed to build a facility that best meets the needs of existing and future park users.
- ***STATUS – Working with the HRWC to create boat storage at Bandemer. Limited discussions with DTE about additional boating facilities as part of MICHCON site redesign.***





## RF5 – Develop trailered boat launch upstream of Geddes Dam

- **STATUS** – Construction drawings created to renovate boat launch at Gallup Park. No Action on work for a launch at Geddes Dam.





## RF6 – Rebuild the Argo Millrace to Remove the Canoe Portage

- Rebuild the Argo millrace to allow novice canoers to bypass the Argo dam via a narrower and shallower channel to the river by Broadway Bridge. The millrace should maintain the current Argo Pond level and be designed to maintain regular flows in all but the lowest river flow conditions.
- ***STATUS – Complete***





## RF7 - Maintain Canoe Liveries on Argo Pond

- The Argo stretch of the river is home to two city canoe liveries; maintain the livery at Argo Park and a small livery at the base of Barton Dam.
- ***STATUS – Argo livery is improved and no livery is planned at Barton Dam***







## RF8 – Develop new pedestrian crossing and trails near Argo Livery

- Develop a new pedestrian crossing at the Argo Canoe livery as part of the border to border trail. Improve existing trail along the millrace embankment.
- **STATUS – Complete**





## RA1 – Expand Angling Access Times

- Work with the angling community to identify opportunities to provide extended hours at City properties to allow for early morning and late evening access for anglers and other users.
- ***STATUS – No Action***





## RA2 – Improve Fish Habitat

- Work with local anglers to identify areas where additions of woody cover, boulders, and underwater debris improve fish habitat diversity.
- ***STATUS – HRWC is exploring opportunities along the Ann Arbor section of the river.***





## RA3 – Improve Signage

- Identify opportunities to create new signage that directs river users to access points
- ***STATUS – new signage including kiosk at Argo added along the river. New Kiosk planned at Gallup playground 2017 near kayak pull out.***





## RA4 – Increase Accessibility

- All Reaches - Identify opportunities to improve or create handicap accessible facilities to give more users a chance to experience the River.
- Barton - Create additional fishing platforms and docks to allow anglers greater access to shore and deeper waters. Explore the feasibility of a new boat launch near the Foster Bridge to enable recreational boaters additional access to the resource.
- Argo - Preserve Impoundment: Solicit Michigan Department of Natural Resources input on fishery management recommendations for the Argo Impoundment.
- Geddes - Establish additional access points with the addition of a trailered boat launch just upstream of Geddes Dam and a new fishing platform and parking area beneath the Huron Parkway Bridge .
- ***STATUS – limited action. Accessible fishing at Gallup Park. The new all-abilities park and launch at Gallup will be going in next year***





## RS1 – Swimming Beach at Barton

- Develop a new swimming beach on the southwest shore of the pond - near the berm - that is accessible through Barton Nature Area. Install a new buoy system to ensure boaters and swimmers maintain a safe distance from the dam.
- ***STATUS – No Action***





## RC1 - Maintain navigable river

- Manage the river for consistent water flow levels over dams, and eliminate deadfalls, woody debris, and other barriers to navigation without significantly disrupting aquatic habitat .
- ***STATUS – Work complete at Barton on better controls however flow continues to be a problem. The Wall St. gage shows the effects of the dam management on the erratic flows of the river.***





## RC2 - Develop Canoeing & Kayaking Improvements

- Explore opportunities to create greater access and inclusiveness in canoe & kayak river trips, facilities, programs and services for people of all ages and abilities. Removing the portage around Argo Dam facilitates ease of use and a more enjoyable experience for canoe and kayak river trips to Gallup Park. Other improvements could include expanding city livery facilities by adding a canoe livery at Barton Dam, accessible public boat launches, and offer canoe & kayak boat storage on the river. Preserve Gallup Park's core circle for canoeing, kayaking, paddleboating and rowboating. HRWC is working on getting some boat storage at Bandemer or elsewhere in AA with the City.
- ***STATUS – See other recommendations. HRWC is working on obtaining some boat storage at Bandemer and/or elsewhere in the city***







## RC3 – Water Trail

- Explore opportunities to establish River Trails - historical, cultural or environmental education trails - with interpretive sign locations, brochures and educational programs.
- ***STATUS – Underway***





## RR1 – Develop Rowing Improvements

- Develop rowing specific impoundment improvements consistent with other stated visions, goals, and policies. Investigate selected modifications to the stretches of river designated for rowing that help to improve the rowing experience. Such improvements could include selective sculpting and dredging of the river bottom, aquatic vegetation management with location-specific treatments, optimal dock location and configuration, and improved parking and road access.
- ***STATUS – Improvements to Bandemer park to support rowing community. New access ramp and barrier free access ramp. Paved barrier free access to the river including two ramps. New posts for paddle racks.***

