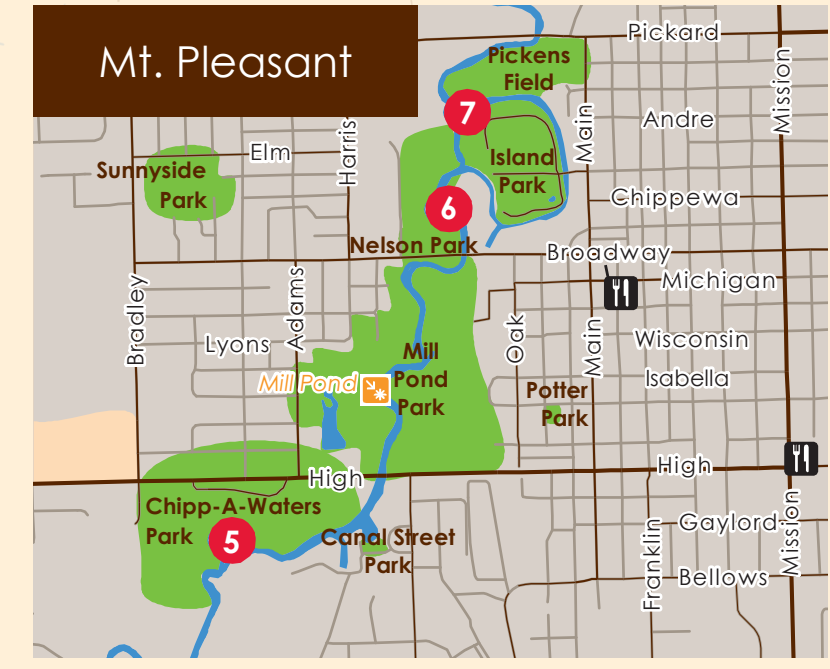


Discover the Chippewa River

From its beginnings in Mecosta County near the Village of Barryton, the Chippewa River flows for some 80 miles through a mix of woodland habitats, residential neighborhoods and the City of Mount Pleasant. It then flows through woodland and farm country, and into the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Isabella Reservation and on to its terminus at the Tittabawassee River in Midland. Cold water fish species are present in many of the tributaries and some of the upper reaches of the river. The upper mid-reach to lower Chippewa River is a larger to medium size stream that also supports a bass fishery.

The river is popular for canoeists, kayakers and tubers during the warm months, especially from Weidman Road west of Mount Pleasant, to the city center. Near the west side of Midland, the Chippewa Nature Center features a myriad of outdoor activities in and along the river, including canoeing and kayaking opportunities. The stretch of river from Leaton Road west of Mount Pleasant to Geneva Road in Midland County currently gets less use due to limited access.



Access Site	Park	Tr	B	U	Bridge Access	P	Paddle to Next Access Site
1 Gilmore Park (County)	●						6 miles, 3½ hours
2 Majeske Landing (County)	●	●					7 miles, 3 hours
3 Deerfield Park (County)	●	●					4.5 miles, 2 hours
4 Meridian Park (County)	●	●					4.5 miles, 2 hours
5 Chipp-A-Water Park (City)	●	●	●				1.5 miles, 45 minutes
6 Nelson Park (City)	●	●	●	●			0.5 miles, 15 minutes
7 Island Park (City)	●	●	●	●			24 miles, 8 hours

Access Site	Park	Tr	B	U	Bridge Access	P	Paddle to Next Access Site
8 Geneva Road Access					●	*	3 miles, 1 hour
9 Magruder Road Access					●	*	7.5 miles, 3 hours
10 Manitou Park Access	●						8.5 miles, 4½ hours
11 Chippewa Nature Center Universal Access	●	●	●	●			---
12 Chippewa Nature Center Access	●			●			---
13 Midland Universal Access Point	●	●	●	●			---

Paddle times vary depending on paddlers' skill and river flow. Tubing times are much longer. These are suggested guidelines. * Road side parking ** Seasonal, May 1 to October 15 *** 1/4 mile away at Center during Center hours

Legend

- Historical Point of Interest
- Additional Point of Interest
- Shopping / Dining Area
- Golf Course
- Campground
- Safety Point
- County Line
- Lake
- Chippewa River
- Tittabawassee River
- Parks, Natural Areas, and Greenspace**
- Public Access
- Private
- City Boundary
- Isabella Reservation

Please use the river wisely

- Leave No Trace**
Glass, Styrofoam, fishing line, and other trash pose hazards to wildlife and other users of the watershed. When paddling, tie loose items into the boat or tubes to keep gear and trash from floating away. Join or organize a river clean-up day.
- Respect Private Property**
Much of the land within the watershed is privately held. Unless an area is designated for public use, keep paddling.
- Enjoy and Respect Wildlife**
The watershed sustains abundant wildlife. Take time to notice its variety and keep all wildlife at a respectful distance. Look up. You may see an eagle or osprey.
- Value Vegetation**
The many plants, grasses, mosses, trees, and shrubs of the watershed serve the entire ecosystem in many ways. Tread lightly; avoid picking plants and flowers, and use stairs and trails to prevent erosion.

- Think Safety**
Wear a personal flotation device when on the water. Avoid parking on busy roads with narrow shoulders. Tell someone of your paddling plans and when you expect to return. Call 911 if you or someone else is in need of emergency assistance.

- A Multi-Use Waterway**
Within a small portion of the watershed you may find canoeists, kayakers, tubers, anglers in motorized boats, and swimmers, as well as hikers, anglers, and bird watchers along its banks. Avoid paddling over fishing lines, motoring too close to swimmers and smaller boats, and frightening wildlife. Avoid loud and inappropriate language. Respect everyone's right to enjoy the watershed.

- Preserve and Protect**
Give back to the watershed. Consider joining a conservancy and be a part of protecting in perpetuity the resource you love. If you own land within the watershed and want to see it preserved for generations to come, consider donation options, or a conservation easement.
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy**
www.ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org
- The Little Forks Conservancy**
www.LittleForks.org

Want to know how high or fast the water is flowing?
Find out online at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt> and select the Chippewa River, MI

Historical Points of Interest

- Drew Dam**
A sawmill was located here according to the 1879 plat map. Much of this rock dam remains, although some rocks have been removed in the center. The water flows rapidly and it should be portaged (left).
- (Former) Gilmore Road Bridge**
Said to have been destroyed in the wreck of a runaway milk truck in the 1950's, it was never replaced. Evidence of the old bridge remains visible on both sides of the river bank.
- Mt. Pleasant Mill Pond**
The site of several sawmills from the 1850's-1870's (including the Harris sawmill). Much of the original mill pond disappeared via siltation over the years. The dam was removed in 2002.
- (Former) Isabella City Dam and Indian Mills**
A sawmill, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, and the Council House of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe formed the heart of the original settlement from 1858-1888. This site served as the county seat until July 12, 1860.

Contact Numbers

- EMERGENCY - 911**
- Chippewa Nature Center
989-631-0830
 - Isabella County Central Dispatch
989-773-1000
 - Isabella County Parks & Recreation
989-772-0911 x340
 - Mecosta County Central Dispatch
231-796-8111
 - Midland County Central Dispatch
989-839-6464
 - Midland County Parks & Recreation
989-832-6874
 - Midland Parks and Recreation
989-837-6930
 - Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation
989-779-5328

Project Partners

- Bay Area Community Foundation*
 - Central Michigan University
 - Chippewa Nature Center
 - Chippewa Watershed Conservancy*
 - Isabella County Community Development Department*
 - Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department*
 - Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Department
 - Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network*
 - Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe*
 - The Little Forks Conservancy
 - Union Charter Township
 - University of Michigan-Flint
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