



Lake Michigan Coastal Communities

Trail Towns Master Plan

LUDINGTON

**OTTAWA COUNTY
PARK TWP.**

HOLLAND

SOUTH HAVEN

ST. JOSEPH

BRIDGMAN

BUCHANAN

NEW BUFFALO



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Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation & Design Recommendations

Location: Bridgman Weko Beach
Date/Time: September 2, 2015 / 9:00am
Contact: Tim Kading
Phone: 269-465-5407
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Access Recreation Group Volunteers:

Rod Ritchison

Gina Lago

Jim Lago

Additional Site Evaluation Notes:

Universal design concepts to guide the development of site amenities...

By defining spaces & directing human behavior we protect the environment and enhance accessibility for everyone!

Accessible route surfaces must be firm & stable...concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, well compacted crushed aggregate/fines (NOT woodchips or grass)

Accessible routes should be at least 10' - 12' wide to accommodate two person/two vessel carries

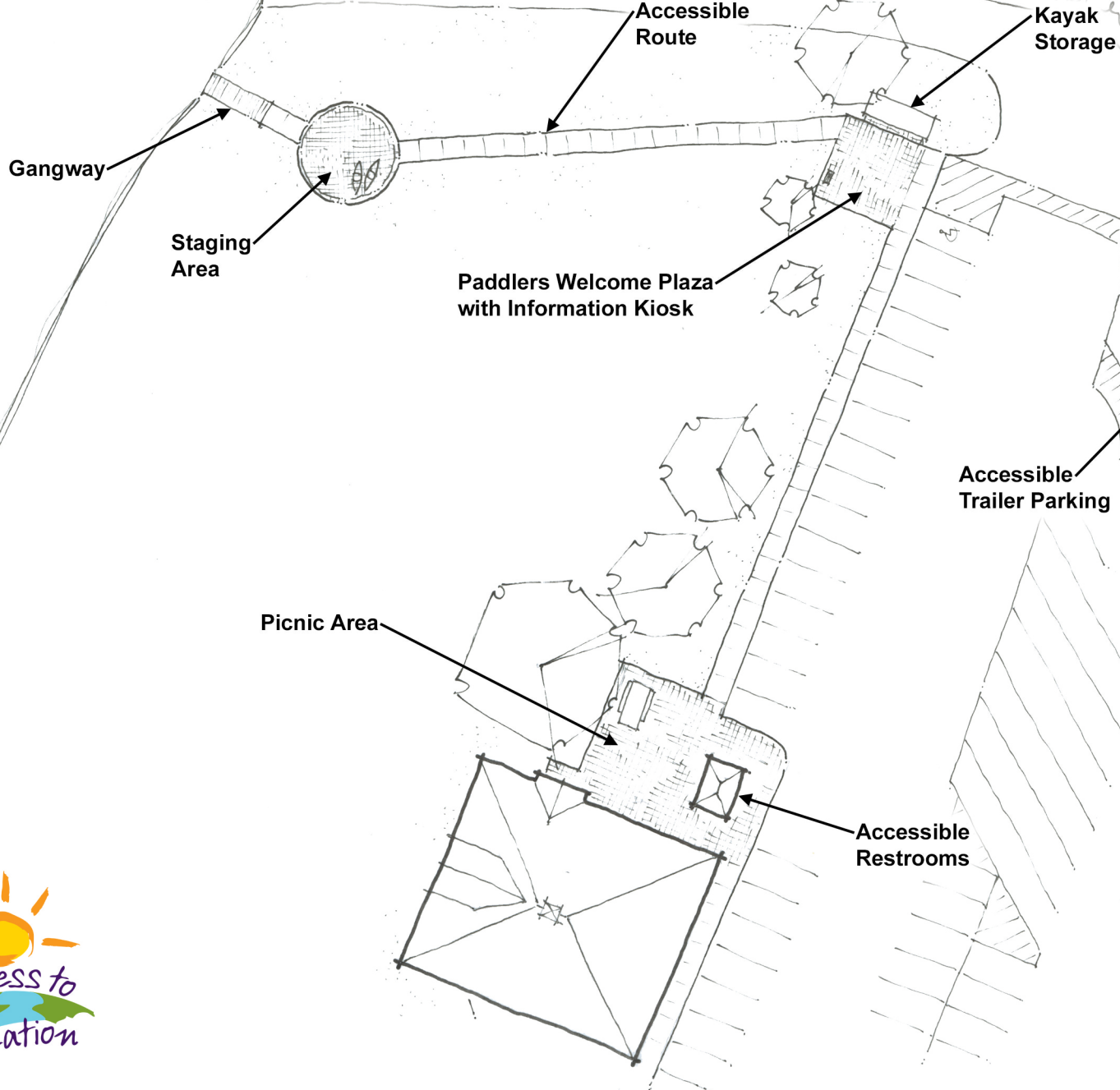
Accessible routes should have less than 5% running slope with less than 2% cross slope

Accessible routes should surround all amenities & be at least 4' wide surrounding the entire element

Accessible routes should be smooth with no changes of level at edges and connections to entry/exits & into/onto site elements/amenities

Weko Beach Conceptual Site Plan Bridgman, MI

Lake Michigan



Bridgman

Access to the City of Bridgman for paddlers using the Lake Michigan Water Trail will be provided at Weko Beach. Weko Beach already has a number of amenities that make it an ideal landing spot for paddlers, including: a long expansive beach, a large parking lot, picnic tables, restroom's and concessions at the Weko Beach House. In 2016, Weko Beach is expected to have bike rentals. Weko Beach is also home to a number of summer festivals and events. Sidewalks along Lake Street provide pedestrian access from Weko Beach into downtown Bridgman.

Warren Dunes State Park is just a few miles to the south of Weko Beach. In fact, the paddle from the State Park to Weko Beach is already very popular with both residents and tourists.



Existing Site



Trailhead

Due to the potential of severe storms and damaging waves, an accessible kayak launch at the beach would not be advisable. However, paddlers could be assisted by an extended, over-the-sand accessible route (e.g., EZ Trail, boardwalk, Mobi-Mat, etc.) that would lead to a large staging area, a paddler's plaza (with kayak storage), the parking lot and the Weko Beach House.

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



After Treatment – W/Kayak Rental



Before Treatment



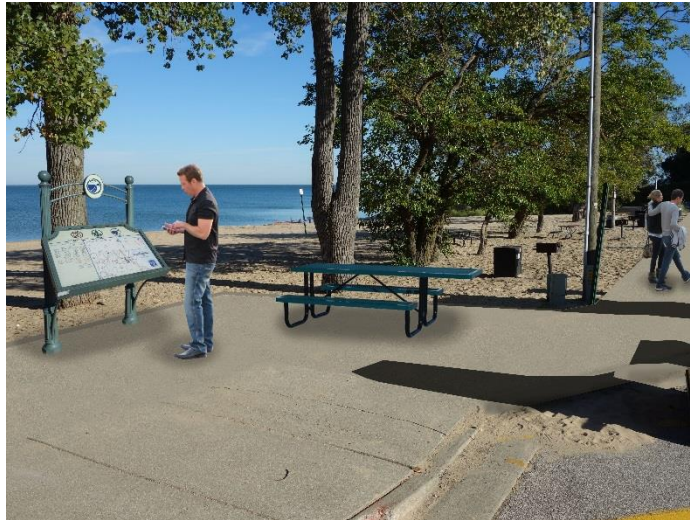
After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Wayfinding

The sidewalk along Lake Street, connecting Weko Beach and downtown Bridgman, is about 1.5 miles long. In an effort to direct trail users into downtown Bridgman (and residents and trail tourists from downtown to the trailhead) the city should place directional signage and other markers (e.g., banners) at the Red Arrow Highway and Lake Street intersection. Other directional signs could guide bicyclists to Bike Route 35.

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Enhancing and Maintaining Pedestrian Amenities and Building Form

Providing for pedestrian amenities within the downtown is important in creating a friendly pedestrian and trail-tourist environment. The city revised its zoning ordinance to allow for outdoor seating, and restaurants should be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. The city should continue to encourage and support redevelopment within the downtown and consider adopting design guidelines that address building form and façade characteristics.

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment





Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>EZ Launch</p> <p>Water trail flag</p>	<p>No launch designs available to work in this big water environment at this time but... (EZ Dock is working on a land-based system that would be functional in large wave water!)</p> <p>But...there are still things to do to make the shore landing more accessible</p>
	<p>Paddlers welcome plaza</p>	<p>Create a paddlers welcome plaza using over the sand surface material (EZ trail, Brock Doc, Mr. Boardwalk, etc.) getting paddlers and beach goers as close to the waters' edge as possible. Have a hinged gangway at edge of the paddlers platform that provides access to the waters' edge & consider a beach to water transfer system out into the water from the paddlers welcome plaza that helps facilitate transfer access into and out of the water.</p> <p>Place the water trail flag as close to the shore on the welcome plaza so it's viewable for paddlers approaching from either direction.</p>


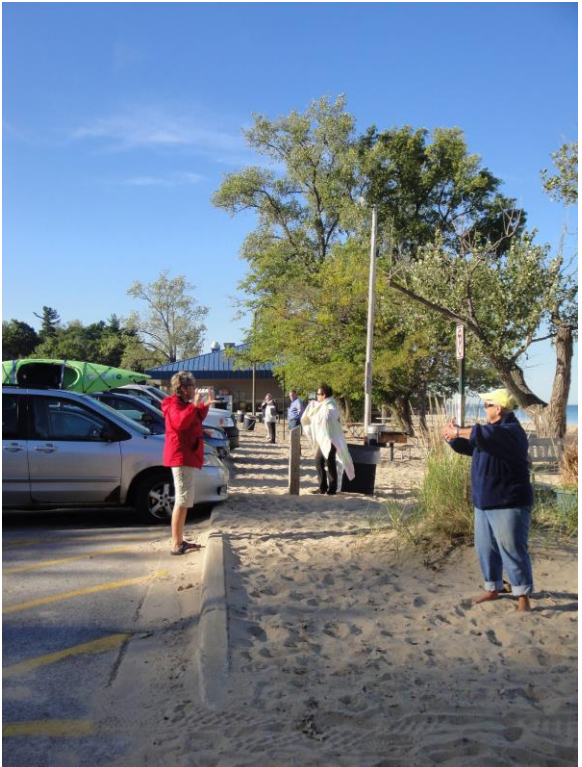
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible routes</p> <p>From launch to parking lot</p>	<p>Create accessible route from the shore landing area (or EZ Launch for big water once it's develop) to the paddlers welcome plaza/staging area using over the sand surface such as EZ Trail which is a trail surface that floats in high water & rests on the ground when dry so surface is always accessible. And on to the parking area & accessible route to the pavilion and other amenities.</p>
	<p>From parking lot to amenities</p>	<p>Create an accessible walk way along the front of the parking spaces from the launch route to the accessible amenities at the pavilion.</p>



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</p>	<p>The kayak/canoe storage lockbox will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Information kiosk</p>	<p>Locate the kiosk on the paddles welcome plaza near the top of the accessible route from the launch across from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox. Place kiosk on accessible surface and include water trail information on one half and trail town information on the other. Make sure surface extends under the kiosk so someone can roll up for very close viewing without their front wheels dropping off.</p>


Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Toilets</p>	<p>Direct people via an accessible route to the toilets at the beach pavilion.</p> <p>Suggest adding a single user unisex accessible toilet room so opposite gender care givers can assist someone with a disability in a private & dignified manner. These family friendly single user toilet rooms with baby changers accommodate opposite gender parents to assist their child. These rooms are large enough to accommodate someone using a wheelchair or parents with strollers.</p>

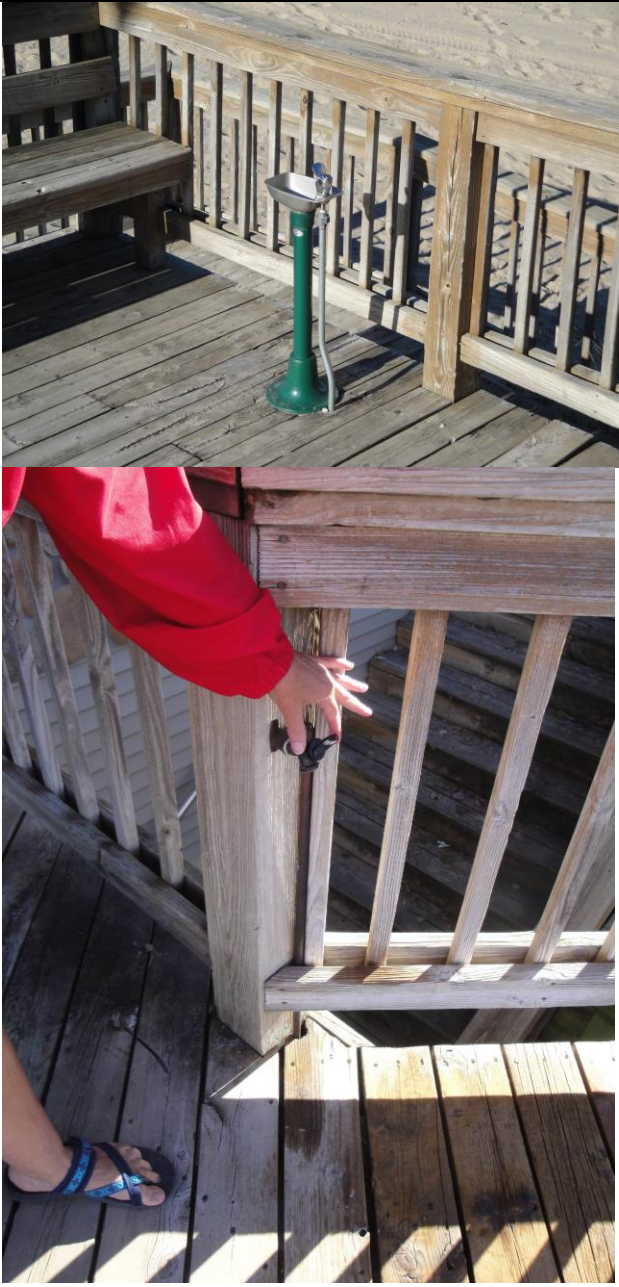
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Potable water source</p>	<p>Consider adding a water bottle fill type water source.</p> <p>Water spigot hardware is inaccessible design and requires pinch grasp/wrist twist to operate. Replace with accessible design hardware that can be operated with one hand with a fist or open palm.</p>



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible parking</p>	<p>Add accessible car parking as well as car/boat trailer parking spaces in the boat launch parking lot & connect lot via accessible route to the paddlers welcome plaza and the accessible route to amenities.</p>

Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Picnic tables & grills</p>	<p>Create several accessible picnic nodes along the walkway from the launch end of the beach.</p> <p>Consider adding some picnic nodes using universal design tables like the "Spider" by Wabash Valley.</p> <p>Locate all on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables and grill at least 4' wide. The information kiosk will be at this same location.</p> <p>Grills should be designed to be reached from a seated position & grill height adjustment should be one hand operable to make it universally accessible as well as surrounded by accessible surface routes at least 4' wide</p>

