



Access Recreation Group, LLC

Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CPRP

2454 Lamplighter Drive, Jenison, MI 49428-9127

Phone (616)669-9109 Mobile (616)560-2378

AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation & Design Recommendations

Location: Buchanan above the dam take-out & portage site
Date/Time: October 13, 2015 / 9:00am
Contact: Jason Williams
Phone: 269-697-3264
Email: jwilliams@cityofbuchanan.com

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



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	EZ Launch	Add a one-way right side EZ Launch system off the up-river side of the existing dock system above the dam. Tuck it as close to the shore as possible which will require some encroaching vegetation trimming.
	Water trail flag	Place the water trail flag on the river side corner of the launch platform to draw paddlers to exit area.


Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible routes</p>	<p>There is an existing 384' long accessible route which includes accessible a wood ramp system 5' wide connecting to a 10' wide asphalt route up to the parking area. Slopes average 7% grade and range up to 9% (probably due to age of route and ground settling and frost heave)</p> <p>Routes could use some repair of cracks & heaves. When replaced regrade to lower the slope to under 5% on the asphalt walk.</p> <p>Improve and sign the portage walkway to keep paddlers portaging off the roadways between the above dam take out and the below dam put-in. Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the above dam take-out all the way to the below dam put-in launch. Since this route is along two roadways funding for a multi-user ASHTO compliance bike/pedestrian route may be available.</p> <p>Another suggestion is to provide hand trollies for use to facilitate vessel and gear movement along the portage route which is 1600' (1/4 mile).</p>



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
 	<p>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox Portage route</p>	<p>This is a portage and there for not storage is recommended...but information should be included on the information kiosk that tells paddlers there is storage just downstream on the other side of the below the dam put-in at the Red Bud North River Park where camping is also available and routes to town are available.</p> <p>The portage route is 1600'+ feet to the below the dam put-in launch. Signage is unclear & covered by encroaching vegetation. Walkway is intended to be on the road shoulder which is neither accessible nor safe.</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 launch. 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> <p>Recommend closing off the route end here and placing the kiosk here.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Toilets Potable water source</p>	<p>None here or recommended, but include information that toilet is available at the below the dam put-in.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible parking</p>	<p>None existing, add one accessible car/boat trailer parking spot located right at the top of the accessible route. This accommodates paddlers with disabilities who would spot a car to facilitate movement for the portage.</p>

Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	Picnic tables & grills	None here & none recommended as this is a take-out portage river exit. Provide info on the kiosk that there are picnic facilities at the below the dam put-in.
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	Get out sign	<p>Move the "get out here" sign to the end of the pier where the launch is.</p> <p>Post sign at this corner near the EZ Launch system.</p>



Access Recreation Group, LLC

Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CPRP

2454 Lamplighter Drive, Jenison, MI 49428-9127

Phone (616)669-9109 Mobile (616)560-2378

AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation & Design Recommendations

Location: Buchanan below the dam portage put-in launch site
Date/Time: October 13, 2015 / 9:00am
Contact: Jason Williams
Phone: 269-697-3264
Email: jwilliams@cityofbuchanan.com

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



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>EZ Launch</p> <p>Water trail flag</p>	<p>EZ Launch one-way right side launch would work the best with a short transition plate right from the existing sea wall.</p> <p>Connected to an accessible route at less than 5% slope from the accessible parking spot</p> <p>Water trail flag on the launch.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible routes</p>	<p>Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to the kayak/canoe storage lockbox, paddlers plaza with universally accessible picnic table, grill, information kiosk, parking and on to connect to other park amenities.</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. Place where the existing metal bars are, these racks may be most used by local paddlers who would like to store their vessels for the season.</p> <p>If no storage is provided make sure paddlers know that there is storage across the river at the next launch site where the campground is located.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Information kiosk</p>	<p>Locate the kiosk near the bottom of the accessible route from the launch across from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox. Locate on the paddles welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. 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 the concrete.</p>




Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	Toilets	Yes, existing toilet is accessible design but is not well placed on accessible surface. Suggest creating a concrete pad for placement of the toilet and connected to the accessible route to the amenities and the launch.
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	Potable water source	None here none recommended, but include information on the kiosk that indicates potable water at the next launch site at the campground.

Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Accessible parking</p>	<p>Yes, existing but needs re-striping and some surface repair to cracks from frost heave and ground settling. If possible rework the parking area to be more level and connect to the accessible routes to the launch and other amenities.</p> <p>Add one accessible car/boat trailer parking spot as well.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Picnic tables & grills</p>	<p>There are not accessible picnic tables or grills at the launch site.</p> <p>Create a paddlers welcome plaza across the accessible route from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox and add one universally accessible picnic table. Locate on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the tables at least 4' wide. The information kiosk will be at this same location.</p>



Access Recreation Group, LLC

Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CPRP

2454 Lamplighter Drive, Jenison, MI 49428-9127

Phone (616)669-9109 Mobile (616)560-2378

AccessRecreationGroup@juno.com

Launch Site Accessibility Evaluation & Design Recommendations

Location: Buchanan Red Bud North River Park
Date/Time: October 13, 2015 / 9:00am
Contact: Jason Williams
Phone: 269-697-3264
Email: jwilliams@cityofbuchanan.com

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


Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Option #1</p> <p>EZ Launch</p> <p>Water trail flag</p>	<p>EZ Launch two-way located downstream from the boat launch dock to avoid conflict with power boat launching. Water trail flag would be located on the launch viewable for paddlers coming down from the dam portage put-in.</p> <p>Option #1 location would take the least amount of earth moving to create the accessible route at less than 5% slope to the launch site at the waters' edge.</p> <p>Once the campground is developed it would be best to move the launch upstream and convert the option #1 location to a fishing pier.</p>


Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Option #1</p> <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>Option #1</p> <p>Information kiosk</p> <p>Paddlers welcome plaza</p> <p>Picnic tables & grills</p>	<p>Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch across from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox. Locate on the paddlers welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. 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 the concrete.</p> <p>There are not accessible picnic tables or grills at the launch site.</p> <p>Create a paddlers welcome plaza across the accessible route from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox and add one universally accessible picnic table. Locate on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the table at least 4' wide.</p>



Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
 	<p>Option #2</p> <p>EZ Launch</p> <p>Water trail flag</p>	<p>Locate the same EZ Launch two-way system upstream from the boat launch dock to avoid conflict with power boat launching. Water trail flag would be located on the launch viewable for paddlers coming down from the dam portage put-in.</p> <p>Option #2 location would some greater earth moving to create the accessible route at less than 5% slope to the launch site at the waters' edge and to keep it separated from the drive down launch road.</p> <p>Suggest a very large floating pier system that can also provide fishing and swimming access to the river for visitors as well as campers. The dock system would run parallel to the shore up stream and keep people out of conflict with power boats launching & moving down stream.</p>


Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
 <p>The first photo shows a sandy path winding through a forest with trees displaying autumn foliage. The second photo shows a group of people standing on a sandy bank next to a calm pond, with trees reflected in the water. The third photo shows a gravel path leading down to a riverbank, with trees and foliage in the background.</p>	<p>Option #2 Accessible routes</p>	<p>Create an accessible route 10' - 12' wide (this accommodates two person/two vessel carry down) with slopes less than 5% from the launch to the kayak/canoe storage lockbox, paddlers plaza with universally accessible picnic table, grill, information kiosk, parking and on to connect to the existing sidewalks to other park amenities and the campground.</p> <p>Suggest the creation of an observation overlook in the shore area where there is significant shoreline degradation. Great place to watch the river, sun rise, boaters etc. while directing human behavior to stay off the bank at this location. Provide information on the large deck re shoreline environmental protection and direct fisherman to the fishing piers.</p>





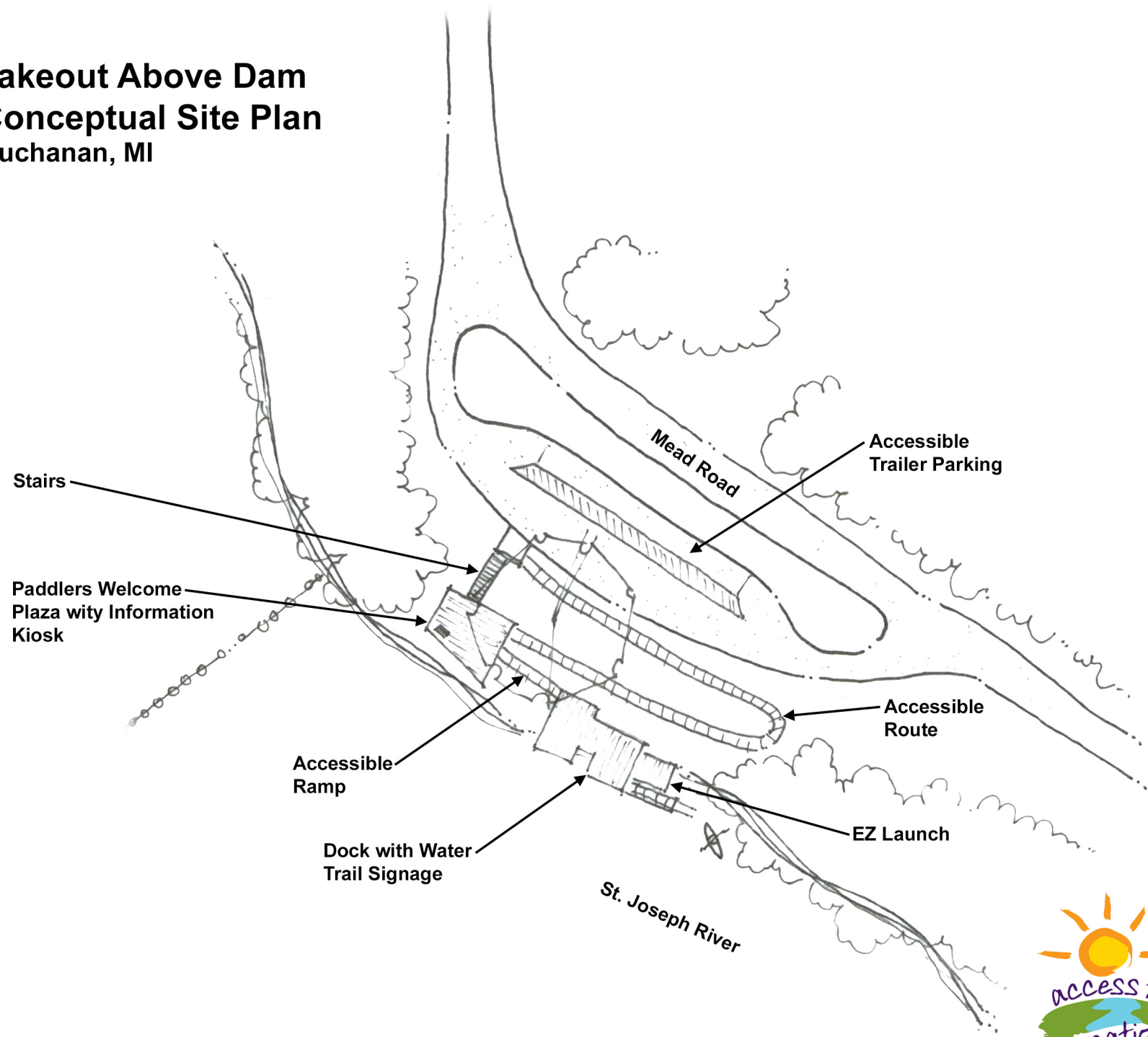
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Option #2</p> <p>Kayak/canoe storage lockbox</p>	<p>The kayak/canoe storage lockbox will be about 8' wide & 22' long. The paddler should be able to carry their vessel and slide it into the box without making a sharp turn, in other words parallel to the accessible route from the launch.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Option #2</p> <p>Information kiosk</p> <p>Paddlers welcome plaza</p> <p>Picnic tables & grills</p>	<p>Locate the kiosk near the top of the accessible route from the launch across from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox. Locate on the paddlers welcome plaza off the accessible route so those viewing the kiosk information are not in the accessible route. 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 the concrete.</p> <p>There are not accessible picnic tables or grills at the launch site.</p> <p>Create a paddlers welcome plaza across the accessible route from the kayak/canoe storage lockbox and add one universally accessible picnic table. Locate on accessible surface including an accessible route around the perimeter of the table at least 4' wide.</p>

Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Toilets</p> <p>Potable water source</p>	<p>Replace existing inaccessible porta-john with an accessible design toilet and locate on accessible surface close to parking.</p> <p>When the campground is developed 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> <p>Consider adding a water bottle fill type water source when the water system is developed for the campground.</p>
Photo	Location Description	Accessibility Feature Design Recommendations
	<p>Option #2</p> <p>Accessible parking</p>	<p>No formal parking exists at this time.</p> <p>Create accessible car and car/boat trailer parking spaces and connect directly to the accessible route to the launch and all other park amenities.</p> <p>Remove the dead ash trees to create space for parking and the accessible route to the launch.</p>

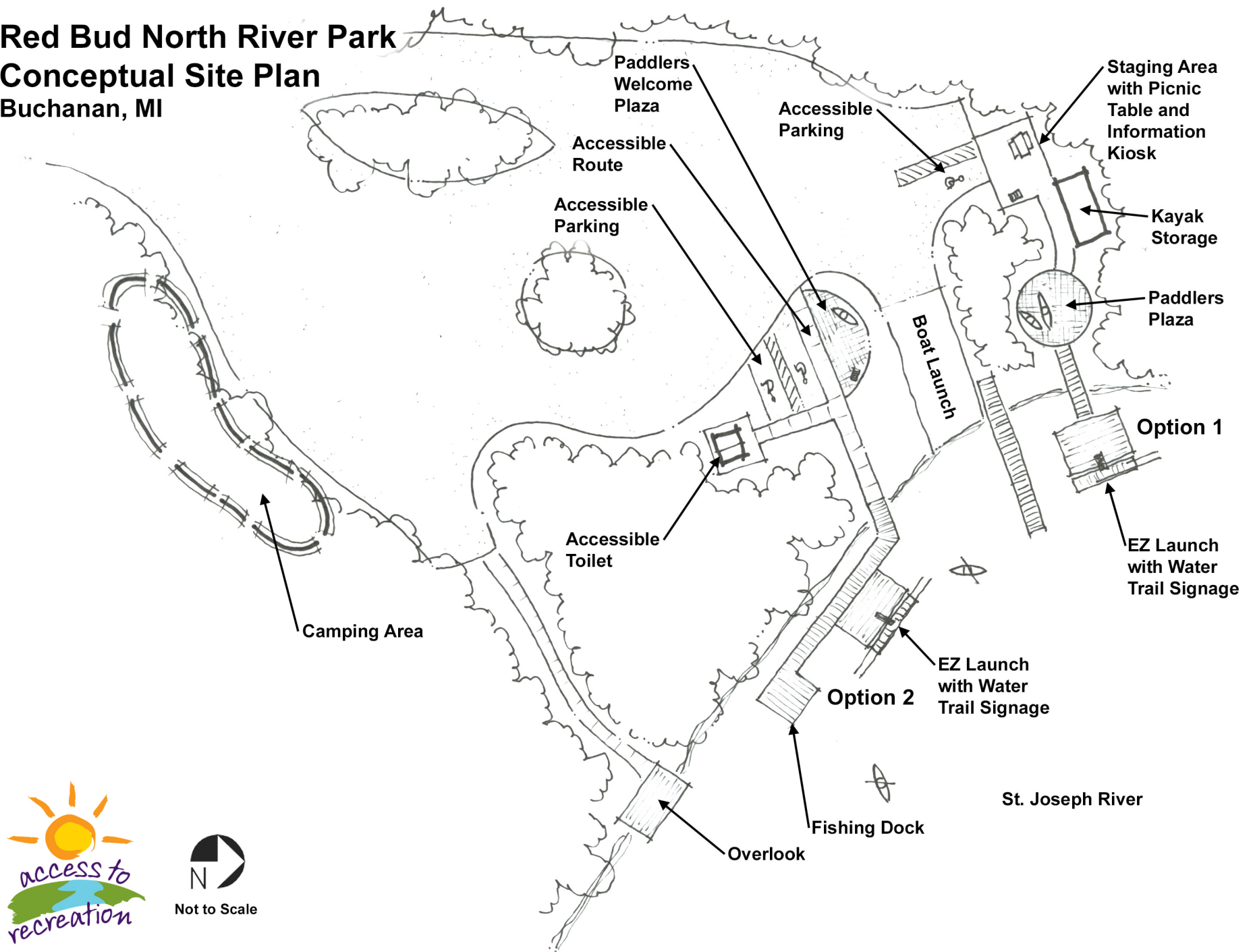
Takeout Above Dam
Conceptual Site Plan
Buchanan, MI



Red Bud North River Park

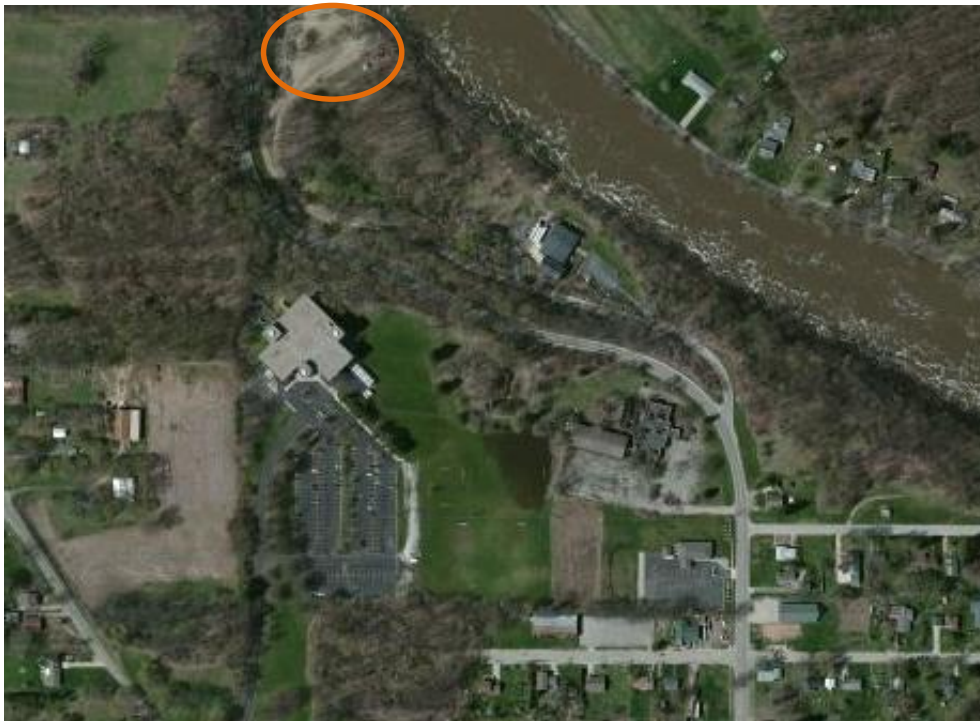
Conceptual Site Plan

Buchanan, MI



Buchanan

The City of Buchanan has three access sites along the St. Joseph River Water Trail that local officials and community stakeholders have identified for improvement. The first and closest access site to downtown Buchanan is commonly referred to as Redbud Riverfront Park. The park has a boat ramp and an expansive dirt parking area. The city recently ran power to the park and local officials have been considering developing a campground (with restrooms) in the park.



Existing Site



Trailhead

Depending on the configuration of future park amenities, local officials and community stakeholders identified two areas within the park in which an accessible launch, paddler's plaza and kayak storage could be located. In addition, areas within the park were identified that could accommodate camping by transient paddlers.

Option One – Left of Existing Boat Launch

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Option Two – Right of Existing Boat Launch (with added fishing dock)

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Camping

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment

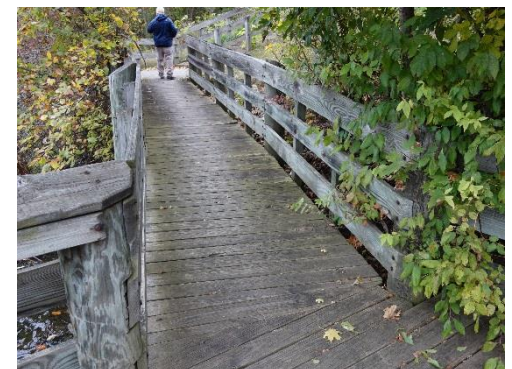


Trailhead

The second access site is located just above the Buchanan Dam, along Mead Road. The access site has a meandering pathway down to the river and a small dock. Many paddlers bypass the dock and exit the river along a narrow strip of beach just downstream. An accessible launch should be placed directly off the dock and the small beach area should be blocked off with new landscaping or signs.



Existing Site



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Trailhead

The third access site is located just below the Buchanan Dam, along East River Road. The access site also has a meandering pathway down to the river but no formal dock features. An accessible launch should be placed directly off the shoreline. In addition, a paddler's plaza and kayak storage could be placed at the site.



Existing Site



Before Treatment



After Treatment



McCoy's Creek Trail – Wayfinding & Pathway

The McCoy's Creek Trail traverses several miles through the heart of downtown Buchanan. Some segments pass along streets and through parks and neighborhoods. The city should place wayfinding signs at key intersections and road-crossings to clearly articulate the pathway of the trail through the downtown. This will be especially important along Dewey Street, where redevelopment plans are beginning to materialize.

Once the trail is in downtown Buchanan, it passes by the back façade of several restaurants and bars. The city should work with local restaurant owners to turn their back facades into outdoor seating overlooking the trail. In addition, the city should add benches and cultural kiosks in the plaza where the trail emerges from the back-side of the building to the front.

Wayfinding & Pathway

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Trail Frontage and Plaza

Before Treatment



After Treatment



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Enhancing and Maintaining Pedestrian Amenities and Building Form

Wide sidewalks, narrow streets and crosswalks (with bump-outs) all work together to make downtown Buchanan very walkable. 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

