

# LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a year full of challenges that none of us anticipated, yet we have shown a collective resilience to adapt and continue to move forward. Like many others, I found myself needing nature more than before, as an outlet for both my physical and mental well-being. I feel fortunate to live in an area with easy access to outdoor recreation and I'm proud that Paddle Antrim has played a part in providing the access that people have been craving. As an organization, we believe this trend toward nature will continue after the pandemic.

In 2020, we focused our efforts on the elements necessary to complete the water trail and are grateful to our partners, donors, and champions who made it happen. Also, this year, our board gathered to reflect on our accomplishments and set these goals for our movement into the future:

- Build a community around paddling while encouraging active lifestyles to inspire lifelong paddlers and demonstrating care for the economic health of our communities.
- Build a community that cherishes our water resources through education and engagement in water resource protection.
- Actively work to sustain our financial and organizational abilities to continue to meet our mission.

As you read through our outcomes that follow, I hope you feel the excitement that we do and engage with us on our path forward. We invite you to join us on the water trail this year and find your peace and solace out in nature. We look forward to engaging paddlers out on the water again this year and continuing to work with our partners to improve protection of our waterways for today and for future generations.

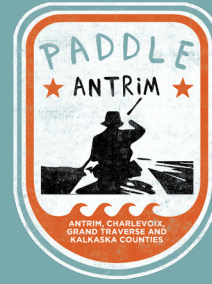


Deana Jerdee  
Executive Director



## Mission

Paddle Antrim protects our water resources by using paddle sports to connect people to our waterways. Through stewardship, education, improved water trail access, and promotion of our waterways we will increase water resources protection and enhance the economic vitality of the region.



## Board of Directors

Tom Shelder, President  
Harry Burkholder, Vice President  
Megan Olds, Treasurer  
Mindy Theis, Secretary  
Mary Faculak, Director  
Sue Palmisano, Director  
Cherie Fuss, Director

## Staff

Deana Jerdee, Executive Director  
Ellie Kirkpatrick, Marketing &  
Outreach Specialist

212 River St  
PO BOX 323  
Elk Rapids, MI 49629  
231-498 - 2080

[info@paddleantrim.com](mailto:info@paddleantrim.com)  
[www.paddleantrim.com](http://www.paddleantrim.com)

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**

## Sign-up for our e-newsletter:

[paddleantrim.com/newsletter-signup](http://paddleantrim.com/newsletter-signup)

# EXPLORE THE CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL

What began with a vision in 2014, is now a reality as we proudly open the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. We are pleased to work with 19 governmental and nonprofit entities across four counties to include 84 access sites creating over 100 miles of water trail for paddlers to explore.

This project is a culmination of a region coming together to inspire people to be active and safe on the water, educate individuals on how to be good stewards of our water resources, and provide avenues for economic development. We are very grateful to Consumers Energy Foundation, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Rosso Family Foundation, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation and many other donors, partners, and supporters who helped make this project a success.

In 2020, Paddle Antrim focused on the remaining elements necessary to truly open the trail. This included installation of signs at all access sites, online information for people to plan their trip, and mapping (both waterproof and digital forms) to assist paddlers while they are out on the trail.

We are proud of the work we accomplished with all of this support and invite you to learn more about the water trail and experience its beauty this summer.

## ACCESS SITES & SIGNS

Water trail signs have been placed near the water's edge at each of the 84 access sites to help paddlers identify where to exit from the water. The signs all include a water trail map to help paddlers navigate while on their journey. Trailheads are the main access sites with amenities suitable to start and end a trip and paddlers will find kiosks there with more information.



**Kiosks** - Found at trailheads near the parking areas.



**Wayfinding** - Found at trailheads and alternate access sites along the water's edge.



**Emergency & Rest Stop** - Found at emergency sites and rest stops along the water's edge.

## WATER TRAIL BY NUMBERS



**19**

Partners

We couldn't do it without them!



**84**

Access Sites

All marked with beautiful and useful signs!



**100+**

Miles to Explore

Routes for paddlers of all experience levels!

**12.3** Beginner Miles

**61** Intermediate Miles

**34.3** Advanced Miles

# EXPLORE THE CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL

## PADDLER RESOURCES

### Avenza Map App

We are excited to offer a digital map option to make planning even easier. Avenza Maps is tried and true with navigation and mapping features that help you plan and enjoy outdoor paddling adventures, even without internet or network connections. We have made the map available free of charge.

#### Map Benefits

- Locate yourself on a map
- Find your coordinates
- Navigate to a destination
- Record GPS Tracks
- Measure distances between points
- Plot geotagged photos on a map

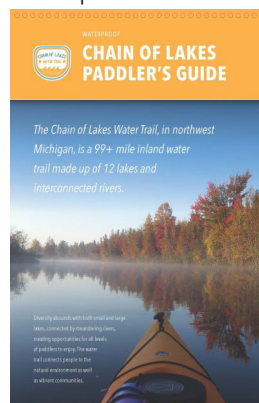


GET THE MAP



### Waterproof Paddler's Guide

The 30 page waterproof guidebook provides information to help paddlers plan a safe and worthwhile trip. Topics include safety, stewardship, maps, suggested routes based on experience level, lakeside community information, resources to find dining and overnight accommodations, and outfitters and liveries. This guide can be purchased locally at numerous retailers or shipped to you via our online store - [paddleantrim.com/shop](http://paddleantrim.com/shop).



### New Website

In August we launched our updated Paddle Antrim website and a new Chain of Lakes Water Trail microsite, [chainoflakeswatertrail.org](http://chainoflakeswatertrail.org). The Chain of Lakes Water Trail site is a one-stop spot for anyone planning a paddling adventure on the water trail. We have information on all of our paddler resources, suggested routes based on experience level, a listing of local outfitters and lodging, lakeside community information, and paddler safety and etiquette.

### Online Map Planning

Michigan Water Trails ([Michiganwatertrails.org](http://Michiganwatertrails.org)) is home to The Chain of Lakes Water Trail online map planning. Every access site and route is included on this map planning feature. Each access site includes a photo of the site as well as detailed information about the amenities available. This is a great paddler resource for locating and getting google directions to access sites, planning put-in and take-out locations and sharing your location with friends who aren't on the trip in case of an emergency.



### PADDLE NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S PRISTINE WATERS

The Chain of Lakes Water Trail, in northwest Michigan, is a 99+ mile inland water trail made up of 12 lakes and interconnected rivers which flow into the East Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan. The Chain of Lakes is divided into the Upper Chain and Lower Chain, separated by a dam in the Village of Bellaire. This water trail is diverse with both small and large lakes, connected by meandering rivers, creating opportunities for all levels of paddlers to enjoy. The water trail connects people to the natural environment as well as vibrant communities. Whether kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding or fishing, there are opportunities for all to explore.

PLAN YOUR TRIP



# WATER TRAIL PROJECTS AND STEWARDSHIP IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO ELK RAPIDS ROTARY PARK

Paddle Antrim is pleased to work with the Village of Elk Rapids on design plans for Elk Rapids Rotary Park. Rotary Park is the main trailhead for the Village of Elk Rapids on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail, providing access to the village amenities for paddlers. Improvements to Rotary Park were identified in their 2017 recreation survey and Paddle Antrim is pleased to be a part of their improvement planning. In 2020, Paddle Antrim and the Village of Elk Rapids began working on a design concept thanks to generous support from the Elk Skegemog Lakes Association, the Grand Traverse Community Foundation FOCUS Fund of Antrim County, Elk Rapids Rotary Club, Village of Elk Rapids, individual Rotarians, and in-kind support from Gourdie-Frasier and Associates and the Disability Network of Northwest Michigan. Through input from the community, a final engineering design was approved by the Village Council in March of 2021.

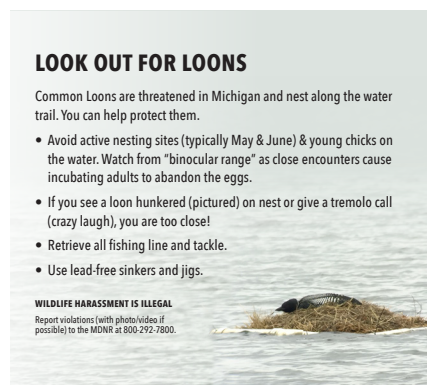


## STEWARDSHIP ON THE WATER TRAIL

Paddle Antrim is proud to be one of the many organizations working to protect the Chain of Lakes as a member of the watershed plan implementation team, which is led by The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. We work hand in hand with the conservation districts, lake associations, and other stakeholders protecting these precious waterways.

As part of this group, we focus our efforts educating paddlers on how to be good stewards and incorporating important stewardship messages into our outreach. This is a critical piece of our work on the water trail. Working with other watershed team members, we developed seven different stewardship messages that can be found on signs throughout the Chain of Lakes Water Trail and in the Paddler's Guide (shown below).

This past year we were pleased to continue to participate in the MI Paddle Stewards program in collaboration with Michigan Sea Grant and other water trails around the state. The MI Paddle Stewards program trains paddlers how to identify and report aquatic invasive species. We believe paddlers are in a unique position to help us identify and report them so CAKE-CISMA, our local invasive management lead, can help treat these unwanted plants and animals. While we were unable to host workshops in person, we were thankful MSU Extension offered the course online free of charge to over 200 participants from around the state. If you are interested in being a part of the MI Paddle Steward program in 2021, online registration is now open at: <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/educational-programs/mi-paddle-stewards/>



## RIPPLE-EFFECT MINI GRANTS

Our Ripple Effect Mini-Grant program uses a portion of our income earned through classes and events to support projects whose values, goals, and desired impacts align with ours. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting loss of earned income which funds these grants, we were unable to award grants in 2020. This program has been highly successful and we look forward to continuing it in 2021.

Here is a look back at our progress with this program over the last five years.

Awarded \$24,000 to 15 projects related to:

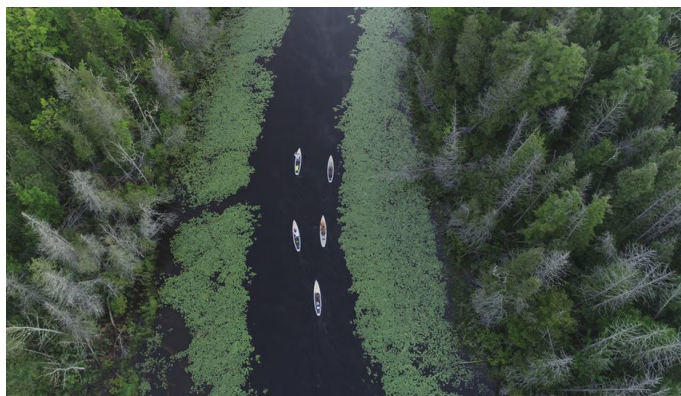
- Access site improvements
- Education
- Stewardship
- Safety



# PADDLING EVENTS

## STAND UP FOR GREAT LAKES CHAIN OF LAKES PADDLE

Could you imagine paddle boarding for 16 hours and almost 50 miles? This summer, Stand Up For Great Lakes did just that on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. Stand Up For Great Lakes is a non-profit organization that raises awareness for protecting our water resources. They have crossed four of the five Great Lakes on paddle boards, raising money and awareness for like-minded organizations with each journey. There was an amazing outpouring of love and support around their incredible paddle which started in Ellsworth and ended in Elk Rapids. Jeff Guy, Kwin Morris, Joe Lorenz and Grant Piering paddled the entire route and in the end they raised \$13,000 for Paddle Antrim. We are so grateful for their efforts and love for our waterways. You should definitely check out the documentary of their journey available in our video library at [www.paddleantrim.com/video-library/](http://www.paddleantrim.com/video-library/).



## CLASSES AND EVENTS

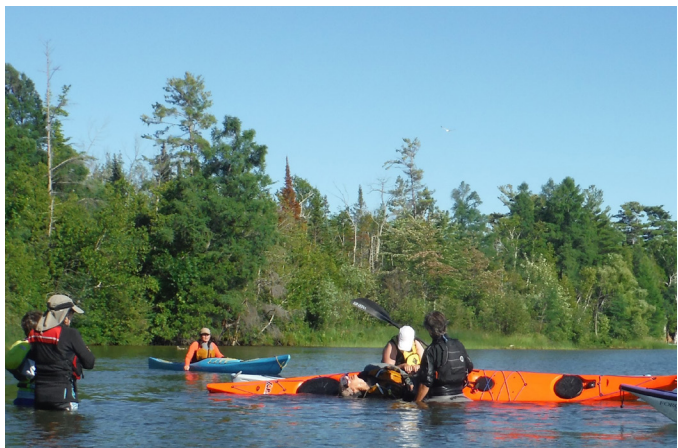
While we didn't hold any classes or events in 2020 due to COVID-19, we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the past five years with our events and classes. We look forward to safely engaging with paddlers again this year. Over the last five years we have....

- Engaged 950 paddlers on the water trail
- Held 48 paddle events
- Hosted the Paddle Antrim Festival for 5 years
- Increase Festival participants from 50 to 170 paddlers
- Hosted 4-6 community paddles annually
- Held educational classes on identifying/reporting invasive species, introduction to kayaking and paddle boarding as well as kid kayaking

We look forward to  
seeing you on the  
water!

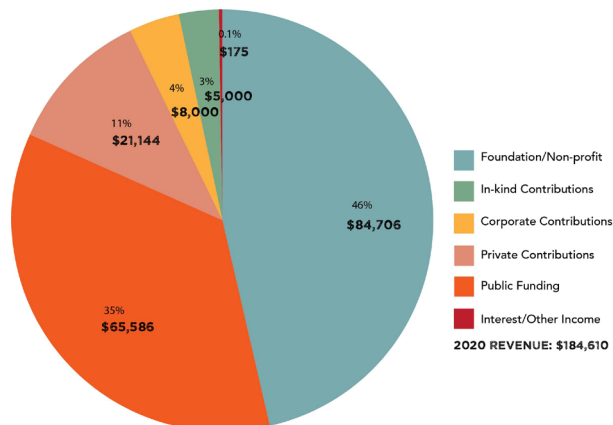
To stay updated on class and event offerings:

- Follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram
- Sign-up for our e-newsletter:  
[paddleantrim.com/newsletter-signup](http://paddleantrim.com/newsletter-signup)
- Visit our events page - [paddleantrim.com/events](http://paddleantrim.com/events)

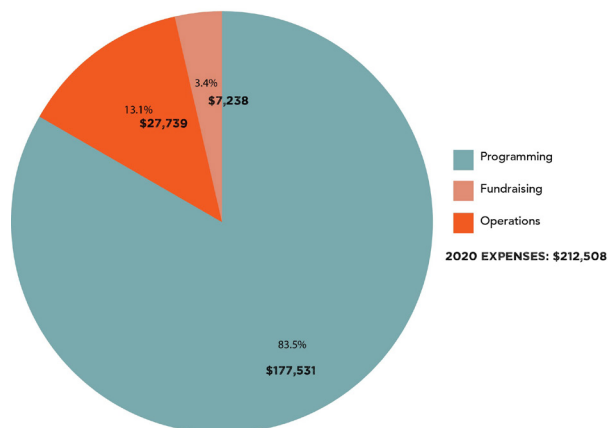


# FINANCIALS

## 2020 REVENUES



## 2020 EXPENSES



## CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

	2020	2019 + 2020 combined
Beginning Net Assets	\$131,503	\$40,484
Ending Net Assets	\$103,605	\$103,605
Change in Net Assets	-\$27,898	+\$63,121
Temp Restricted Net Assets	\$8,736	\$8,736

\*Water Trail Campaign Contributions were collected in 2019 and used to fund Water Trail improvement expenses in 2020 and upcoming in 2021.

## DONORS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

### \$25,000+

Consumers Energy Foundation  
MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Stand Up For Great Lakes

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Gary and Mary Chenoweth  
Short's Brewing Company

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

East Jordan Family Health Center  
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy  
Jim and Diana Huckle  
Matt and Deb Knudstrup  
Little Traverse Conservancy

Frederick and Barbara Malpass  
Shanty Creek Resorts  
The Sid & Esther Brown Family Foundation  
Torch Lake Township  
Dr Laurence Yung and Laura Foerster

### \$500 - \$999

Ben and Gina Benner  
Grass River Natural Area  
Matt and Katie McLeod  
Frank and Jean Marie Moffa

James Quigel

Traverse City Tourism  
Village of Ellsworth

### \$250 - \$499

Anonymous  
Johanna Cressy  
George and Suzann Grazul

David and Donna Heeres  
Bill and Cheryl Helsingier  
Tom Shelder  
Mindy Theis

### \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (3)  
John and LaNae Abnet  
Don and Nancy App  
Sandra Banducci  
Benevity  
John Bigler  
Tim and Christina Bohnhoff  
Scott Borchelt  
Eric and Carolyn Buzzell  
Community Foundation  
Sak Family Fund  
Tim and Ceri Faas  
Jeff Farida  
Bud and Kelly Ferguson  
Cherie Fuss

Michael J. and Mary Haley  
Ken and Chris Hall  
Rich and Anna Hannan  
Laura Hennessey  
Trevor and Deana Jerdee  
Dawn Raymond Kuhns  
Lewis and Shelley Lake  
Jim Massaroni  
Ann McPhail  
Steve and Shelley Misenheimer  
Bruce and Kristin Moore  
Mike and Julie Moquin  
Kermita Myers  
John and Mary Beth Panganiban  
Bruce Pixler  
Stephen Plaisted  
Heidi Shaffer  
Lynn Aldrich Spearing  
Kjell and Sue Svensson



# DONORS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

Timken Company  
Charitable Gift  
John and Louise Wenzel  
April and Mike Willbur  
Bob and Cathy Wilson  
Connie and Jim  
Winter-Troutwine  
Jim and Gera Witte  
Woody and Nancy Wright  
Steve and Kathy Young  
Art and Nancy Zelenak

## \$1 - \$99

Anonymous (2)  
Amazon Smile  
Sue Anderson  
Daniel and Diane Bennett  
Biz Bisard  
Ed and Katie Bolt  
Joshua Brucksch  
Doug and Sue Coffin  
Tom and Peg Comfort  
Christine and Eric Crissman  
James Dake  
Kelly Dalton  
Kristin Dart  
Gary and Linda DeKock  
Sheila Dettloff  
Mary Faculak  
Linda Gamage  
Jerry Gillissen  
Wayne and Beth Guntviller  
Eric Hancsak  
Dave and Butch Hauser  
Stacy Hibiske  
Don Hirt and Lisa Hall  
Dr. Marianne Jossens  
Brad and Amanda Kik  
Robert Kingon  
Ellie Kirkpatrick  
Dave Lawicki  
Gelita Maxwell  
Brooke and Eric Minore  
William Mitchell  
Margaret Mountain

Daniel Ogren  
Sue Palmisano  
Katie Peterson  
Joe Pixler  
Cliff Pixler  
Vicki Proctor  
Ernie Quigel  
Jessi Reed  
Deborah Rutledge  
Kim Scott  
Scott Sedam  
Greg Sherman  
Jim and Laura Shumate  
Gretchen Stobert Wilson  
David and Janice Swanson  
Nancy Taylor  
Karl Wittbold  
Steve and Linda Yencich  
Burt and Kim Young

## IN-KIND DONATIONS/ VOLUNTEERS

Andy Blodgett, Parker  
Harvey law firm  
Bailey Designs &  
Consulting, LLC  
Gourdier-Frasier, Inc  
George Grazul  
Laurie Krauth  
Rachel Krino  
Thomas Mann  
MI Trails Magazine  
Paddles and Pedals  
Short's Brewing Company  
Art Zelenak

## IN MEMORIAM

(gifts made in memory of  
bolded name)

**Sally K. Pearson** (John  
Pearson)  
**Abbey L. Rosso PhD.**  
(Rosso Family Foundation)  
**Doloris Steiner** (Patricia  
Savant)  
**Christopher Vranich** (Tom  
Vranich)

## HONORARIUM

(gifts made in honor of  
bolded name)

**KC Babb** (Leslie Meyers)  
**Jim & Diana Huckle**  
(Megan Olds)

## GET INVOLVED

We are grateful for the incredible volunteers who donate their time and make our work possible and incredibly more fun. Volunteers are critical to our success, from event help to sign maintenance and everything in between. We would love to connect with you to find the right fit that is engaging you and helps us fulfill our mission. To learn more ways you can get involved visit: [paddleantrim.com/volunteer](https://paddleantrim.com/volunteer)

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE WATER TRAIL

Your support is key to improving access to and protecting the water quality of our lakes and rivers. By improving access and hosting classes/events, we can engage more people out on the water. When people have fun and positive experiences on the water, they fall in love with a place. It's this sense of care that leads to a curiosity about what makes a place special and nurtures an instinct to protect it. Learn more about the different opportunities at: [paddleantrim.com/how-to-give](https://paddleantrim.com/how-to-give)



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU SEE AN ERROR OR WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED DIFFERENTLY, PLEASE CONTACT US AT [INFO@PADDLEANTRIM.COM](mailto:info@paddleantrim.com)

# PADDLE ANTRIM 2020

---

## PADDLE ANTRIM

212 River St

PO BOX 323

Elk Rapids, MI 49629

231-498-2080

[www.paddleantrim.com](http://www.paddleantrim.com)

