

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

This was an exciting year for Paddle Antrim. We have been working with the Village of Elk Rapids on a vision for transforming Rotary Park and we are pleased to have reached our fundraising goal to begin moving forward with construction on these significant improvements. When we began working on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail seven years ago, we knew that developing the water trail would be a process – building partnerships with site owners, mapping out the trail, and putting signs in the ground was just the beginning. We are dedicated to improving access for all individuals and promoting good stewardship of our resources.

This summer, we were back out on the water in full force. I continue to look forward to seeing new and old friends and introducing individuals to paddling and the water trail. We continued to offer education opportunities from paddle boarding and kayaking classes to training paddlers to identify and report invasive species. Our biweekly community paddles are always a favorite, with a record of over 50 paddlers joining us this year in Elk Rapids (which highlighted the need for the improvements). Our paddling year culminated with over 200 paddlers participating in the 7th Paddle Antrim Festival.

Our volunteers reliably knock it out of the park and are invaluable to helping us continue to work toward our mission of protecting our waterways by connecting people through paddle sports. From administrative help to monitoring/maintaining the water trail or outreach/support at events, these dedicated individuals help keep things moving forward.

Your contributions, both financial and time, help us to continue to make things happen, improving access to our amazing waterways and protecting them for future generations.



Deana Jerdee
Executive Director

Paddle Antrim is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to protect our water resources by using paddle sports to connect people to our waterways.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Shelder - President

Harry Burkholder - Vice President

Megan Motil - Treasurer

Mindy Theis - Secretary

Mary Faculak - Director

Sue Palmisano - Director

STAFF

Deana Jerdee - Executive Director

Ellie Kirkpatrick - Marketing & Outreach

Photo credit: Andy Zendler



CONNECTING PADDLERS TO OUR WATERWAYS CLASSES AND EVENTS

Our events and classes are often the first experience paddlers have with Paddle Antrim, but they are rarely the last. Getting paddlers engaged and on the water safely is a huge piece of our mission. When people have fun and positive experiences on the water, they form a connection. It's this sense of connection that leads to a curiosity about what makes a place special and nurtures an instinct to protect it.

"It was the kayaking, actually the festival, that caught our attention. It drew us to explore more about the organization and the people involved," said Lisa Buczkowski. Gary and Lisa Buczkowski, husband and wife duo, both love the sport of kayaking and enjoy being in nature. They recently retired and made Northern Michigan their year-round residence after many years of going back and forth from Chicago. They have been supporting our organization as volunteers, donors, and event participants since 2016 when they joined us at their first Paddle Antrim Festival.

In 2022 Gary and Lisa started taking safety paddler training classes with us to work towards becoming certified instructors. Gary and Lisa are among a growing group of volunteers who have an interest in teaching, assisting, or acting as safety paddlers during classes and events. The demand for our classes and events continues to rise each year, with 2022 being our biggest year yet. We look forward to continuing to meet this increased demand by growing our pool of certified instructors and safety paddlers.

Because of our amazing donors, sponsors and volunteers, we continue to grow participation in our classes and events year after year. We couldn't do this without supporters like you.

84

PADDLERS
PARTICIPATED
IN 22
PADDLING
SAFETY
CLASSES

204

PADDLERS
JOINED THE
2022 PADDLE
ANTRIM
FESTIVAL

340+

PADDLERS
JOINED US AT
ON-WATER
EVENTS

The most important work that Paddle Antrim does is what Deana describes – connecting people of all ages with the waterways. I participate, support and often talk to others about the education and paddling skills classes. I think it's huge.

– LISA

Exposing both paddlers and non-paddlers thru education and events as to the importance of our waterways play in the overall ecosystem is the most important work Paddle Antrim does. Paddling in general as an activity is unique in that it allows for a more intimate (closer) relationship with the water eco system the surroundings.

– GARY

GROWING OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IT TAKES A VILLAGE

90+
VOLUNTEERS

230+
HOURS
MAINTAINING
AND
MONITORING
THE WATER TRAIL

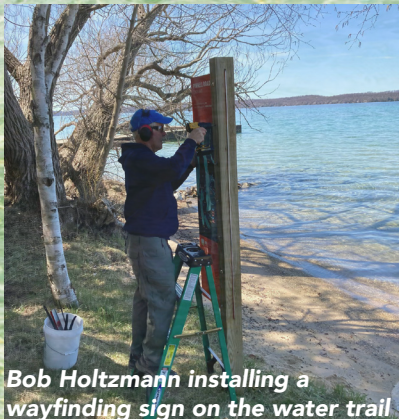
1490+
TOTAL
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
DONATED

With a volunteer board of directors and staff of two, we couldn't achieve our mission without the support of our incredible volunteers. George Grazul, a retired nurse anesthetist and current Traverse City resident, has been a volunteer since 2017. He found Paddle Antrim after purchasing his first kayak and searching for a paddling club to get involved with. "I was trying to find a club to meet other paddlers and to get instruction on safety and technique – Paddle Antrim wasn't exactly what I was looking for, but it turned out to be much better." After talking to Deana and taking a safety class, George was hooked. Hooked on paddling, the waterways, and Paddle Antrim as an organization. His volunteer activities have grown and morphed over the years. He helped with the water trail signs as they were being installed, he acts as an ambassador at community events such as the Wednesdays on River Street in Elk Rapids, he supports our events as a safety paddler, and helps with various other special projects.

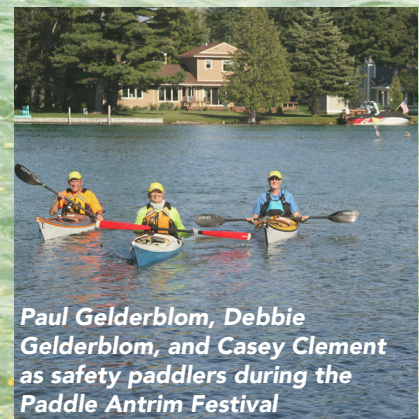
George and volunteers like George are the metaphorical paddle to our paddle craft. Volunteers help us at the Paddle Antrim Festival and community events, monitor and maintain the water trail signs and access sites, take beautiful photography (which you see throughout this report), assist with administrative tasks in the office such as taking inventory and organizing, and much more. We can continue to grow and strengthen our programs because of George and all of our amazing volunteers.



George Grazul manning the booth at Wednesdays on River Street in Elk Rapids



Bob Holtzmann installing a wayfinding sign on the water trail



Paul Gelderblom, Debbie Gelderblom, and Casey Clement as safety paddlers during the Paddle Antrim Festival

Photo Credit: Pure Michigan



ELK RAPIDS ROTARY PARK



Rotary Park Features

- Universally Accessible Kayak Launch
- Improved parking
- Trailer parking
- Loading/unloading zone
- Restrooms with changing station
- Boat washing station
- Kayak rack
- Bike rack
- Rain garden

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of private and public funders, we are incredibly excited to begin moving forward with the Village of Elk Rapids to the next phase of completing improvements for Elk Rapids Rotary Park. We want to give a special thanks to major funding provided by:

- Michigan Sparks Grant program
- Michigan State Waterways Commission
- Village of Elk Rapids
- Rotary Charities of Traverse City
- Jim and Diana Huckle Family Foundation
- Elk Rapids Rotary Club
- Elk Rapids Downtown Development Authority
- Elk Rapids Harbor Commission
- Oleson Foundation
- Sue Haadsma-Svensson and Kjell Svensson
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- BlueStone Futures
- Gary and Mary Chenoweth
- Barton J Ingraham & Gail G Ingraham Foundation
- Matt and Deb Knudstrup
- The McMullen Family Foundation Fund
- Christine Petersen
- The Ross Family Fund
- Karen Simpson
- The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation



ELK RAPIDS ROTARY PARK

Paddle Antrim is proud to partner with the Village of Elk Rapids on significant capital improvements to Rotary Park. The approved design focuses on both stewardship of our resources and accessibility to all park amenities. We are extremely proud to showcase the first permanent non-motorized boat wash station in Michigan as well as install a rain garden to help protect our lakes from runoff and sedimentation. All amenities are universally designed and ADA compliant. With the completion of this project, the Chain of Lakes Water Trail will feature its first universally accessible route, connecting Elk Rapids to Kewadin. Because of the generosity of donors like you, we can work with our partners to continue to create a high quality and accessible experience for paddlers of all ages and abilities while protecting our lakes and rivers for future generations.

You can learn more about the project and see a historical timeline at paddleantrim.com/rotary-park. We look forward to working with the Village of Elk Rapids to finalize construction plans in 2023, estimating completion in 2024.

[The Village of Elk Rapids is]...thrilled and honored to receive a competitive Michigan Spark grant from the Department of Natural Resources. This grant will leverage other grants and gifts, so we can move forward with our nonprofit partner, Paddle Antrim, to implement our community's vision for Rotary Park and enhanced non-motorized connectivity to the water.

**KAREN SIMPSON,
ELK RAPIDS VILLAGE PRESIDENT**



Universally accessible kayak launch at Milton Township Park on Elk Lake.



Example of a rain garden similar to what will be installed at Elk Rapids Rotary Park.

Paddle Antrim is proud to host the Chain of Lakes Water Trail, the only state-designated water trail in Northern Michigan. Rotary Park is a key access site on the trail and this project is part of our nonprofit's strategy to partner with local governments to make planned improvements that create high quality experiences and public access for people of all abilities.

**DEANA JERDEE
PADDLE ANTRIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Photo Credit: Andy Zendler



STEWARDiNG OUR WATERWAYS

TRAINING AND GRANT AWARDS

Keeping our waterways pristine for future generations is paramount to Paddle Antrim's mission. We take this responsibility very seriously and work to educate paddlers and partner with other nonprofits and governmental organizations to push this work forward. In 2022 we partnered with the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Serving Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Counties (CAKE CISMA) and 7 other local conservation organizations to host four invasive species workshops. Through these programs, we were able to connect with and educate 39 paddlers on identifying and reporting invasive species.

The Ripple Effect Mini Grant has supported important projects at Grass River Natural Area that have improved our educational programs and land management, supported the safety of our staff and visitors, and assisted us in reaching a broader audience in showing people the importance of the Chain of Lakes watershed.

JAMES DAKE
EDUCATION DIRECTOR, GRNA

With the recent identification of New Zealand Mud Snails in the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed, there is a sense of urgency in bringing awareness to aquatic invasive species to all paddlers and boaters.

LINDSEY BONA-EGGEMA
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CAKE CISMA

Our Ripple Effect Mini Grant Program, now in its seventh year, supports other projects whose values, goals, and desired impacts align with ours. Funded through income we earn from classes and events like the Paddle Antrim Festival, this program has now awarded a total of \$30,400 to support 21 projects in the region. In 2022 we were able to award \$4,627 to four organizations: Antrim County Emergency Management, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Grass River Natural Area, and Three Lakes Association. You can learn more about these projects at paddleantrim.com/ripple-effect-mini-grants/.

39

PADDLERS ATTENDED
4 WORKSHOPS
LEARNING TO IDENTIFY
AND REPORT INVASIVE
SPECIES

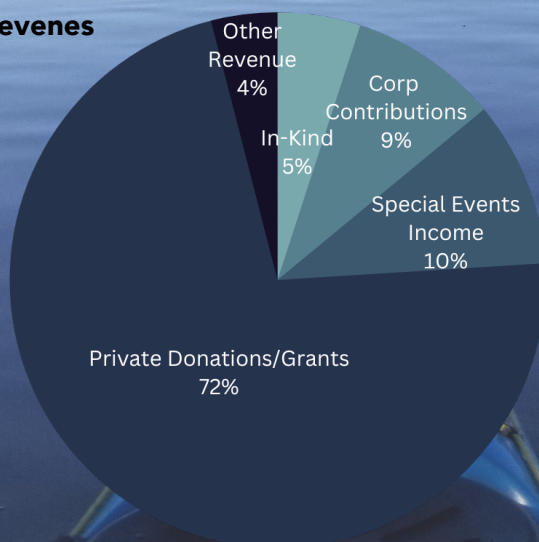
\$4,627

AWARDED TO FUND
4 PROJECTS
THROUGH MINI
GRANT PROGRAM

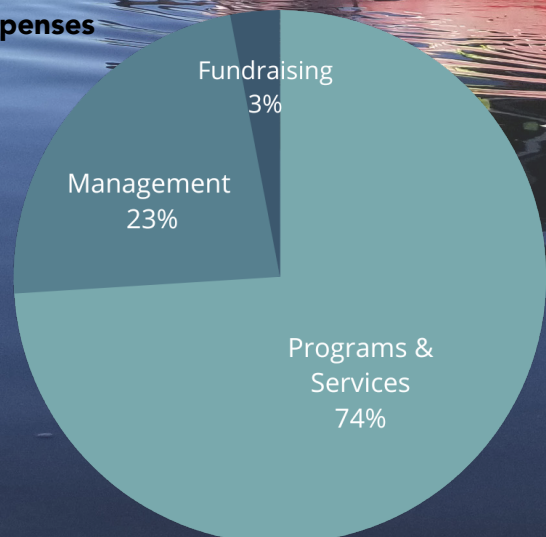
FINANCIALS

| | Net Assets W/O restrictions | Net Assets W/ donor restrictions | Board Designated Funds | Total | Percent |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Revenue and Support | | | | | |
| Private Donations/Grants | \$24,006 | \$167,215 | \$19,300 | \$210,521 | 72% |
| Corporate Contributions | \$26,223 | | | \$26,223 | 9% |
| Special Events Income | \$23,260 | | \$5,100 | \$28,360 | 10% |
| In-kind | \$15,945 | | | \$15,945 | 5% |
| Other Revenue (includes interest) | \$6,693 | | \$5,700 | \$12,393 | 4% |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$50,067 | \$(65,663) | \$15,596 | | |
| Total Revenue | \$146,194 | \$101,552 | \$45,696 | \$293,442 | 100% |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Programs and Services | \$106,312 | | | \$106,312 | 74% |
| Management | \$32,949 | | | \$32,949 | 23% |
| Fundraising | \$4,361 | | | \$4,361 | 3% |
| Total Expenses | \$143,622 | | | \$143,622 | 100% |
| Changes in Net Assets | \$2,572 | \$101,552 | \$45,696 | \$149,820 | |
| Net Assets (beginning of year) | \$128,541 | \$50,151 | 0 | \$178,692 | |
| Net Assets (end of year) | 131,113 | \$151,703 | \$45,696 | \$328,512 | |

Revenues



Expenses



DONORS AND SPONSORS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

GIFTS OF \$25,000+

Rotary Charities of Traverse City

GIFTS OF \$10,000 - \$24,999

BlueStone Futures

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Oleson Foundation

Kjell Svensson and Sue Haadsma-Svensson

The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation

GIFTS OF \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Christine Petersen

Grandparents of Ruby and Rigel

GIFTS OF \$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous

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Northland - Elk Rapids

Woody Wright

GIFTS OF \$500 - \$999

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Anonymous

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Community Foundation Rotary Endowment

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Jay's Sporting Goods

King Orchards

Ellie and Tom Kirkpatrick

Graham and Peggy Martin

Frank and Jean Marie Moffa Meijer

Taylor Stewardship Fund

Mindy Theis

Torch Lake Beer Company

Village Market

Curtis Wilkerson and Anne Hitt

Art and Nancy Zelenak

GIFTS OF \$250 - \$499

Anonymous

Patrick Ankney

Benevity

Christine and Tim Bohnhoff

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Tom Shelder

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Stobert Dental

GIFTS OF \$1 - 249

Anonymous(5)

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James Allan

Amazon Smile

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Oryana Food Cooperative, Inc



PADDLE ANTRIM

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| John Pearson | Kevin Sikkema | Steve and Kathy Young | IN MEMORIUM |
| Tony Pernicano | Lynn Aldrich Spearing | Philip and Shelley Zalewski | (gifts made in honor of |
| Katie Petersen | Jannifer Stromberg | Lisa Zechmeister | bolded name) |
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| Joseph Pixler | Carol Thompson | GIFTS | Charles Workinger (Mary |
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| Ernie Quigel | VanTongeren | Michigan Trails Magazine | Pearson) |
| Royce Ragland and Kenneth | David Varga and Barb Van | Osorio Tacos y Salsas | HONORARIUM |
| Bloem | Pelt | Pro Image Design | (gifts made in honor of |
| Stewart Rea | Jack and Laurie Vermeulen | Short's Brewing Company | bolded name) |
| Dr. Lloyd Redington | John and Diane Verploegh | The Place | Megan Motil (Anonymous) |
| Phil and Joan Richardson | Andrea Weiss | IN-KIND GIFTS | Pro Image Design |
| Jason Richardson | John and Louise Wenzel | Amy Kate Designs/Golden | (Anonymous) |
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| Gail Rogers | April and Mike Willbur | Bailey Designs | Letasz) |
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| | Mary Parks Workinger | Paddles and Pedals | Hope Ryan Young (Steve |
| | | | and Kathy Young) |
| | | | David Stromberg (Jannifer |
| | | | Stromberg) |

Thank you to all our donors and sponsors. If you see an error or would like to be recognized differently, please contact us at info@paddleantrim.com

WAYS TO SUPPORT PADDLE ANTRIM

GIVE A GIFT

Your gift will help Paddle Antrim continue efforts to improve access, education, and stewardship.

BECOME A WELLSPRING SUPPORTER

Schedule monthly or quarterly gifts at as little as \$10 and make a big impact. Recurring gifts allow us to plan and sustain our work more effectively.

JOIN OUR SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

These vital contributors give a minimum annual gift of \$1,000 or more to support the general operations of Paddle Antrim.

BECOME A WAVEMAKER

Join other businesses and organizations who have found meaningful ways to support our mission.

BECOME A WATER TRAIL CHAMPION

Support Paddle Antrim by sponsoring a sign at one of the many access sites on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.

LEARN MORE AND DONATE:

www.paddleantrim.com/how-to-give



PADDLE ANTRIM



212 River St

PO BOX 323

Elk Rapids, MI 49629

231-498-2080

www.paddleantrim.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PADDLE
★ ANTRIM ★

2023 CLASSES AND EVENTS

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
IDENTIFICATION & REPORTING

PADDLING CLASSES
ADULT AND YOUTH CLASSES

COMMUNITY PADDLES
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. HELD AT DIFFERENT
LOCATIONS ON THE CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL

PADDLE ANTRIM FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 14-16

TWO DAY PADDLING EVENT ON THE CHAIN OF LAKES WATER
TRAIL. 7-42 MILES, CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE. SPONSORED
BY SHORT'S BREWING COMPANY

LEARN MORE AT PADDLEANTRIM.COM/EVENTS



CHAIN OF LAKES
★ WATER TRAIL ★

Photo Credit: Pure Michigan