



Goals and Objectives

Grand River Expedition 2010 is a coalition of organizations, individuals, and communities conducting a journey of discovery, study and enjoyment of the values, challenges and opportunities of the Grand River and its watershed. This effort will contribute to the public's knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the Grand River, and how it connects communities across the region - for present and future generations.

At 260 miles, the Grand River is the longest river in Michigan. Its watershed includes 5,570 square miles, 18 counties and 158 townships. Grand River Expedition 2010 includes scientists, historians, educators, students, environmental professionals, recreational paddlers, boaters and anglers, civic and business leaders, local, state and federal government representatives, writers, visual media specialists, riverfront landowners and other interested citizens.

Beginning July 14, 2010, GRE 2010 will embark on a trip down the 225 navigable miles of the Grand River across mid-Michigan to its mouth at Lake Michigan in Grand Haven, arriving on July 26, 2010. Some team members may choose to paddle portions of the headwaters, west of Lake LeAnn in Hillsdale County. The effort also may include additional focused floats and trips down tributary streams. We encourage recreational paddlers to join us for all or any part of the expedition.

The watershed analysis and teaching team will be conducting studies and explaining results as it moves downstream. Presentations, displays and demonstrations will be offered to communities along the river to interact with the Grand River and its people throughout the watershed. The ground support team will assist with all aspects of the expedition to ensure a successful, safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Specific goals of Grand River Expedition 2010 include:

- Paddle the navigable portion of the Grand River from Michigan Center to Grand Haven, Michigan;
- Perform environmental sampling to document important trends and support future actions as begun by "Grand River Expedition 1990" and "Grand River Expedition 2000";
- Identify and analyze the problems affecting the Grand River to facilitate participation in solutions;
- Increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Grand River in the following areas:
 - the historical role of the Grand River and its watershed;
 - the importance of the Grand River in industrial, commercial and urban development;
 - geological and topographical features along the Grand River;
 - biodiversity of fish, wildlife and vegetation along the Grand River; and
 - recreational and economic opportunities offered by the Grand River which enhance health and overall quality of life.
- Educate key decision makers and other citizens about best management practices and the need for individual stewardship to protect and enhance the integrity of the Grand River and its watershed.
- Have a fantastic time!

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