

# GRAND RIVER GREENWAY CAMPAIGN

## A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR WEST MICHIGAN

The Grand River is an important ecological and recreational asset. Improving riverside lands in Ottawa County and connecting them to Kent County will add incredible value to the on-going work in Grand Rapids to restore the Grand River and the City's namesake rapids.

**Mark Van Putten, President & CEO**  
Wege Foundation

The iconic Grand River boardwalk and pier remain a vital part of Grand Haven. Connecting our pier and boardwalk to natural and recreational spaces with a trail further enhances Grand Haven and benefits both residents and tourists.

**Holly Johnson, President**  
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

This project creates a lasting legacy by protecting the best natural land along the Grand River while providing terrific recreational access with a bike and pedestrian trail. The connection from Millennium Park to Grand Haven's beaches will create an experience that families can explore and return to over and over again.

**Dick DeVos**

Grand Valley State University has vibrant campuses in both Allendale and Grand Rapids that will benefit from this ambitious project. We have a strong sustainability program and culture that encourages our campus community to safeguard and enjoy the environment. By creating a multi-use trail route that connects the lakeshore, near one campus, to the river, near the other, we are ensuring educational and recreational opportunities for our students and the larger community for years to come.

**Thomas J. Haas, President**  
Grand Valley State University

Not everyone will be able to make the 45-mile trip from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven in one day, but the great thing about this project is that there are all the parks and other destinations in between. Families can take their time traveling the trail, exploring each park day-by-day. That type of experience is important to the Jenison area—it gives people the opportunity to visit some of our local businesses near the trail along their way.

**Kris Keegstra, Chair**  
Hudsonville/Jenison Community Foundation

**LEARN MORE & SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN**

[ottawacountyparksfoundation.org/grand-river-greenway](http://ottawacountyparksfoundation.org/grand-river-greenway)

### GREENWAY PROJECT BENEFITS

- Adds 27 miles of new 10' wide non-motorized pathway with up to 13 miles directly adjacent to the Grand River
- Acquires 700 acres of new public land
- Integrates new and existing trails to create a 45-mile long cooperative trail system
- Provides direct connection to Millennium Park trails
- Complements river improvement efforts in the City of Grand Rapids, including Grand Rapids Whitewater & GR Forward
- Helps to fulfill Outdoor Adventure goals identified in Grand Action Destination Asset Study
- Connects Grand Haven to Grand Rapids
- Connects Grand Valley State University's Allendale and downtown campuses
- Connects Grand River Greenway lands to each other, as well as to neighboring parks and surrounding communities
- Creates connections to regional trails, including new M-231 Grand River bridge trail
- Integrates biking/hiking trail with existing

### GRAND RIVER GREENWAY DID YOU KNOW?

- 8,500 acres of public land between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven
- 20+ miles of public riverfront land on the south side of the river (including 15+ miles in Ottawa County)
- 13 unique parks and open spaces operated by Ottawa County Parks
- 4 universally accessible kayak launches with two more planned for Grand Haven and Grandville

### ECONOMIC POTENTIAL DID YOU KNOW?

- Studies show connections and proximity to parks and recreational facilities positively impact property values. A study by the Delaware Department of Transportation found that pathways can increase property values by 4%.
- MDOT recently completed a study which determined that bicycling adds \$668 million to the state economy annually.