Williamston Rotary

www.williamstonrotary.org



Greetings!

Several area Rotary clubs are teaming up to bring recreation back to “The Red.” The [**Williamston Rotary club**](http://www.williamstonrotary.org), the Haslett/Okemos club, the East Lansing club, the Lansing club, and the MSU Rotaract club, have formed the Red Cedar Pathway, a regional partnership designed to preserve and protect the Red Cedar River and to develop the Red Cedar River Water Trail into a regional recreational asset for residents and visitors to mid-Michigan.

The Rotary vision is to support a navigable, well cared for, river and water trail running from Williamston’s McCormick Park in Williamston Michigan to the Rotary Park on the Grand in downtown Lansing. Along its route, the river showcases the diversity of mid-Michigan landscapes; from farms and forests in the upstream segment, though suburban areas with an abundance of parks and recreation areas, through the spectacular landscape of Michigan State University, and on to the confluence with the Grand River and the urban experience of downtown Lansing.

To achieve their goal and make the river more attractive and usable for river users, the Rotary Clubs have established a series of Adopt-A-River segments focused on specific localized needs, such as enhancing launch sites, removing logjams, and cleaning up trash from the river and riverbank. In addition, the Rotary clubs are installing information kiosks at launch sites and developing online resources to provide information related to the water trail and how to plan a safe paddle trip. Of course every successful regional project needs good partners and a variety of entities have generously joined the project. Williamstown Township, the City of Lansing, and the Ingham County Drain Commissioner have removed logjams from the river. The Ingham County Parks Department is installing wayfinding signage along the riverbank, the Michigan Waterways Stewards and the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club are assisting with the removal of logjams and trash, The MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club and Outside Club have held river cleanup days, and area Boy Scout Troops have joined the effort and are monitoring the river to identify areas where volunteer work may be needed.

To showcase the Red Cedar River Water Trail, the Rotary clubs and their partners are planning the first annual [**River Day Celebration**](https://www.redcedarriver.org/riverdayinfo), which will allow river enthusiasts an opportunity to paddle all or a segment of the Red Cedar River Water Trail.

**DATE: September 30, 2023.**

**TIME: 12:00 – 4:00 PM**

This community paddle event will provide an opportunity for the general public to get out on the river and try out the water trail.

For more information contact Williamston Rotary Club President Dr. Christopher Lewis - [dadofdivas@gmail.com](mailto:dadofdivas@gmail.com) or 517-763-5056

**Free Kayak with free registration! Drawing at 4:00pm!**

**Red Cedar River Day Celebration – September 30, 2023**

**Activities / Events**

**12:00pm – 4:00pm**

* **12:00pm Potential dedication of Kiosks at McCormick Park**
* **Registration at the McCormick Park Parking Lot** –ALL registered participants will have a chance to win a new kayak, paddle and life vest. They will also receive water safety guidelines for paddlers. Drawing will be at 4:00pm.
* **Paddling the River**
  + - **Upstream**: Launch your canoe or kayak from McCormick Park Landing (St. Mary’s/Cedar St. Landing) paddle upstream as far as Dietz Road and return.
    - **Downstream with Rapids to either Red Cedar Bend or Harris Nature Center**: Start at McCormick Park Landing paddle downstream through rapids. Leave your canoe/kayak at McCormick Park Landing and drive your vehicle to Harris Nature Center (VanAtta Road) for a shuttle that will transport you back to McCormick Park Landing.
    - **Downstream** **without Rapids**: Start at Red Cedar Bend Landing – Leave your canoe/kayak at Red Cedar Bend Parking Lot and drive your vehicle to Harris Nature Center (VanAtta Road) for a shuttle that will transport you back to Red Cedar Bend Landing.
    - **Never Paddled Before? -** A limited number of canoes are available for you to learn the basics and feel of paddling in a canoe with an experienced paddler.
* **Activities about the river**
  + Experience river fishing with the MSU personnel (all equipment provided by Michigan United Conservation Club)
  + Coast Guard Auxiliary – water safety demonstrations
  + Scouts paddling demonstrations
  + River Wildlife Presentation by Earl Wolf
  + Photo Contest – See information packet or redcedarriver.org for more details, photos due October 7, 2023
* **River Related Community Organizations**
  + Lansing Oar and Paddle Club (LOAPC)
  + Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds` (MGROW)
  + Greater Lansing Reginal Committee for Storm Water Management (GLRC)
  + Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (MM-CISMA)
  + Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
* **Additional Activities** – Next to the River
  + Children’s Animal Balloons
  + Mama’s C’ Food Vendor
  + Plein Air Artists in action
  + Camp Pa-Wa-Pi – camp information if you kayak there; rest area