

Kalamazoo River Watershed Forum
October 7, 2005

TIMELINE RESULTS

BEFORE 1970

1940's and 50's – my mother remembers the river on fire

My first time in a canoe on the Kalamazoo River was in 1952 – you have come a long way, baby - Bob Kaarlie, Allegan

Mid 1950's – on a hot summer evening, I could smell the river a mile downwind –
Cooper Township

I am a pilot. I used to fly the Kalamazoo River in my J3Cub, low and slow, around the islands of Lake Allegan – Lou Thierlechter, lou@allegan.net

225 sites of people before our Native Americans

112 marked historical sites along the River

Catching birds along the river

My first memory of the river - visiting Plainwell and the seeing the river with foam all over. The smell was terrible.

River would sometimes flow white from paper mill wastes

As a student at MSU/KBS in the mid-60's, I worked with Dr. Al Knight on sampling “dead zones” on the Kalamazoo River – found depressing

Kalamazoo, Black, Paw Paw, Macatawa River Basin Study. MDA, 1970's SCS and districts. Each county had a task force. Calhoun County Task Force canoed South Branch – Homer to Albion.

1976 – all those camel back bridges? Tom Funke

Toured floodplain at D Avenue with WMU Geology class in '78

Kalamazoo River Association and Superfund study and cleanup plans for PCB's

197? – 198? - Battle Creek River uncovered in downtown Battle Creek – Emily Weingartz

1980

Son discovered that the River is loaded with great antique bottles – Bob Learner

1980+ - Soil Conservation Service and Potawatomi RC&D doing BMP's along river

1985 – Kalamazoo County Board H2O study done by USGS

1987 – GEM in Kalamazoo County

River Partners Program

1989 – hired by Forum as first River Partner Director – DNR grant received – Pat Adams

Late 80's – early 90's – City of Kalamazoo prohibits PCB and mercury discharges from industrial discharges, etc.

1990

1990 – Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway steering

1990 – 1992 – played along the river near Dean's ice cream in Plainwell

Galesburg builds riverfront park

First Kalamazoo River visioning conference – Pat Adams

Canoed river near Augusta – beautiful

Many canoe trips with your environmental clubs, scouts, etc. – testing water with kits
Non-point source pollution advisory council formed – Mark Kieser, Jim Coury and
George Hefner

1994-95 – Phase I EPA/MDNR watershed study at WMU GIS Research Center –
updating and digitizing soils, land use, land cover & MWI GIS data layers for
lower Kalamazoo River

1996-97 – Phase II – more of the same

PCB ZONE

1995 Parchment develops commerce in riverfront

E. Michigan Avenue bridge at Galesburg

1997 +/- helped develop trailway segment along the Kalamazoo River at Mayor's
Riverfront Park in Kalamazoo

Georgia-Pacific, Menasha and others construct river barriers to contain pollution

Plainwell creates riverfront trailway and park

Riverfront 2020 charter by Forum – Pat

City of Kalamazoo and architectural firms \$ 6,000,000 grant submitted to Clean water Initiative for riverfront trailways and park

MSU/KBS gets involved

EPA trail access impact study at Kalamazoo Nature Center – Dave Lemberg

Kalamazoo Riverfront at Red Arrow trailway built

Several Gun River cleanups – Ruth Jaynes

Olivet College adopts environmental awareness into campus mission statement

36 BMP's adopted along Davis Creek

1998 Phosphorus TMDL

Good luck for the River – Larry DeLong

1997-98 – NPS Rivers and Trails Program worked with Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway effort to plan and promote trailway and co – host first statewide trailway and greenway conference in Battle Creek – really accelerated the trailway movement in Michigan

Gun Plain Township Planning Commission – Ruth Jaynes

Storm stenciling by kids along Davis Creek

2000

Fishery improves – 30 small mouth bass in one hour at D Avenue

EPA funds Kalamazoo River research initiative to WMU – Chuck Ide

Gun River Watershed Initiative – Ruth Jaynes

S. Sprinkle Road bridge – 2002 includes design for path under bridge

2002 AB Avenue over August Creek – CMI grant

Dedication of new kids playground along river at Mayor's park

First River Clean Up in Battle Creek – Wayne Kukuk

Rose Park trail & memorial by Sunrise Rotary Club

Bald eagle sightings (my first in sw Michigan) near the Cereso Dam site – Benjamin Skarp

Enjoyed kayaking the river with my family and friends – my first time

My fishing bud and I caught 80 smallies, but location remains unknown – also have helped on river cleanup in the Marshall area the last four years – Dave Phaner

Went kayaking on Kzoo River for the first time – made it all the way to Lake Michigan

2004-05 – Barry County GIS hydrology framework update

Phase III lower Kalamazoo River GIS project @ WMU GIS Research Center

Throughout Kalamazoo, Calhoun and Eaton counties, 40 teachers trained in stream ecology & monitoring & conducting these studies with their students

Kanoe the Kazoo

The first Kanoe the Kazoo – Augusta to River Oaks

“what a wonderful experience”

Jim Coury dumped me in the Battle Creek River – Tom Funke

Kanoe the Kazoo – Lake Allegan Carp Derby – BC River Cleanup – TMDL Plan
Lowell Knapp

Phase II Storm Water – wellhead protection

Kanoe the Kazoo – 3 Lakes

Kanoe the Kazoo June '05 Crooked Lake

Brownfield and trailway development (City of Kalamazoo) Marc Hetton, Redevelopment
Coordinator

Markin Glen Park camground on the river

PPP's, PEPS SWIPPI – IDEP

2004 – D Avenue bridge

WMP – Portage/Arcadia creek

Axtell Creek restoration

School education program

www.protectyourwater.net

2005

D Avenue bridge opened up and rebuilt

1000 5th grade students, teachers and parents as a water festival

700 volunteers participate in Global Citizen's River Conservation Day

“green roof” on BC police department building

www.ncwater.org

New Richmond Bridge County Park in Allegan County

2005-06 Kalamazoo develops K.T.S. riverfront trail

2005-07

THE FUTURE

We need to do something about all the tires being thrown in the river

35th Street bridge rebuilt - 2008

An educational program district wide that emphasizes the importance and beauty of the river rather than the waste and dead fish

No more PCB's

Lake sturgeon rehabilitation

Not one junk tire on the entire stretch of the river