

# 1 Why We Need the Natural River Program

A Series of Four Fact  
Sheets on Michigan's  
Natural River Program:

A TOOL  
FOR CITIZENS



ENDORSED BY:

Anglers of the Au Sable

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PRESENTED BY:

Michigan Land Use Institute

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Web site: [www.mlui.org](http://www.mlui.org)

Illustrations by Glenn Wolff

“THE NATURAL RIVER PROGRAM REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. MAGNIFICENT NATURAL RESOURCES ARE SAFEGUARDED FOR ALL CITIZENS TO ENJOY. THE PROGRAM ENHANCES THE ECONOMY EVEN AS IT ADVANCES ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS.”

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN

Governor of Michigan, 1969–1983



Michigan's wild, wooded rivers are among the state's most treasured natural features and most valuable natural resources. People across the state speak proudly of the Au Sable, the Betsie, the Two-Hearted, the Pere Marquette, and other hallowed waterways as if they flowed through their own backyards. Michigan's natural river systems support entire regions they cross. Riverbank vegetation filters pollution and protects water quality. And natural river lands stimulate local economies with fish, wildlife, scenic beauty, and an attractive quality of life.

Michigan's rivers are clearly statewide public assets. They also are lined with private property that is under tremendous real estate and resort development pressure. But riverbanks covered with construction and stripped of natural vegetation can no longer stop erosion, filter pollution, or support habitat and a genuine outdoor environment for visitors and local residents. Without taking some simple, basic steps in their construction plans, property owners can unwittingly undermine the natural resources that attracted them in the first place.

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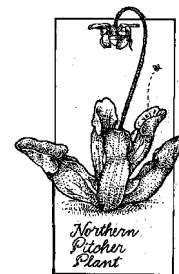


The Au Sable River, a state-designated Natural River since 1987.

## BALANCING ACT

Property owners can be good neighbors to the river, while also enjoying homes along them, by keeping riverbanks open to wildlife and alive with natural vegetation.

This basic biology of river protection is at the heart of Michigan's pioneering Natural River Act. The 1970 law creates a process for communities along a river to develop common zoning rules to keep the ecosystem healthy and riverfront property owners happy. The whole process — from enabling Act to local implementation — is called the Natural River Program. The Program is the primary reason 14 of Michigan's most prized waterways are still clean, quiet, and rich with fish and wildlife.



## COMMON RIVER SENSE

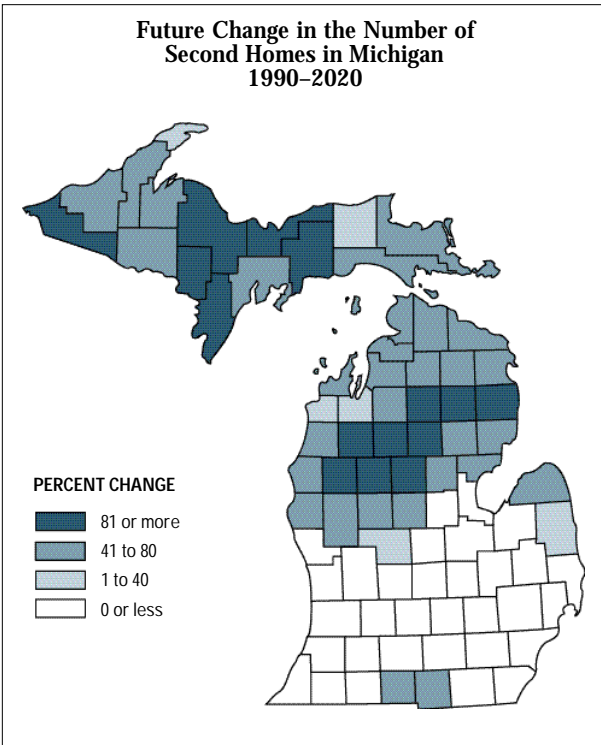
The Natural River Program sets out simple zoning criteria that local communities use to design a plan for protecting their river together across township and county boundaries. The criteria revolve around the river's "riparian area," that streamside zone that buffers pollution, supports wildlife, and keeps rivers natural and healthy for everyone.



“NATURAL RIVER DESIGNATION HAS SAVED THE HURON. IT’S STILL A CONSTANT BATTLE WITH DEVELOPERS. BUT THE ZONING HELPS KEEP THE RIVER CLEAN. ANN ARBOR GETS ITS DRINKING WATER FROM THE HURON.”

**RUTH MUNZEL**  
Resident, Huron River Watershed

Source: Michigan Society of Planning Officials



Protecting the riparian area is a basic matter of maintaining natural vegetation strips on riverbanks, requiring minimum lot widths to avoid overcrowding, and establishing reasonable setback distances for buildings and septic systems to minimize pollution and keep wildlife corridors open. The Natural River Program sets up a permit process in which property owners learn how their construction choices can best protect the river and their economic investment.

this ongoing campaign to discredit the value of bringing communities together to protect the rivers that unite them.

**THE REAL STORY:  
LOCAL CONTROL**

Every one of the 1,661 miles of rivers covered by Natural River zoning has local people, not distant bureaucrats, making the important decisions — from setting up the zoning details to considering requests for variances to the democratically decided rules. And

contrary to another private rights fear, Michigan State University research



shows that property on designated Natural Rivers sells at higher prices and sells more readily

than land on non-designated rivers.

The reality is the Program works. It is an important and effective watershed protection tool that allows full range and flexibility for private land uses. ■



**Trees Make This Trout Stream**

The Betsie River of northwest Lower Michigan is a place to fish for steelhead trout, but it’s not exactly the kind of river one would expect the big fish to like.

Trout thrive in cold water. Most trout streams pick up cold groundwater as they flow. The Betsie, however, relies on shade from thick, riverside vegetation to keep certain parts of the river cold enough in the summer to support steelhead. Shade, not cool spring water, is the primary reason steelhead spawn in the Betsie, according to Michigan State University research.

The Betsie River is also a state-designated Natural River. The Natural River Program is specifically designed to protect natural vegetation along rivers so that species, like steelhead trout, do not disappear from places they have always been.

“ROOT SYSTEMS ARE WHAT IS HOLDING THE STREAMBANK IN PLACE. IF WE TEAR THEM OUT FOR LAWNS, WE DIMINISH RIVER QUALITY.”

**JOE KUTKUHN**

Riverfront property owner, Upper Manistee River Association



# 2 Natural River Property Values

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"I KNOW OUR PROPERTY VALUES HAVE DOUBLED SINCE WE MOVED HERE 10 YEARS AGO. THE BETSIE IS A STATE NATURAL RIVER, AND IT STAYS NICE BECAUSE OF THAT."

**BILL HOBBS**

*Riverfront resident, Betsie River*

Natural rivers are increasing in economic value as more people look for uncrowded places to live, work, and play. The problem is that the more people flock to a natural area, the less natural it becomes.

This is a paradox that the Natural River Program can do much to fix. By controlling damaging development, it keeps both riverbanks and riverfront property values from eroding. And by maintaining the scenic and wild qualities of rivers, it keeps local people, tourism dollars, and wildlife from going elsewhere.

Still, critics of the Natural River Program view its protective zoning as a monkey wrench in the economic development works. Ample evidence, however, shows it supports the long-term profitability and viability of Michigan and its rural communities.

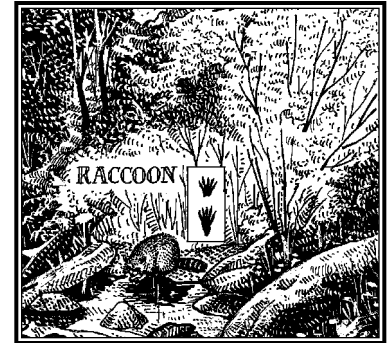
## CONCERN

Natural River zoning depresses property values.

## FACT

A comprehensive 1996 Michigan State University study found that property on designated Natural Rivers sells at higher prices and sells more readily than land on non-designated rivers. In particular, the study found:

- The number of property sales on Natural Rivers increased at a rate of 20.8% from 1986 to 1995, while non-designated rivers showed no upward trend.
- Prices paid for Natural River properties were both higher and increased faster — at a rate of 17.8% from 1986 to 1995 — than on non-designated rivers.
- Prices paid for vacant, undeveloped land were the same along Natural Rivers and non-designated rivers. That is, Natural River zoning restrictions had no negative effect on a property's potential in the eyes of buyers.



## CONCERN

Natural River zoning harms the economic development prospects of river communities.

## FACT

Keeping river systems natural keeps water clean, habitats humming, and fish jumping. These are some of rural Michigan's most valuable economic assets. Both Michigan residents and visitors to the state have proven in numerous studies that they prefer to live in, and visit, places that are quiet, open, and full of wildlife.

Economic figures echo those sentiments. In 1991, the total



The owners of this home on the Betsie River — a Michigan Natural River since 1973 — enjoy a view of the river and ready access to it.



Without protective zoning, many Michigan rivers are at risk from damaging development. Clearcuts, for example, strip away the trees and plants that hold back erosion and pollution.



“I GET A REAL SENSE OF JOY WHEN SOMEONE COMES BACK AND TELLS ME THEY’VE SEEN AN OWL OR A FAWN. WE’VE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SOMETHING THEY CAN’T FIND MOST PLACES DOWNSTATE, WHERE HOUSES AND DOCKS LINE THE RIVERBANKS.”

**BETTY WORKMAN**

*Vacation Trailer Park and Canoe Rentals, Betsie River*

“MICHIGAN IS THE PRINCIPAL AREA RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATER QUALITY OF THE GREAT LAKES. THEREFORE, WE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT WE PUT IN OUR RIVERS AND KEEP ON OUR RIVERS.”

**HOWARD TANNER**

*Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 1975–1983*

economic value of Michigan’s natural resources, not including products made from them, was \$10.7 billion. Tourism accounted for 35%, while fishing and wildlife accounted for 28%.

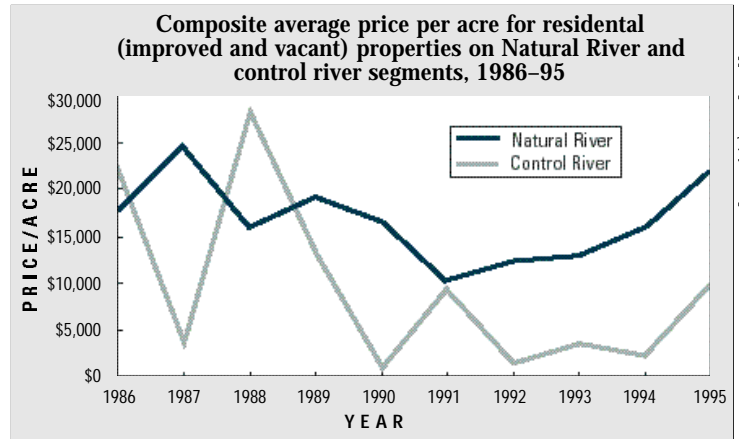
Rivers are the foundation of Michigan’s natural resource economy. The Great Lakes that surround the state, as well as many of Michigan’s nearly 12,000 inland lakes, rely on clean, flowing streams to keep both fish and sightseeing populations high. And the health and beauty of Michigan streams depends on keeping the

forests, wetlands, and serenity along the state’s 56,423 miles of rivers intact.

In addition to their economic value, Michigan’s natural areas are also home to a loyal population base of old and new residents.

Local people grew up gathering morel mushrooms, going fishing down the road after work, and watching fox cross their backyards. They want their children to experience this way of life, too. Other groups, such as increasingly large crops of retirees and a new generation of information-age, locate-anywhere companies, also want to live near the great Michigan outdoors.

All of these groups want Michigan’s natural areas to stay that way. Protecting local rivers, which protects open spaces and wildlife, is one of the most effective ways of keeping rural Michigan natural for generations to come. ■



“NONE OF US ARE ANTI-DEVELOPMENT. WE JUST WANT TO KEEP THE RIVER THE WAY IT IS.”

**MIKE BRIGHT**

*River guide, Manistee River*



## Tax Advantages of Natural River Lots

Natural River zoning tends to increase the value of riverfront property because it protects the natural assets that make the land special. The zoning does restrict land uses, such

as the number of lots into which an owner can subdivide the land. The Natural River Act, therefore, instructs local tax assessors to take zoning limitations into account when valuing

property. The Act also provides for tax relief, under open space preservation programs, to property owners with farmland or undeveloped land in Natural River zoning districts.

# 3 How the Natural River Program Works

A Series of Four Fact Sheets on Michigan's Natural River Program: A TOOL FOR CITIZENS



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“A PERSON APPLIES FOR A VARIANCE, COMES IN AND SEES — NOT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS — BUT A GROUP OF CITIZENS WHO REALLY CARE ABOUT THAT RIVER.”

JAN FENSKE

Former staff member, Michigan Natural River Program

Rivers belong to many people and many places. Small towns and entire counties along rivers care about the water, the woods, and the wildlife. Statewide, people take pride in Michigan's legendary waterways. Private property owners along rivers treasure the quiet and the view. And children yet unborn rely on current generations to take responsibility for the health and beauty of river systems.



Private and public. Local and state. These are the interests the Natural River Program balances as a service to townships, counties, and the rivers that unite them. Here's how it works.

## HOW RIVERS BECOME "NATURAL RIVERS"

A river is considered for potential Natural River designation if:

- Local governments, residents, businesses, and community groups petition the state Department of Natural Resources for designation.
- Biologists and local authorities agree the river is at risk.

- The river is clean and uncrowded enough to fit one of three Natural River classifications (wilderness, wild and scenic, country scenic).

The designation process begins with announcements and publicity that invites area residents, officials, and businesses to participate. Local citizens and resource experts then form

study groups and hold public meetings in communities all along the river to draft a river protection plan, which includes working out the details of Natural River zoning (see Local Zoning Details chart, back page).

After months of consulting with local people, the DNR finalizes the plan and takes it back to the community for comment, with formal hearings in each county along the river and selected tributaries. The final step is approval by the director of the DNR, who weighs the comments of both the public and agency staff before designating the new Natural River.

## WHO MAKES NATURAL RIVER ZONING DECISIONS?

The zoning rules that come with Natural River designation require local or state authorities to regularly make decisions about housing and commercial development on designated rivers and tributaries.

The easiest decisions to make are the simple permits,

“I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ON MY LAND, WHICH TRIGGERED THE NATURAL RIVER PERMIT PROCESS. THEY CAME OUT, SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WANTED TO DO, TOLD ME WHY IT WAS A BAD IDEA, AND THEN SAID ‘HERE’S A BETTER IDEA.’ I WAS GRATEFUL BECAUSE I SAW THAT WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO DO WAS FOOLHARDY.”

JOHN RICHTER

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed



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# MICHIGAN'S NATURAL RIVER SYSTEM



which property owners apply for and receive if their building, logging, or earth-moving plans do not violate the zoning rules. The most difficult decisions are requests for variances, or applications to do something that the zoning rules restrict.

If individual townships and counties decide to manage the program without DNR help, then Natural River permits and variances come from the same township or county authorities that make these types of decisions for other local zoning issues. Out of a total 1,661 miles of rivers under Natural River zoning in Michigan, 1,013 are zoned by the local authorities.

If local governments choose to leave Natural River paperwork to the DNR, then property owners applying for permits and variances work with a combination of state and local decision makers. The remaining 648 of the current total Natural River miles fall under this kind of state and local administration.

Local people make the major decisions on these "state-zoned" river segments. Simple permits and minor variances go through a DNR Natural River Program staff person assigned to the region. Major variances on state-zoned segments, however, go to a zoning review board made up of local citizens.

## Summary of Michigan's 14 Natural Rivers

RIVER	NATURAL RIVER SINCE	MILES ZONED BY LOCAL GOVT.	MILES ZONED BY STATE GOVT.	BUILDING SETBACK (in feet)	SEPTIC SETBACK (in feet)	MINIMUM LOT WIDTH (in feet)	NATURAL VEGETATION STRIP (width in feet)
JORDAN	1972	0	73	200	200	150	100
BETSIE	1973	0	70	200	150	200	50
ROGUE	1973	132	0	150	150	200	50
TWO-HEARTED	1973	115	0	100	100	330	100
WHITE	1975	88	75	150	100	200	50
BOARDMAN	1976	86	2	200	150	200	50
HURON	1977	19	20	125	125	150	50
PERE MARQUETTE	1978	96	110	150	150	200	75
FLAT	1979	109	0	100	100	100	25
RIFLE	1980	15	95	150	150	200	75
LOWER KALAMAZOO	1981	28	0	200	100	150	50
PIGEON	1982	46	34	200	150	200	100
AU SABLE	1987	180	169	200	150	200	75
FOX	1988	99	0	100	150	330	100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,013</b>	<b>648</b>				

## LOCAL ZONING REVIEW BOARDS

Local zoning review boards on state-administered river segments are made up of average citizens, local government representatives, and regional resource experts, such as those from the Conservation District. The DNR staff person, who manages regular permits and minor variances, is the zoning review board's assistant and has no vote on the major variances the local boards consider.

Local zoning review boards for state-zoned segments study variance requests, visit building sites to review plans with property owners, and work to come up with solutions that both protect rivers and accommodate private property owners.

“WE WON’T LET YOU CLEARCUT,  
BUT WE WON’T LET YOUR NEIGHBOR CLEARCUT EITHER.  
NATURAL RIVER ZONING PROTECTS PEOPLE FROM  
HAVING IT DEVELOPED ON  
BOTH SIDES AND ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THEM.”

**RALPH HAY**

*Regional DNR, former member Betsie River Zoning Review Board*



*Ralph Hay, center, listens to a contractor explain construction plans during a Betsie River zoning review board site visit.*

If a Natural River plan requires buildings to set 150 feet back from the water, for example, then it’s up to the local zoning review board to decide what to do for a private property owner who wants to build 100 feet

“THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF LANDOWNERS WHO WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PLANNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MANISTEE AND PINE RIVERS, AND THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE NATURAL RIVER ACT...THE PEOPLE OPPOSED ARE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WHO DON’T WANT CONTROLS ON THE RIVER BECAUSE THAT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THEIR POCKETBOOKS.”

**JIM MATUREN**

*Osceola County Commissioner*



from the river instead. The zoning review board will consider the reasons (the lot may not be deep enough to build with the full setback) and discuss ways in which the property owner could integrate other river protections into the building and site plans (put the deck on the side of the house instead of the front, direct rain gutters away from the river to reduce erosion potential, and so on).

Most of the time, the review boards and property owners find workable solutions. A Michigan Land Use Institute analysis of zoning review board decisions between 1993 and 1998, on a sampling of two of the state’s 14 Natural Rivers (the Betsie and Pere Marquette), found that the boards try to be both flexible with property owners and firm with the Program’s river protections. While the review boards denied just 6.9% of major vari-

ance proposals, they approved 27.5% on condition that the applicant modify the proposal to better protect the river. The boards approved 10.8% of major variance applications on a partial basis and 48% exactly as proposed. (See chart below.)

Property owners who disagree with Natural River zoning decisions and suggestions, however, are entitled to no-cost, judicial review of their cases by state administrative law judges. If the property owner or the DNR is not satisfied with the judge’s decision, they may take the case to the Natural Resources Commission for further, no-cost review. And if they are dissatisfied with the Commission’s decisions, they can take their appeals to circuit court.

## A Closer Look at Zoning Decisions

Results of applications for permits and variances, 1993–1998, on a sampling of two Natural Rivers (Betsie and Pere Marquette).

	APPROVED AS PROPOSED	WITH CONDITIONS	PARTIAL APPROVAL	DENIED
Zoning Administrator	85.5%	5.1%	0.0%	2.6%
Zoning Review Board	48.0%	27.5%	10.8%	6.9%
Total (219 applications)	68.0%	15.5%	5.0%	4.6%

- **Zoning Administrator:** a Department of Natural Resources employee who handles applications for permits and minor variances on state-zoned segments.
- **Zoning Review Board:** area residents and local government representatives who handle applications for major variances on state-zoned segments.
- **Minor variances:** construction and site plans within 25% of the zoning’s dimensional parameters.
- **Major variances:** proposals that diverge more than 25% from the parameters.

\* Not included: applications that were pending, closed or withdrawn.

# Local Zoning Details

Local people, not state bureaucrats, are the main force behind Natural River zoning details. They advise the DNR and draft such specifics as:

## ZONING DETAIL:

- Which portions of the river and its tributaries to designate.
- How far buildings and septic systems should set back from the river's ordinary high watermark.
- How to adjust setback distances for slopes and high bluffs.
- Minimum widths of natural vegetation strips on riverbanks.
- The minimum width of riverfront lots.
- Whether local or state government should administer the Program.
- How wide the Natural River zoning district should be.
- How large docks can be.
- Restrictions on building in floodplains and wetlands.
- Special use permit standards for commercial activities.

## REASON:

- Some parts of the river may already be developed.
- Keeps wildlife corridors clear. Protects the river from erosion and pollution.
- To preserve homeowners' view of the river.
- Helps rivers filter pollution, support habitat, and remain natural.
- Prevents overcrowding.
- Availability of zoning resources and expertise at the local level is often a deciding factor.
- No district may extend beyond 400 feet on either side of the river's high watermark.
- Preserves the river's natural setting.
- Preserves space for rivers to expand during high water.
- Prevents overcrowding and pollution from canoes, campgrounds, and other commercial uses.

## EDUCATIONAL VALUE

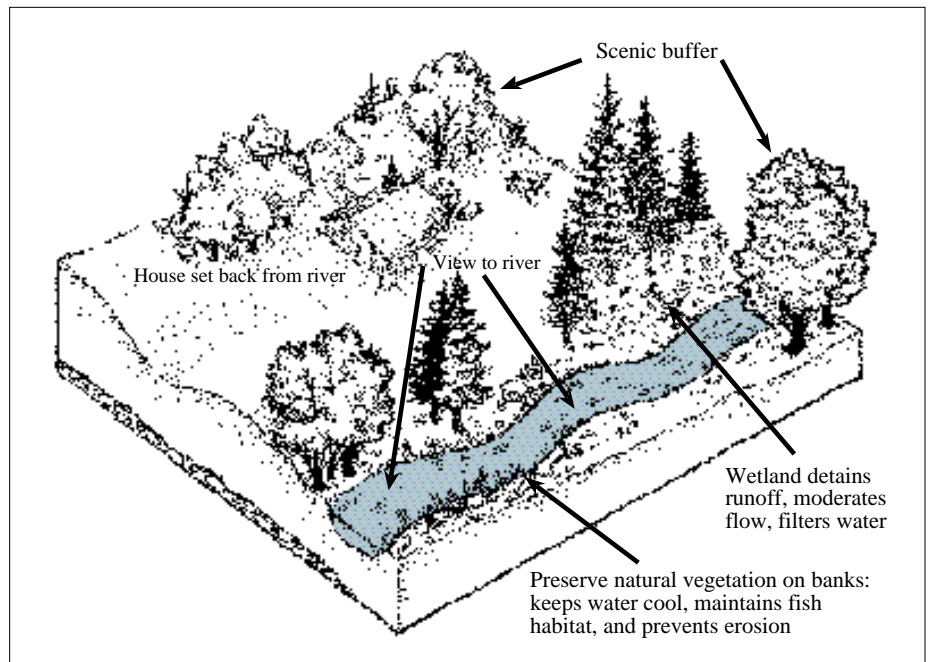
Most important to the river and the local people who care for it is the fact that permits and variances are more than just bureaucratic paperwork. Local zoning review boards give property owners a second and informed opinion on how their site and building plans may affect the river. ■



“WHAT’S NICE ABOUT THE BETSIE IS THEY DESIGNATED IT EARLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT A LOT OF OVERDEVELOPMENT FROM HAPPENING.”

**DON TANNER**  
River guide, Betsie River

## SITE PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS



Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources



## What about Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers?

Many rivers in Michigan have been designated Wild and Scenic by the federal government. So why do rivers also need state protection? The federal Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 applies only to federally owned land; the Michigan Natural River Act covers private and state-owned land.



# 4 Strengthening the Natural River Program

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“PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON NATURAL RIVERS LOVE THIS LAW.  
OUR GOAL AS A STATE IN THE FIRST DECADES OF THE 21ST CENTURY SHOULD BE TO  
DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF MICHIGAN RIVERS PROTECTED UNDER THE PROGRAM.”

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN  
Governor of Michigan, 1969–1983

The actual experiences of riverfront property owners and communities along Natural Rivers have proven the Program is democratic and effective. Yet, Michigan has not designated a new Natural River since 1988. At the same time, real estate and resort pressure continues to bear down on Michigan's scenic areas. Communities and public policy makers should turn to the state's pioneering Natural River Program to head off pollution and overcrowding while allowing both local people and newcomers to enjoy the view.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### DESIGNATE NEW NATURAL RIVERS

The first step is to organize local supporters of river protection and promote the Program's purpose of safeguarding rivers and communities that depend on them. The next step is to petition the Department of Natural Resources for Natural

River designation. Throughout the organizing process, and the planning for zoning that follows, local people must keep telling local and state elected officials why they want to bring the Natural River Program to their communities.

It is especially important that Program supporters stand up for designation of the Manistee and Pine rivers in 1999, when the



In August 1998, rainstorms washed hundreds of tons of soil, gravel, and turf chemicals from a new riverfront golf resort into Antrim County's Cedar River, which is not currently protected by Michigan's Natural River Program.

DNR is expected to submit a final protection plan for these rivers to public review. Private property rights groups launched a full-scale effort in 1996 to prevent their designation. The future quality of the Manistee and Pine, as well as the Black, the Whitefish, the Thunder Bay, and many more in line for possible designation depends on a strong show of public support for the Program.

In addition, designation of a final, critical segment of the Jordan River, most of which is already protected under the Program, is currently stalled inside the DNR. Public support can restart that process.



The Black River, one of 25 Michigan rivers on a waiting list since the 1970s but not yet protected under the state's Natural River Program.

© Friends of the Cedar River

© Jerry Dennis

## INCREASE FUNDING AND OUTREACH

The Natural River Program has a total staff of two, which works full-time managing the state's 14 Natural Rivers. This means the job of promoting the Program goes largely undone. State policy makers should increase the Program's funding and direct a larger staff to:

- Reach out to and coordinate efforts with existing watershed protection groups, especially those that receive state or federal funding.
- Develop cooperative ways to more effectively publicize the pre-designation, local planning process. For example, the DNR should coordinate with township clerks to locate and notify seasonal residents.
- Identify communities that are developing new land use plans and alert them to the benefits of the Natural River Program.
- Develop better ways to inform buyers of riverfront property when Natural River zoning applies to their land.

## STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT

The biggest problem with the Natural River Act is that enforcement powers are limited to a long, bureaucratic process. As a result, violators can contest cases in Lansing, sometimes for years, while continuing to break the law.

In any other zoning case, local officials have the authority to issue tickets to those who disregard ordinances. Such local enforcement powers are effective and quick deterrents to gross violations of democratically decided laws. Under the Natural River Act, however, those who defy the community's river protections receive letters of violation instead. Such letters do not carry enough legal weight to discourage property owners from turning clear cases of violation into long, drawn-out struggles over the Act's legitimacy.

The Michigan Legislature should give Natural River zoning authorities the power to issue tickets and fines in order to put the Program on par with other local zoning authorities.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Zoning has long been considered a reasonable solution to runaway and damaging development. But an ideological few continue to brand the Natural River Program as government out of control.

This is a disservice to their fellow citizens, and to the priceless assets — Michigan's swift, clear, cold, and magnificent rivers — that citizens across the state hold dear.

Now is the time for those who care about the future of the Manistee, the Pine, the lower Jordan, and many more of Michigan's treasured rivers to ring public support of the Natural River Program loud and clear.

Letters to local newspapers and broadcast stations, and to state and local officials, are essential. It is especially powerful for village, township, and county boards to go on record in support of the Program.

Each voice makes a difference, and voices joined together have the power to counter the special interests of a few. ■

## Resources • Contacts • Action



- To join efforts to designate the Manistee, Pine and other rivers, contact Patty Cantrell at the Michigan Land Use Institute, 845 Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 228, Benzonia, MI 49616; Tel: 231-882-4723 ext. 18; Fax: 231-882-7350; e-mail: <patty@mlui.org>.
- Contact river and watershed groups in your area. Check listings on the Michigan Watershed Web site: <www.deq.state.mi.us/swq/watershed/ws-org.htm>.
- The Michigan River Network is a statewide coalition of watershed

and river protection groups. Contact Rachel Martin at P.O. Box 300, Conway, MI 49722; Tel: 231-347-1181, Fax: 231-347-5928; Web site: <www.glhhabitat.org/mrn>.

- To learn about particular threats to your river and efforts to protect it, contact natural resource agencies, such as the county Conservation District, in your area. That number, along with those for township and county officials, is listed in the government pages of your phone book.
- To find out exactly who your state representative and senator are, contact your township or county clerk. Or, go to the "Tools for Action" page on the Michigan Land Use Institute's Web site, <www.mlui.org>. Type in your zip code for a complete report.

### Address for all state senators

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7356

### Send copies of all letters to:

Chairman, Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee  
(See address for all senators, above.)

### Address for all state representatives

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

### Address for the Governor

Gov. John Engler  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909