



MINO ZIBIIN

HEALTHY RIVERS

JUNE RESTORATION SECTION



FishPass, Finally!

Traverse City, MI - This June construction on the much-anticipated FishPass, the project to replace Union Street Dam with a state-of-the-art construction that will reconnect the Boardman/Ottaway River and Lake Michigan, will begin. After nearly two decades of effort to restore the Upper River through removal of the upper 3 dams, and over a year of delays and renegotiations between the contractor and the Army Corps of Engineers, the capstone element of this historic watershed restoration project will finally break ground this month.

Grand Traverse Band, in collaboration with federal, state, and non-profit partners was instrumental in helping to develop, raise money and implement FishPass. This project represents the first comprehensive effort on the planet to create a barrier that will selectively allow desirable fish, like walleye and sturgeon, to pass from the Boardman/Ottaway River to Lake Michigan (and vice versa) while blocking invasive species, like sea lamprey.

This June, preparations for river channel construction will begin with material staging and machinery mobilization. Trees along the current Union Street dam will also be removed, as these present a dam safety hazard by compromising the integrity of the earthen embankment of the structure. Any trees removed will be replaced elsewhere throughout the project site. According to the City, the project plans to plant “73 native trees, a total of 371 native shrubs, and nearly 2,100 live stakes along the shoreline.”

For the duration of construction, river access will be closed at Cass and Union Streets for public safety. Construction within the river channel, such as dam removal and fish passage channel construction, is expected to be complete in 2026. Shoreline restoration, access upgrades and the construction of an educational facility is expected to begin in 2026 and be complete in 2027.

To find out more about FishPass, visit <https://www.glfrc.org/fishpass.php> or come talk to us at the Natural Resources Department Restoration Section!

Help Us Battle Invasive Species This Summer!

Invasive species, or species non-native to an ecosystem whose presence causes or is likely to cause harm to that ecosystem, are common across Northern Michigan. To help control many invasive species, like autumn olive, baby's breath or black locust, in the Grand Traverse Band's ceded territory, GTB has partnered with the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN). But many hands make light work! If you are interested in learning more about and assisting in the treatment of invasive species, please consider attending one of the workshops listed below this summer.

For more information and to register, please go to <https://www.habitatmatters.org/events.html>.

Baby's Breath Workbees

Join ISN to remove baby's breath from Elberta Beach in Benzie County! Spreading over northwest Michigan's beaches and dunes, baby's breath crowds out native plants and degrades important habitat.

Help restore Elberta Beach back to a diverse, healthy landscape!

With a deep taproot, removal is hard work but extremely rewarding. Shovels and other tools will be provided but please bring your own work gloves to protect your hands while using shovels. Long pants are recommended as there is some poison ivy on the beach. Registration appreciated.



**Where to Meet:
Elberta Beach
parking lot**

**When: Saturday, June 15th from 10am-noon
Wednesday, June 26th from 10am-noon
Thursday, July 11th from 10am-noon
Saturday, July 20th from 10am-noon
Tuesday, July 30th from 10am-noon
Thursday, August 8th from 10am-noon**

Autumn Olive Community Workshops



Autumn olive is a troublesome invasive species that can quickly take over a landscape and crowd out native plants and animals. With thousands of seeds and an extensive root system, management can seem overwhelming - especially once plants grow to be quite large. Fortunately, with some effort and the right knowledge, autumn olive can be controlled with chemicals or using mechanical methods. ISN is hosting two workshops to communicate the options available to landowners struggling with the plant. They will review how to identify autumn olive at various stages of growth and provide hands-on removal demonstrations. There will also be information available regarding landowner assistance programs if the outbreak is too large to personally handle. Registration appreciated.

Grand Traverse County Workshop

**Where: Boardman River Nature Center in
Traverse City**

**When: Tuesday, August 27th
from 5:30-7:30pm**

Manistee County Workshop

**Where: Orchard Beach State Park
in Manistee**

**When: Tuesday, September 3rd
from 5:30-7:30pm**