



Bi-directional Selective Fish Passage in the Boardman River

What is FishPass?

FishPass is the capstone of a 15 year restoration project on the Boardman (Ottaway) River, re-connecting the Boardman River with Lake Michigan. ***The mission of FishPass is to provide up- and down-stream passage of desirable fishes while simultaneously blocking and removing undesirable fishes.*** The project directly addresses the tension between improving aquatic connectivity for fishery restoration and using dams and barriers for invasive species management.

FishPass is currently funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and led by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) in partnership with numerous local, state, federal, and provincial agencies:



What will FishPass do?

FishPass will replace the deteriorating Union Street Dam with an improved barrier featuring a fish-sorting channel and a nature-like river channel. Once constructed, scientists will optimize various sorting technologies and techniques below the barrier to maximize efficiency of passing desirable fishes and removing invasive fishes like sea lamprey. Once optimized for bi-directional (up and downstream) selective fish passage, FishPass will be converted to a permanent selective fishway completing the Boardman River Restoration Project. Lessons learned from the optimization phase will be applied to similar rivers to create selective fish passage at new sites. The resulting facility will be a world-class technology and research center with a park in the heart of downtown Traverse City, Michigan.

