

**Village of Pentwater
Fishing Pier Project
Final Narrative Report to
Great Lakes Fishery Trust**

July 20, 2010

Project Profile

I. Project Synopsis

- Project Title: Pentwater Fishing Pier
- Grantee Organization: Village of Pentwater
- Project Team:
 - Village of Pentwater, 327 South Hancock, Pentwater, MI 49449
 - Wade Trim, Inc 2944 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
 - Ken Adams Excavating, Pentwater MI 49449
- Contact Person:
 - Jim Miller, Pentwater Village Manager; 231.869.8301
manager@pentwatervillage.org.
- Grant Amount: \$117,000.00
- Project Timeframe: November 15, 2008 to May 30, 2010
- Focus Area: Public access to Great Lakes fishing
- Brief Project Summary: This project will provide enhanced shoreline fishing access on Pentwater Lake, a tributary to Lake Michigan. The construction of the fishing pier facility will provide increased opportunities to fish for migrating Great Lakes species. Pentwater is a known destination for fishing, but the opportunity for shoreline fishing in the area is limited. The fishing pier will be the only designated facility in Oceana County for Great Lakes fishing for children and individuals requiring ADA access.

II. Project in Context

The project site for the proposed fishing pier is located at an ideal site along the eastern shore of Pentwater Lake approximately 1,000 feet from the channel connecting Pentwater Lake to Lake Michigan. This great location will provide enhanced shoreline fishing access on Pentwater Lake, a tributary to Lake Michigan. The construction of the fishing pier facility will provide increased opportunities to fish for migrating Great Lakes species. This newly constructed fishing pier will be the only designated facility in Oceana County for Great Lakes fishing for children and individuals requiring barrier free access. This site is within walking distance of all existing municipal parking and is an easy walk from the Charles Mears State Park, thus also providing Great Lakes fishing opportunities for campers, as well as Village residents and visitors to the Village.

III. Goals of the Effort

The goal of providing the area residents and visitors to the village with a designated fishing access to Pentwater Lake has been achieved. The site is at a location that supports this goal and will provide shoreline fishing opportunities for all ages for many years to come.

IV. Results

The project will provide the public and several area organizations access to shoreline fishing. One specific organization is the Pentwater Sports Fishing Association. Each year they introduce youth of the area to Great Lakes species fishing including a "Take a child Fishing Day". The facility will allow better access to the lake than previously was available.

V. Products and Resources

VI. Final Narrative Report

A. Background/Overview

1. Although the project location, size, and overall use are as originally intended, the type of structure that was placed at the site was not completed as originally planned. The original grant application included a fishing pier structure that was to be "fixed" on piles driven into the lake bottom. However, following the grant award, but prior to completing the design, it was determined from local historians that this site has been subject to ice flows from time to time over the years. Therefore, it was determined that a floating structure would be more applicable to this site. The original intent was realistic, but deemed not in the best interest of the facility.

B. Outcomes

- 2.
3. Providing shoreline fishing to all area residents and visitors was achieved. Reaching out to the needs of the Pentwater Sports Fishing Association was a successful part of the project
- 4.
- 5.

C. Site Specific Information

The Village of Pentwater has successfully completed the project that was defined in the initial grant application and outlined in the grant agreement. The community now has a great facility for the sole use of anglers.

This project included the site work along the shoreline of Pentwater Lake that was necessary to prepare the area for the placement of the fishing pier structure. The following items include the information requested in the “Final Narrative Report Guidelines” included in the grant agreement.

6. The total length of the structure that was placed at the end of the 4th Street road right-of-way is 68 feet long. This is divided into 3 sections; two (2) transition ramps at 24 and 20 feet long respectively, and a 24-foot long fishing pier area at the end of the structure. The width of the transition ramps are 8 feet each and the width of the floating fishing pier is 12 feet wide.

The structure is designed as a floating pier that is connected to a large reinforced concrete abutment at the shoreline. It is designed in a manner to adjust to the low and high water levels that Lake Michigan experiences. Each of the 3 members includes 42-inch high handrails. The 12-foot by 24-foot end section includes areas with 20-inch high railings for easy use by all anglers.

- a. Visitors’ access to the site is primarily by foot or automobile. Parking located convenient to the site includes the following; diagonal parking adjacent to the pier on 4th Street, a public parking lot on the east side of Hancock Street one and a half blocks north of 4th Street, and a public parking lot at the Pentwater Marina two blocks to the south.
- b. Public restrooms are located at each of the public parking lots referenced above. Both of these lots include barrier free parking spaces. The fishing pier facility is designed to accommodate barrier free access to all public users.
- c. Educational opportunities include signs mounted on the pier that inform anglers of various species that are anticipated to be caught from the pier.

- d. Species that are commonly caught in Pentwater Lake include Rock Bass, Yellow Perch, and Bluegills. Rock Bass spawn in the spring and can be caught throughout the summer. During the summer months, perch will feed closer to shore during the early morning hours and later in the day. In the spring and fall they are known to feed throughout the day. Bluegills favor water below 70°F, so they will travel to deeper waters in the summer months.
- e. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment does not regularly stock any fish species at this site.
- f. Each of the species mentioned are usually caught using live bait (minnows, worms, etc.), using live bait rigs with the bait set near the bottom along with bobbers.
- g. With the fishing pier being in the beautiful waterfront community of Pentwater, there are several facilities in the area for those anglers that want overnight accommodations near the site. These include the Mears State Park Campground, rental cabins, bed & breakfast, and motels.

A good resource for obtaining more information on overnight accommodations can be found here: <http://www.pentwatermichigan.com>.

VII. Project Photos

Photographs of the completed fishing pier are included in Appendix No. 1. This includes photographs of the educational signs and the sign referencing the GLFT Grant used to construct the facility.

VIII. Related Efforts

This project was a standalone project. However, local organizations hope to complete landscaping at the site to increase the aesthetics at the entrance of the pier.

IX. Reflections











