

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Project #2016.1665– Boyne City Public Fishing Pier - Final Narrative Report

Background/Overview:

1. The project was completed as originally intended. The City's experience suggests that original expectations were realistic in that the project's implementation was a fully featured design build. Factors assisting the pier's progress included collaboration between a local developer, qualified design build firm, and City administration. The City's existing relationship between the developer and contractor assisted in moving the project forward to completion in an efficient manner.

Outcomes:

2. Intended outcomes from the grant application were achieved and included but were not limited to; constructing a safe and ADA accessible public fishing pier in Lake Charlevoix, encourage fishing in the downtown, connecting the pier to existing amenities (sidewalks, parking, restrooms, etc.), allow deep water fishing access without the need for a boat, provide additional options for anglers in the downtown, encourage fishing away from the boating/shopper's dock, develop sustainable and environmental conscious waterfront development, provide fishing related educational signage for the public, continue to grow the quality public focused development Boyne City is known for.
3. The City was hopeful in reaching a wide ranging audience from the first time angler to the most seasoned. The public access pier reaches anglers of all ability levels by providing a 24/7 opportunity for all to access the lake. The pier has been well received in the community and continues to grow in popularity as the first season progresses. Support for the project came from a broad range of local, regional and state agencies and organizations.
4. Relationships developed through the project are wide ranging. The City of Boyne City and the Great Lakes Fishery Trust have developed a great report, and the City's relationship with its citizens has also continued to flourish. Local entities such as the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Program, and various fishing focused groups have also celebrated the pier's addition to the City's downtown as both an economic driver and a one of a kind amenity.
5. Benefits and outcomes of the public access fishing pier project are numerous. Some of the highlights include; providing quality fishing opportunities for the casual or first time angler that were not otherwise available in Boyne City, enhancing tourism and economic development in Boyne City, protecting and enhancing Lake Charlevoix, providing safe and easy access to some of the best fishing in the area, and the feeling of community ownership with 24/7 access to the pier.

Site-specific Information:

6. The pier is approximately 8' wide and 190' in length with railing ranging from 32' to 42' in height. The pier is located immediately southwest of the mouth of the Boyne River and complimented by existing public restrooms, parks and parking, and a direct connection to the

City's downtown. The pier is accessible 24 hours a day and is constructed using a floating dock system which is installed and removed seasonally to avoid impacts from wind and ice concerns through the winter months.

7. Visitors access the structure using an existing public parking lots in the immediate area, the closest lot is approximately 200' from the pier and accessed via sidewalk. The pier is connected to the shoreline by a concrete bulkhead.

The pier offers barrier free access and motion detected, solar powered lighting. The pier is connected to the downtown area and public restroom facilities by existing sidewalk. Along the sidewalk are trashcans and benches.

Educational opportunities such as interpretative signage with general lake characteristics, fishing safety tips, and common fish species are included in the pier's design.

Species commonly caught at this site include rock bass, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, bluegill, bullhead (May- October), and occasionally walleye and northern pike (March-April). Given the proximity to the mouth of the Boyne River, this location may also provide for steelhead fishing opportunities (April- May), or brown trout and salmon fishing opportunities (September-October) as those fish stage near the river mouth before heading upstream to spawn.

The DNR does not currently stock any fish at this site, however, they do stock the Boyne River up at Dam Road with 3,000 brown trout and 8,000 steelhead annually. These fish are stocked in the late spring.

For most species, fishing here can be as simple as using a night crawler under a bobber for panfish and perch. This also a good location to throw small plastic jigs or baits, and spinnerbaits for smallmouth and rock bass. Spawn or skein under a float for steelhead and salmon, or minnows on slip rigs for walleye and pike.

Anglers can stay overnight in various overnight campgrounds at local and state parks, as well as various local hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and weekly vacation rentals.

The pier is located directly in the City of Boyne City's downtown area. Numerous shops, restaurants, and other stores are within a short walking distance of the public fishing pier. The city owned and operated F. Grant Moore Municipal Marina is located immediately north of the pier and offers seasonal and transient boat slips for rent. Also, access to the Boyne River and other fishing opportunities are only a short distance from the pier.

All project objectives were met. The relationship between the City, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, and Catt Development helped to facilitate a quality project in a timely fashion. The project came together quickly and is being enjoyed by the numerous residents and visitors in the Boyne City area.

Pictures:

8. See attached site photos.
9. See attached public acknowledgement of GLFT assistance photo verification.

Related Efforts:

10. Initially the project acts as a standalone effort, however, a broader vision through the city's "Boyne on the Water" placemaking process is also being utilized. Boyne on the Water provides a vision for improving waterfront public space and the success of the downtown. The public fishing pier assists the city in this process. A local developer, Catt Development, provided a 50/50 match with the GLFT to assist with the project development and construction.
11. Spinoff work may provide an opportunity for other fisheries related projects. The city aims to discuss a number of current and future projects that may be of interest to both the GLFT and City of Boyne City.

Reflections:

12. The biggest unanticipated benefit has been the local praise for the project. While the city anticipated a positive response to the fishing pier, the compliments have been overwhelming. The pier is also being utilized far more than the City anticipated, especially for the inaugural season. A lesson learned is how efficiently a detailed, quality project can be implemented when everyone involved is prepared and enthusiastic.
13. Recommendations to other project directors working with the GLFT are simple: keep an open line of communication with the GLFT and encourage input from the Board and Scientific Advisory Committee. Communication is key when working toward a common goal.