

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Project #2016.1665 - Boyne City Public Fishing Pier - Project Profile

Project Title: Boyne City Public Fishing Pier

Grantee Organization: City of Boyne City, Michigan

Project Team: Michael Cain, City Manager / Patrick Kilkenny, Assistant Planning Director / Glen Catt, Catt Development

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Grant Amount: \$47,500

Time Frame: Application submitted August 2016, Project installed June 2017

Focus Area: Lake Charlevoix at the mouth of the Boyne River, Boyne City, MI

Project Summary: The City of Boyne City, in collaboration with Catt Development installed an ADA accessible, public fishing pier in Lake Charlevoix through a public/private partnership. The pier is approximately 190' in length and 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 allows anglers of all experience levels and physical abilities to fish safely and conveniently.

Project in Context: Boyne City has a year-round population of approximately 3,700 people with estimated seasonal increases of 10,000 - 20,000 people depending on the time of year (highest population spikes are in the summer months). Due to the City's proximity to Lake Charlevoix and the Boyne River, water-related recreation opportunities are immense. The proposed location of the public access fishing pier is in one if of the most popular and heavily visited areas of the City. The potential for use of the pier is extremely high given the areas seasonal population as well as the urban location. Due to the major fluctuation in population, it is difficult to estimate the number of anglers using the site annually. However, any given weekend during the summer months brings thousands of people to Boyne City, many of whom are outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Much of the City's local population resides in Boyne City in large part to the multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities. If conservative estimates say 20% of the City's population fishes at some point in the year, the pier would easily see upwards of 5,000 individual anglers, many of which are anticipated to utilize the pier multiple times per year.

The City of Boyne City has many community focused plans that speak to the importance of fishing in the area. The City's Community Master Plan, Five-Year Recreation Plan, Boyne on the Water, and Waterfront Master Plan were all developed with extensive public and agency input and include reference to Lake Charlevoix as major components of each. Future waterfront development is always at the forefront of both short term and long range planning in Boyne City. The Boyne City community is a major tourist destination in the area, largely in part to its proximity to lakes, rivers and other recreation. As a major economic driver, tourism is a major factor in shaping the way Boyne City is planned and developed. The public access fishing pier is directly connected to the City's downtown, improving walkability, providing a sense of place and furthering the relationship between recreational tourism and economic development. Support for the proposed project come from a broad range of local, regional, and state agencies and organizations. Financial support (50/50 match) from local developer Catt Development also provides evidence of the extensive support from community stakeholders in addition to those described above.

The City of Boyne City's community focused plans all include language acknowledging that fishing is a vital part of past, present, and future recreation planning. Boyne City Waterfront Master Plan: "Whether casting from shore, wading in the river or trolling just off shore, fishing is a popular activity. Fishing is also an indicator of the health of the river, the lake and the entire ecosystem. For this reason alone, creating, maintaining and stewarding conditions that contribute to the health of the fishery is valuable to everyone, regardless of whether or not one actually fishes." Boyne City Master Plan: "The greatest attractions for the residents and visitors of northwest Michigan are the area's environment and natural features. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, golfing, skiing, snowmobiling, boating and a multitude

of other outdoor activities attract people from all areas of Michigan, as well as from many other states. Often long time visitors decide to move to the area upon retirement. The abundant outdoor recreation opportunities and the natural environment significantly contribute to the quality of life in Boyne City as well as contributing to the local economy." Boyne City Five-Year Recreation Plan: "The rich natural resources of the area that previously supported the community through exploitation now help support the community through recreation. The woods, hills, lakes and rivers are cherished as valuable natural resources and economic assets to the region and offer abundant recreational opportunities. In the summer recreation opportunities such as boating, swimming and fishing and in the winter time activities such as hunting, snowmobiling, skiing and skating are extremely popular."

Goals of the Effort: The goal of the public access fishing pier in the City's downtown is to attract and provide opportunities to anglers to the area creating a new and exciting destination complete with amenities in ideal location for locals and visitors alike. Boyne City is known as the "hub" of the area and surrounding townships. Many of the anglers from the more rural neighboring areas patronize downtown Boyne City for fishing opportunities and the pier's impact will provide a much greater impact than to the city residents alone. Because there is a major lack of Great Lakes or public access fishing piers in the area, prior to the pier's installation, options for anglers included only shore casting or by boat. Although the pier's location is a popular area for shore casting, on busy fishing days the area became full of anglers and demand for additional space was high. Anglers without access to boats were only able to fish in Boyne City by shore casting in Lake Charlevoix and the Boyne River. The lack of viable options forced anglers to seek other opportunities outside of the City. The public access fishing pier now provides 24/7 access to anglers in one of the most popular destinations in the area.

Results: Key results of the project include the installation of a 190' public access fishing pier in the City of Boyne City's downtown, near the mouth of the Boyne River. 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. Support for the project came from a broad range of local, regional and state agencies and organizations. Financial support (50/50% match) from Catt Development provided additional support through a public/private partnership. The pier will also lessen the destruction of existing shoreline from shore casting traffic and pollution concerns from boats. The project provided a focused area for anglers to utilize, and in turn, lessens the impact on surrounding shoreline through its connection to existing sidewalks and parking lots.

Products and Resources: The Boyne City Public Fishing Pier's grant award, progress, and installation was covered through various local and regional media outlets and publicized at many city events and meetings.

City of Boyne City: <http://www.cityofboynecity.com/>

City's website includes updates to city parks and projects, departments, news, etc.

Catt Development: <http://www.cattdevelopment.com/>

Local developer providing a 50% match to the public access fishing pier project.

Flotation Docking Systems, Inc: <http://www.flotationdocking.com/>

Contractor utilized for construction, installation, and oversight of the public access fishing pier project.

The Wood Shop: <http://www.thewoodshop.com/>

Local sign maker utilized for design, fabrication, and installation of signage on the fishing pier.

Petoskey News Review articles on the Boyne City Public Access Fishing Pier:

http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/local/boyne-city-nets-new-fishing-pier/article_9aaed4f3-8196-5bff-844e-1304956675a9.html

http://www.petoskeynews.com/featured-pnr/city-to-apply-for-fishing-pier-grant/article_17e600b9-48e8-5946-a2b8-007abaca02c5.html