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Custer Barrier-Free Fishing Access Site Pere Marquette River Watershed May 2013 to December 2014

The Pere Marquette River is a state designated Natural River and a high quality Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. It also is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. The PM is known throughout the state by outdoor recreationists for its canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and overall scenic beauty. This lower stretch in the vicinity of the project is frequented by Chinook salmon, northern pike, suckers (white, longnose, redhorse), steelhead and brown trout.

The Custer Weir site previously consisted of tall fences, rusting equipment, and a sea lamprey barrier that was no longer functioning. Being just south of the Village of Custer this was a popular spot for recreationists to access the river. With the help of numerous partners the defunct sea lamprey barrier and its related structures were removed. Two universally designed fishing platforms were constructed, along with a bathroom facility, educational signage, river access steps, parking area, stormwater bioswale, and access drive. A new boardwalk was installed to safely connect the access site to the current boat launch on the opposite side of the road.

Best Management Practices:

- Removal of 110' x 20' x .5' defunct sea lamprey barrier & ancillary facilities (sheet pile, fencing, pump station, buildings, underground piping, valves)
- Installation of 2 universally designed fishing piers (30' x 10' & 20' x 12') w/42" high pvc coated mesh railing w/lowered railing sections & openings for fishing
- Installation of 70' x 5' boardwalk w/railing connecting piers to upstream boat launch under Custer Bridge
- Handicap accessible 3-space parking area w/turnaround area
- Fieldstone placement for 300' of streambank stabilization
- Planting of native shrubs & grass seed
- Paved access drive & rock lined bioswale for runoff management

Project Benefits:

- Universally designed fishing opportunities for individuals with mobility issues (ADA approved) & people of all ages
- Educational signage on fish species, stewardship & other access points
- Universally designed barrier-free wheelchair accessible bathroom facility
- Docking cleats for safe watercraft anchoring
- Park bench

Project Cost: \$401,890

Contributors:

- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Trust
- Custer Township
- CRA's River Care Program (OxyChem)

Partners involved:

Conservation Resource Alliance, Custer Township, Mason-Lake Conservation District, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries & Natural Rivers Divisions, Natural Resources Conservation Service, OxyChem, Spicer Group, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S Forest Service, Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Swidorski Brothers Excavating, Village of Custer.

Location:
Custer Twp.,
Sections 21 & 22,
Mason County, MI
N 43.937107°
W -86.218913°



Before:



Before:



During:



During:



During:



During:



During:



After:



After:



After:

