

8/25/2020 River Update by members of the “Free the White Maintainers”

Please share river status with other recreational paddlers. The White River Kayak Water Trail from White Cloud to Hesperia is open. You should be able to paddle the 30 plus miles from White Cloud to Hesperia with having to portage. The mileage and paddle times are on each bridge at the road crossings. There is access at White Cloud Rotary Park, Flowing Wells Park on Echo Drive in White Cloud, N. Baldwin Ave, the White River Roadside Park on M 20, N. Luce Ave, N. Warner Ave (if the two track is dry), N. Green Ave, N. Fitzgerald, N. Dickinson Ave and the Island on Maple Island Road in Hesperia.

Additionally, the upper White River between 2 Mile Road and Pine Hill/ E. Baseline/MD 20 has been cleared and you should not have to make any portages. This a beautiful and secluded stretch of woody, tight, skinny water with few houses. According to the DNR this is an excellent cold-water trout stream with an abundant number of healthy brown trout. This is technical fishing with lots of stream side tag alders. Practice your roll cast before you go. Those that fish this section usually do so at night using big streamers or mouse patterns. It is suggested that better fishing can be had after the weather cools or after a rain when the river is on the rise. The riverside in this section is all private property so the best way to fish this beautiful section is to put in at 2-mile road and paddle and fish down to Pine Hill/ E. Baseline/MD 20. The best parking is one the west side of the river at the dead end. You can take out at White Cloud Pond dam.

There are abundant wild flowers streamside in the upper white.

According to local sources the White River is also clear from Hesperia down to Sischo Bayou.

Please be aware that if you paddle down from Hesperia or Taylor’s Bridge and miss the take out at Pines Point your next take out is about six-miles downriver to the remote Sischo Bayou access. According to local information you will have to make about 5 portages between Sischo Bayou down to Diamond Point Campground. From Diamond Point Campground to White Lake at Montague is open. Public access past Diamond Point Campground is questionable. Happy Mohawk Canoe is located on the river at B 86, Fruitvale road but is a private commercial livery. Because of the back water from Lake Michigan you cannot pass under the Hart Montague Trail pedestrian bridge or park in the White Hall Rail Trail public parking lot.

The White River is classified as a Natural River and passes through several large tracks of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Some sections of the river corridor are spectacular but secluded. The White River is for those that want a paddling challenge on a beautiful river without the crowds. Some stretches of the White River are technical paddles so ensure that you have the kayak and skills necessary to maneuver safely around and over woody debris. Ensure that you plan your paddle according and allow enough time to paddle the longer stretches between take outs.