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KALAMAZOO RIVER GREENWAY PLANNING GRANT

Purpose - The purpose of the Kalamazoo River Greenway Planning grant is to create a master plan to implement a greenway corridor along the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County addressing environmental restoration, recreation, conservation, and education.

Building Upon Success - Macatawa Greenway – The ODCMG has been the lead non-profit partner in the Macatawa Greenway along the Macatawa River in Ottawa County since 1994. In this time, there has been 19 miles of preserved river corridor, over 15 million dollars of public and private investment, 1,387 protected acres, and 20 miles of pedestrian trails. In addition, the ODCMG has been the lead agency in Project Clarity an initiative in the Macatawa Watershed to reduce phosphorus and sediment issues. To date, the ODCMG and its partners have secured more than 10 million dollars in private funding and has implemented more than 100 on-the-ground projects resulting in a 40% reduction in phosphorus.

Kalamazoo River Greenway (KRG) Objectives

1. *Community Partners:* The ODCMG will identify and coordinate with key community partners that will promote the environmental and economic vibrancy within the Allegan County Kalamazoo Watershed.
2. *Data Collection:* The ODCMG will aggregate current and past contaminated sediment data and catalogue levels throughout the proposed Greenway corridors. This analysis will lead to the recognition of contamination hotspots including brownfield sites, ecological areas of concern, erosion and sedimentation issues, and potential disposal areas for contaminated sediments.
3. *Community Engagement:* The ODCMG will survey residents and community stakeholders to determine community needs, wants, and opportunities connected with greenway development. The process will grow community buy-in from multiple sectors including: businesses, K-12 education, local governments, and community organizations.
4. *Master Plan:* The ODCMG will develop the KRG Master Plan which will include a 5-year priority list that will provide the greatest positive impact in the most efficient time. Corresponding marketing materials to communicate the long-term vision and short-term goals will also be developed.

How Can You Help? We would love to hear how you or your organization can help us achieve these goals. Please contact Dan Callam danc@outdoordiscovery.org or Tracey Nally at tracey@outdoordiscovery.com.

