

Section 106 Success Story

River Bluff Park Enhancements Project

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP | ALLEGAN COUNTY

This project is still ongoing, with consultation begun in May of 2026. The proposed project consists of work within River Bluff Park including: shoreline stabilization efforts along the Kalamazoo River, invasive species removal, wetland planting, trail accessibility improvements, boardwalk installation, and an expanded fishing pier installation. NOAA conducted a phase I archaeological survey prior to engaging the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) in consultation. On review of the survey, the SHPO and THPOs requested a deeper investigation as the Kalamazoo River vicinity is exceptionally culturally sensitive. NOAA coordinated a site visit to walk through the project with the SHPO and THPOs. During the walk through, the SHPO and THPOs recommended a Human Remains Detection (HRD) dog survey along the peninsula where the new boardwalk was proposed. NOAA agreed to the survey, which resulted in 19 alerts along the peninsula, indicating the presence of a cemetery. NOAA immediately called SHPO and THPOs to set up a follow-up meeting. Continued meetings are planned to design the project to avoid the cemetery. NOAA and Saugatuck Township have been supportive of this process, and grateful for the consultation opportunities. This proactive planning ensures that thoughtful project design will continue with historic burials and other resources minimally impacted.

LOCATION

Saugatuck Township, Allegan County, MI

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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FEDERAL AGENCY

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PROJECT DATE

Ongoing