

Friends of the Boyne River, Inc. Annual Accomplishments Report

In 2015 - 2016, the Friends of the Boyne River accomplished the following:

1. As President, Adam approached the Boyne City Commission with a request from the Friends of the Boyne River to pass a resolution supporting the shutdown of Line 5, the pipeline that carries oil under the Mackinaw Bridge. The City Commission was unanimous in agreeing to do this after a large public meeting with speakers from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Enbridge Energy and engineer Dr. Ed Timm. The meeting audience was large and everyone supported the shutdown including Lon Johnson the Democratic candidate for our First Congressional District
2. We continued our FoBR Marie Zoberski Scholarship program. For the 2016 – 2017 school year, we again awarded two scholarships. Ann Durbin and Kat Crowley are both attending Michigan State University and studying in environmental fields.
3. We continued having monthly meetings with speakers talking on diverse topics about the environment. Our website (boyneriver.org) will tell you about them and announce upcoming events. Please check out our website. Contact us at boyneriverinc@gmail.com
4. Our members: Suzie Dickow, Candy Greene, Ed and Diane Strzelinski, and Adam Kennedy have all participated in outdoor education events. Suzie and Candy gave two art in nature programs at the Boyne River Nature Area this summer.
5. We continued to monitor and protect the Boyne River in many ways. Adam Kennedy and Mike Ryan paddle the river at least once a month throughout the year. They enjoy the paddling and looking for wildlife but they also look for problems that could make it difficult for people to enjoy paddling the river. We participated in the August 2015 River Sweep that yielded 200 lbs. of trash. We have monofilament collection containers at Dam Rd. We have two teams that are part of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Stream Monitoring Program. Our team's efforts ensure that the health of the river is maintained. The river is currently rated as "A". There is room for improvement. Some road stream crossings are deteriorating and causing sediment to wash into the river and several impoundments are warming the water – which is not good for some fish. We are maintaining our Crowd Hydrology water level monitoring gauges. To view water levels in the Boyne River, go to www.crowdhydrology.org select MI and scroll down to MI1022.
6. We are continuing to maintain the river banks in Old City Park and improve our newest conservation project – The Boyne River Nature Area. The BRNA is conserving a wetland alongside the Boyne River. It has three sets of decks, boardwalks and stairs to get to the river, an upland trail for a short stroll through the trees, a pavilion with tables and a rain garden. It is attracting a lot of visitors: tourists, workers having lunch and families out for a walk in nature.

We have a lot of activities going on. These activities are fun and important to the health of our River and the whole Boyne River/Lake Charlevoix Watershed. We would love to have you join us. Having more members means that there are more people to share the fun and more hands to help keep the river clean. And, of course, it also means your membership money helps with those projects.

If one of the projects on these pages sounds interesting to you, just talk with us. We will be happy to tell you about it.