

KALAMAZOO RIVER NATURALIZATION

Battle Creek | Michigan



The Kalamazoo River Naturalization project is significant to the redevelopment of our downtown community and provides a vital opportunity to enhance the downtown environment, expand recreational opportunities, improve safety and accessibility, and offer mixed-use development and housing opportunities.

PROJECT GOALS



SAFETY GOALS

- Dam and concrete channel removal. Not a matter of if failure will happen, but when. Existing infrastructure has exceeded the end of its life cycle.
- Maintain the same level of flood control but do so in a way that provides amenities to the community.



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

- The proposed river realignment shall meet the required flood protection capacity.
- Enhance ecological health of the river corridor, in the river itself as well as in the riparian buffer zones.
- Increase biodiversity and pollinator habitat with native plants and trees.



CULTURAL GOALS

- Honor native tribes and people
- Honor history of site
- Highlight historical evolution of site



SOCIAL & ACTIVITY GOALS

- Connect the community to the river
- Create river trail recreation opportunities and access points
- Develop outdoor spaces to allow for access to nature and socialization
- Fishing/angling important part of river experience



ACCESSIBILITY GOALS

- Project site is multi-modal and accessible to people of all abilities
- Review and incorporate elements of non-motorized master plan into design
- Enhance site connectivity through development of greenways and other non-motorized pathways.
- Connect neighborhoods across the river.
- Improve the site vehicular connectivity.



TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

- Enhance the site from a social, environmental, and economic perspective.