

trees slated for removal were removed from the site to allow for construction on the south side of the river. Pavement in Lot J was removed and work began on the installation of a new watermain. Additional site preparatory work was completed in advance of sheet pile installation starting in July 2024.

A two-phase partnering meeting was held with the first phase of the meeting included a stakeholder/rightsholder group comprised of signatories to the FishPass MOU and member agencies/institutions of the Boardman River Implementation Team. The second phase of the meeting was held for representatives of the three neighboring properties to engage with the Spence Bros., USACE, GLFC, AECOM, and the City about the construction schedule and process and to establish clear lines of communication during construction.

- May 2024 – The City of Traverse City, in cooperation with FishPass partners, was awarded a \$1 M Dam Risk Reduction Grant from the MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to support FishPass construction.
- June 2024 – The contractor will begin pre-construction documentation for vibration and settlement monitoring prior to the installation of sheet piling. The sheet piling will allow for construction of FishPass under dry conditions.

Research/Assessment:

- April-June 2024 – Staff from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) continued work on a two-year study initiated in 2023—*Spatio-temporal drift patterns of larval fish in the Boardman/Ottaway River*. Field crews deployed 500- μ m mesh D-frame nets for two non-consecutive sampling events during day and night weekly at six sites and also deployed 1600- μ m mesh D-frame nets at one additional site. Two weeks of sampling upstream and downstream of the Union St. Dam for larval entrainment/damage comparison were also completed in early May. In total 460 larval drift samples were collected by the end of May. The goal of the study is to address the current knowledge gap on the composition and timing of downstream fish embryo and larval drift in the Boardman/Ottaway River.
- 08 May 2024 – GLFC and GTB staff completed the first scheduled “quarterly” index electrofishing survey in the lower Boardman/Ottaway River (below Union St. Dam). These surveys are conducted to understand the seasonal diversity and abundance of fishes in that section of river. Results can be found below.

Species	n	Ave. Length (in.)
Chinook salmon	1	5.9*
Northern pike	2	33.5
alewife	22	6.1
brown trout	2	19.2
coho salmon	21	6.7
common carp	2	26
common white sucker	132	18
gizzard shad	1	17.4*
longnose sucker	12	17.5
rainbow trout	29	19
smallmouth bass	14	18.5
walleye	9	26.4
yellow perch	1	8.3*

*Denotes a sample size of one

Outreach:

- 16 April 2024 – Reid Swanson (GLFC) presented an invited talk, *FishPass – a vision for selective fish passage solutions to the connectivity conundrum*, at Free Flow- International conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers Oosterpoort, Groningen, Netherlands.
- 5-9 May 2024 – Dan Zielinski (GLFC) presented a talk, *Exploration of the science supporting selective connectivity at fish migration barriers*, at the 15th International Symposium on Ecohydraulics and Fish Passage in Québec City, Canada.
- 16 May 2024 – A community celebration of FishPass was held at the Traverse City Opera House with an exclusive screening of the documentary “The Ottaway; A River Reconnected.”
- 25 May 2024 – Reid Swanson (GLFC), Frank Dituri (City of Traverse City), Karen Murchie (Director of Freshwater Research- Shedd Aquarium & FishPass science team member), and additional GLFC staff hosted an educational table at a World Fish Migration Day event at The John G. Shedd Aquarium – Chicago, Illinois. World Fish Migration Day is a global awareness campaign celebrated every two years to highlight the connections that migratory fishes have with human and non-human species, lands, and waters. This day is marked by celebrations, events, and action campaigns organized by people around the world to connect fish, rivers, and people. More information on World fish Migration Day can be found here: <https://worldfishmigrationday.com/>

Upcoming:

- 1 June 2024 – Reid Swanson (GLFC) will provide an educational presentation on the concept, design, and research of FishPass at the annual meeting of the Paul H. Young chapter of Trout Unlimited at Camp Wa Wa on the AuSable.
- June 5 – Leah Bagdon McCallum will participate in Traverse Connect's Economic Strategy Session II: Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Driver panel discussion about the value and impact of outdoor recreation - specifically related to freshwater - and the opportunities that FishPass presents for paddlers and anglers on the Boardman/Ottaway.
- June 11 – Leah Bagdon McCallum will join leadership from the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center in hosting MSU's Water Alliance - exploring ways for the University, and other higher education partners, to be a part of the region's growing freshwater research opportunities.
- 20 June 2024 – Dan Zielinski (GLFC) will present on the FishPass project at the Community Development Coalition's Speaker Series Luncheon. Please [register to attend by Monday, June 17](#).
- 1 July 2024 – Preparation meetings for sheet pile work will begin. No construction will take place due to Cherry Fest and 4th of July holiday. Material delivery and installation will likely begin the week of 8 July 2024.
 - Material deliveries on site will require semi-trailers to pull into 6th Street and back into the Lot J entrance. Temporary traffic control will be provided.

In the News:

- Traverse City's FishPass moves ahead, work set to begin in June (WCMU Public Radio, 09 April, 2024): <https://radio.wcmu.org/local-regional-news/2024-04-09/traverse-citys-fishpass-moves-ahead-work-set-to-begin-in-june>
- City Receives \$1 Million Grant for FishPass Project (The Ticker, 10 May 2024): <https://www.traverseticker.com/news/city-receives-1-million-grant-for-fishpass-project/>
- FishPass construction begins Tuesday after years of planning, delays (UpNorthLive, 17 May 2024): <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/fishpass-construction-begins-monday-after-years-of-planning-delays>
- FishPass Construction Begins Tuesday (The Ticker, 20 May 2024): <https://www.traverseticker.com/news/fishpass-construction-begins-tuesday/>
- FishPass construction set to begin in Traverse City on Tuesday, May 21 (9and10 News, 20 May 2024): <https://www.9and10news.com/2024/05/16/fishpass-construction-set-to-begin-in-traverse-city-on-tuesday-may-21/>
- FishPass construction begins on the Boardman-Ottaway River (Interlochen Public Radio, 22 May 2024): <https://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/ipr-news/2024-05-22/fishpass-construction-begins-on-the-boardman-ottaway-river>
- Fixing the dams: Michigan is on an infrastructure support mission (Michigan.gov, 31 May 2024): <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/newsroom/mi-environment/2024/05/31/fixing-the-dams-michigan-is-on-an-infrastructure-support-mission>



Follow FishPass on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news about the project.