

3 rivers beckon

Paddle your own canoe and your family's too!

Three rivers flowing through south-central Michigan offer the canoeist an opportunity to view unique life, trace the path of French explorers and view patchwork farmlands.

To explore the more than 200-year-old route of Indiana and fur traders, canoe the Grand River which today is lined by farms and small towns.

IN THE 1830s, Congress authorized construction of Grand River Road from Detroit all the way to the river's mouth at Grand Haven on Lake Michigan. However,

the road does not closely follow the river, which rambles 185 miles along a crooked path through seven counties.

Since there are no riverside campgrounds along the 185 miles between Jackson and Portland, that section of the Grand River is best divided into short half-day and day-long trips.

A good place to start is two miles north of Jackson at Parnall Road Bridge. To reach either of two parks at Eaton Rapids takes nine hours. For those who want a shorter trip, Baldwin Park at Onondaga is two hours closer.

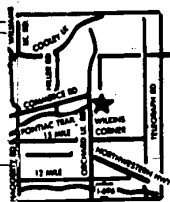
The only canoe livery between Jackson and Lansing is Grande Pointe Marina on Cretz Road in Demondale.

CANOEING THROUGH the city of Lansing is for experts because of the many dams requiring portages. Less experienced canoeists should arrange grand transportation for the 4 1/2 miles from Moores Park to Tecumseh Park in Lansing.

If possible, visit the State Capital and Michigan Historical Museum, a replica of a colonial home.

The 12 miles between Lansing and

Grand Ledge are noted for scenery, especially the rock outcroppings for which Grand Ledge is named. Around the turn of the century, Grand Ledge was a popular resort area and tourists arrived by steamboat. As a bicentennial project, a new gazebo band shell on Grand Ledge Island will house community activities and concerts.



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