

# Grand River Revitalization & Restoration Project

## 1.1 Unit Overview



Wenk Associates

### Summary

In this unit, students will explore the Grand River Revitalization & Restoration Project. They will look at the economic opportunities associated with the River, and community access to the River. They will then learn about two species impacted by the restoration: the Lake Sturgeon (a desired species) and the Sea Lamprey (an invasive species).

### Estimated Time

1-2 class periods per activity; 1-2 weeks for full unit

### Essential Questions

- How can the proposed Grand River Revitalization reduce the impacts of human actions on the Grand River?
- Whose voices should be a part in implementing the Grand River Revitalization?
- What economic benefits will the Grand River Revitalization bring to our community?
- How does the lifecycle of the sturgeon affect its ability to survive in the Grand River?
- What are the potential costs and benefits to Sea Lamprey management with the Grand River Restoration?

### Suggested Sequence

All students should participate in the Take a Stand Activity (1.2). Be sure to take time to allow students to engage with and look over the Restoration Project. The other activities can be done in any sequence following the initial activity.

If possible, first take students downtown to the Grand River, at the site of the proposed restoration. There are several resources that would help to facilitate this trip that are low cost. They include:

- The Grand Rapids Public Museum is free for all students who live in Kent County and is next to the restoration site. They have on campus a Great Lakes Sturgeon exhibit.
- The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) is downtown and has developed a [basic but thorough walking tour \(bit.ly/walkwhitewater1\)](https://bit.ly/walkwhitewater1) of the Grand River Restoration project.

If traveling to Downtown Grand Rapids is not feasible, have students explore a virtual tour created by LGROW in [story map](https://bit.ly/walkwhitewater2) form ([bit.ly/walkwhitewater2](https://bit.ly/walkwhitewater2)).

LGROW has also developed an [engagement activity](http://bit.ly/LGROWriverposter) (<http://bit.ly/LGROWriverposter>) that would nicely follow a physical tour and could replace the 1.2 Take a Stand Activity.

### Unit Outline/Materials

- 1.2 Take a Stand Activity & Slideshow
- 1.2a Potential Stakeholder Questions
- 1.3 GRR Economics Student Handout
- 1.4 GRR Access Student Handout
- 1.5 GRR Sturgeon Student Handout
- 1.6 GRR Sea Lamprey Student Handout

### Possible Extension Activities

The following are suggestions for how you could explore other aspects of the Grand River and its restoration. They are not full activities but intended to spark thinking and ideas around topics not covered in this unit.

- 1.7a Why this location
- 1.8 Freshwater Mussels

### Resources

- [Great Lakes Fisheries Fact Sheets](http://www.glfc.org/fact-sheets.php): <http://www.glfc.org/fact-sheets.php>
- [Grand Rapids Whitewater Organization](https://grandrapidswhitewater.org): <https://grandrapidswhitewater.org>
- [Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds](https://www.lgrow.org/): <https://www.lgrow.org/>
- [Detailed Restoration Proposal](http://bit.ly/restorationplan): <http://bit.ly/restorationplan>
- [MLive Whitewater tagged articles](https://topics.mlive.com/tag/grand-rapids-whitewater): <https://topics.mlive.com/tag/grand-rapids-whitewater>
- [Grand Rapids Restoration Opportunities & Constraints study](https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/OpportunitiesAndConstraintsEXSUMM_0812.pdf): [https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/OpportunitiesAndConstraintsEXSUMM\\_0812.pdf](https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/OpportunitiesAndConstraintsEXSUMM_0812.pdf)
- [Grand Rapids Destination Asset Study 2016](http://grandaction.org/Downloads/ExecutiveSummary2016_12_05.pdf): [http://grandaction.org/Downloads/ExecutiveSummary2016\\_12\\_05.pdf](http://grandaction.org/Downloads/ExecutiveSummary2016_12_05.pdf)
- [Economic Benefits of the Grand Rapids Whitewater Project](https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/GRWW_EconImpactReportJune112014.pdf): [https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/GRWW\\_EconImpactReportJune112014.pdf](https://grandrapidswhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/GRWW_EconImpactReportJune112014.pdf)