



When Henry Ford constructed a dam on the Saline River in the 1930's he forever reshaped the geography of Milan, Michigan. At the same time, Ford purchased an existing mill that he used as a hydroelectric plant to process soybeans and to manufacture ignition coils for the Ford Motor Company. The plant closed in 1948 and the property was turned over to the then village of Milan. Today, the property houses the Milan Public Library and City Hall.

In the 1950's, shortly after Ford closed his plant, it was common for families and visitors to picnic lakeside and to take small motor boats on the lake for fishing and pleasure.

Ford Lake remains a central part of Milan; however, access to and usage of the lake has deteriorated over the years. While people can reach a small area of the lake for fishing from the shore, it has been nearly three decades since on-lake access was available.

In the summer of 2018, the City of Milan will complete a \$650,000 project to stabilize the roadway next to the lake, refurbish the original boat launch, and add a paved walkway on the lake's east side. Thanks to funds from a CTAP grant and support from Milan Parks and Recreation, Milan Main Street and the City of Milan, residents and visitors will be able to rent kayaks and pedal boats for use on Ford Lake starting in spring 2019.

On-water access to Ford Lake will create more traffic for our Main Street businesses, establish a destination in our downtown for residents and visitors, build pride in place, elevate physical and mental health, and provide access to history as well as to the water.

Henry Ford understood that Main Streets across America were important to community and commerce. In fact, the Henry Ford, a museum complex in nearby Dearborn, MI, pays homage to Main Street. Nearly 100 years have passed since Henry Ford made a lake adjacent to Main Street in downtown Milan. The Pedal, Paddle and Play project offers us an opportunity to once again bring the lake to life.



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Logo or name listed on all promotional materials
10 free rental passes

Pedal Boat Sponsor (\$250)

Logo on a pedal boat
Logo or name listed on all promotional materials
8 free rental passes

Company / Organization

Contact Name

Contact E-mail

Contact phone number

Kayak sponsor

Pedal boat sponsor

Authorized signature

I would like to pay by credit card,
please invoice me

Check enclosed

Mail payment and completed form to:

Milan Main Street
PO Box 284
Milan, Michigan 48160

Email completed form to:

jillt@milanmainstreet.com

