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This is **Connor Bayou County Park**, named for Jared Connor who settled here in 1837. The land was sold to William Ferry in 1849 for purposes of logging and eventually was divided into riverfront parcels owned by Matthew Krumpeck and teacher Addie Clark. Long before Ottawa County conceived this area as parkland, Krumpeck and his neighbor Waldron hosted huge annual North Robinson Farmer Co-Operative Association Picnics here starting in 1917. Organizers bragged that River Road was “one of the best in Ottawa County” and the grounds offered “splendid places for landing launches”just like today!



Waldron, Krumpeck, and Clark properties shown along the Grand River.

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River Road HISTORIC

Robinson Township Cemetery: Stroll here to find Ransom Robinson's burial site. The son of township founder Ira Robinson and nephew to Rix Robinson, Ransom was a true pioneer. At eighteen months of age, he was likely the youngest passenger aboard the schooner St. Joseph that transported 42 Robinson family members from New York to Grand Haven in 1836. In 1862 Ransom enlisted in Co. G of the 21st Michigan Infantry and joined General "Sherman's Bummers." He was discharged just six months later with tuberculosis. Though hardships of the war left their mark on him, Ransom farmed for 45 years before his death in 1920. Look here too, for the graves of Clark, Rogers, Stearns, and Cordes family members.



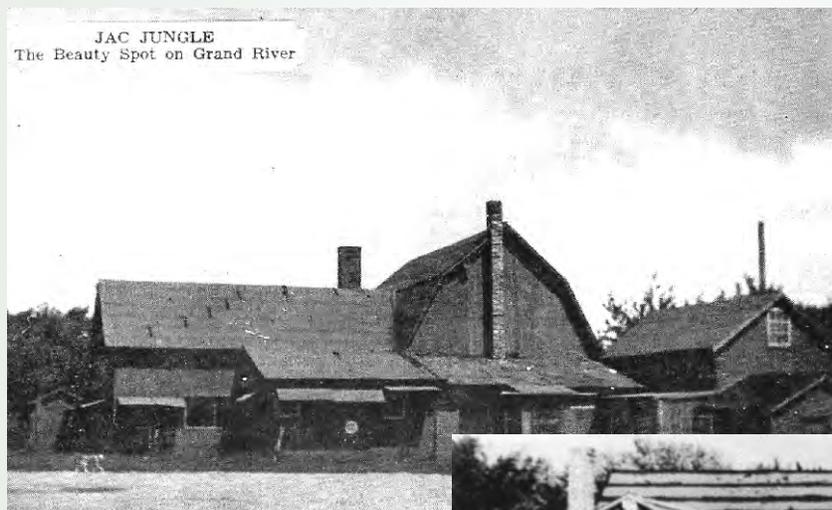
Ransom Robinson
Photo courtesy of: David Robinson

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JacJungle: Between 1930 and 1951, a wonderfully notorious dance hall and tavern was located on what is now the Southern Grand Marina property. Chicago-born Al Cordes played piano in vaudeville acts before establishing JacJungle, named by combining Al's initials with his wife, Julia's. The couple brought live music, novel floor shows, food, drink, and merriment to the rural setting. Kate Smith and George Goebel are believed to have started their show business careers here. The party ended in 1951 when JacJungle burned to the ground. Then owner George Graham moved his business to Lake Michigan Drive, where he built the Embassy Bar.

Visit Riverside County Park next door to the old JacJungle site.



JacJungle
Photo courtesy of: Barbara Nelson



Al and Julia Cordes
Photo courtesy of: Robinson Township



Performers at JacJungle
Photo courtesy of: Robinson Township



JacJungle
Photo courtesy of: Robinson Township

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River Road HISTORIC

Bass River: Parked at the dead end of North Cedar Drive, it's hard to imagine a settlement once thrived here. In 1837 developers created "Warren City," on paper at least, and Commissioners actually passed a resolution making it the county seat. When County Commission meetings continued to be held in Grand Haven, the concept of Warren City faded and the growing populace there formed the Village of Bass River. River Road ran through the community. Along it were two stores, a church, post office, school, boarding house, and ferry dock. By 1940, gravel mining, begun in the 1880s, had consumed the entire village, leaving only what you see before you. Today this State-owned property is designated as Bass River Recreation Area.



GrassHopper at Bass River
Gravel Pit around 1930

Image courtesy of: Robinson Township

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River Road Bridge: Gravel operations not only undermined the Village of Bass River, but River Road as well. In order to pick up the route, you must go around the excavation. Travel south on 104th Avenue. About a half mile on your left you will see an entrance to Bass River Recreation Area. This section is worth exploring, but motorists should be aware that:

1. All roads leading into the area are SEASONAL and prone to flooding
2. Equestrians, bicyclists, hikers, XC skiers, hunters, fishermen, and boaters use the area

If you enter the recreation area from 104th Avenue, the trail will loop you back to 104th. Continue south on 104th and turn left onto Osborn and left again onto S. Cedar Avenue (gravel). S. Cedar will curve to the right and dead end. There you will see the abutments of the old River Road Bridge which, if standing today, would span S. Cedar Avenue to 90th. If you follow 92nd Avenue into the entrance of Bass River Recreation Area, it, like 104th on the other side, will double back to 92nd.



Photo courtesy of: Jim Ponshair

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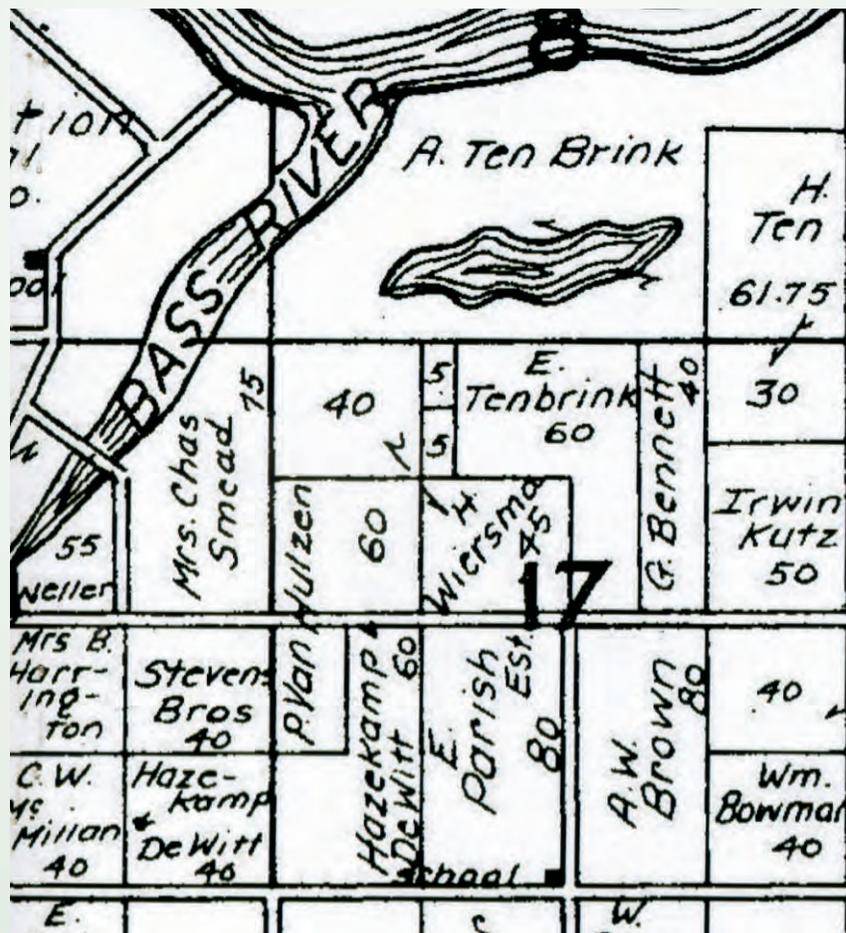
River Road HISTORIC

Enos Parrish

17 April 1902, *Grand Haven Tribune*, Obituary:

Enos Parrish, a pioneer resident of Ottawa County, and veteran of both the Mexican and Civil Wars, died at his home in Allendale yesterday aged nearly 80 years. Up to the time of his death, Mr. Parrish was one of the few surviving veterans of the Mexican War in this section. He served in both wars in the U.S. Artillery and gained a record as a gallant soldier. He cleared up his farm out in the wilderness and had a nice place south of River Road in Allendale.

This 1864 plat map shows the Parrish property located at what is today Warner Avenue (see "17") just east of 90th. Both roads were links of the old River Road. Note Parrish School on the SE corner of his property.



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Stop at **Eastmanville Bayou Open Space** to enjoy a picnic, hike, fishing, or the state-of-the-art kayak launch!

Headline *Coopersville Observer*, 22 June 1917
THE BRIDGE IS DONE, NOW FOR SOME FUN
The Band Will Play, for Your Delight; Just Hike Out There And See The Sight

On Tuesday next, we'll ride or walk, to Eastmanville without a balk. Down on the Grand, just south of here; there is where we'll go and shout and cheer. To see the bridge, made out of steel, that spans the Grand -- how proud we feel. We'll take a lunch, and hitch up Bess, or take our Ford -- we must confess -- to take us there to see the fun, stay until the sport are done. Old Dick'll be there, that grand old man, to tell us all about the span. And Rogers, too, of statewide fame, he'll add his mite with loud acclaim. The county men, both road and town, will grace the scene with their renown. Plenty of fun and sports galore, and prizes too, for those who score. So plan to come, we'll treat you fine, the coffee's free for those who dine. The business men of Coopersville, will greet you all; come take your fill.



Coopersville Observer, June 22, 1917
EASTMANVILLE BRIDGE
Crossing the Grand River at Eastmanville, Michigan.
Total length 107 feet. Cheapest crossing since 1910. Cost \$24,000.00.
Opened for traffic June 1917. Designed by Michigan State Highway Department.
Contract awarded by Ottawa County Road Commission.

Photo courtesy of: Ottawa County Road Commission

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River Road HISTORIC

After crossing the Eastmanville Bridge, turn left on to Leonard Road (Historic River Road north). Travel one block. Turn right on to Church Street to the **Eastmanville Cemetery** on your right.

The oldest grave here is said to be that of little Henry Miller, son of Elizabeth and Captain Henry “Harry Bluff” Miller. Henry was born in 1838, one year after the Miller and Realy families preempted land just west of here on what eventually became the Ottawa County Poor Farm, your next stop. Only six years old, Henry died on Valentine's Day in 1844. Realy family graves also found here include Daniel, his wife Lucinda, an infant, and children Henry P., Elodon, Freddie, and Francis.



Henry Miller, Jr. Headstone (Background)
Photo courtesy of: Marjorie Viven