

**Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.**

Somewhere on the Water

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Holland, MI anchorage to Sagatuck, MI anchorage.

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

What a peaceful morning. The sun rose a little later as we enter the Fall season. This morning was calm and quiet with only one or two fishing boats and a paddleboarder nearby. A stark contrast to the busy Labor Day weekend with countless pleasure boaters taking to the harbors and enjoying the gorgeous weather. Work was very busy for me. Typical after a 3-day weekend.

Mark waited patiently for me to catch up with the work calls so that I could drive the boat out of the harbor and back into Lake Michigan.

Engines started at 10:38 am.

I took control of the helm and drove us back into Lake Michigan (with his step-by-step instructions). Mark took over the captain duties after that so I could get back to work. Except, work is not what kept me from enjoying this leg of the journey. Life still happens while looping, and I ended up on hold with the health insurance company for most of the ride. I did get off the phone in time for the cruise through the Kalamazoo River to our anchorage, which was amazing. The stark contrast to coming through the river to Saugatuck compared to Holland, Grand Haven, and many of the other areas we have been in MI is worth noting. This ride was mostly filled with a tree-lined shore; we saw turtles, a crane, and marsh, all part of the Tallmadge Woods. On the other side of the riverbank were stunning homes. As we approached Saugatuck, the scenery changed drastically to where we were passing marinas, restaurants, tour boats, etc. I looked forward to going to shore to look around. Our anchorage in Kalamazoon Lake is tight. Too tight for comfort with high winds predicted to hit in the next day or so.

The Saugatuck, Michigan channel refers to the man-made navigation channel connecting the Kalamazoo River to Lake Michigan,

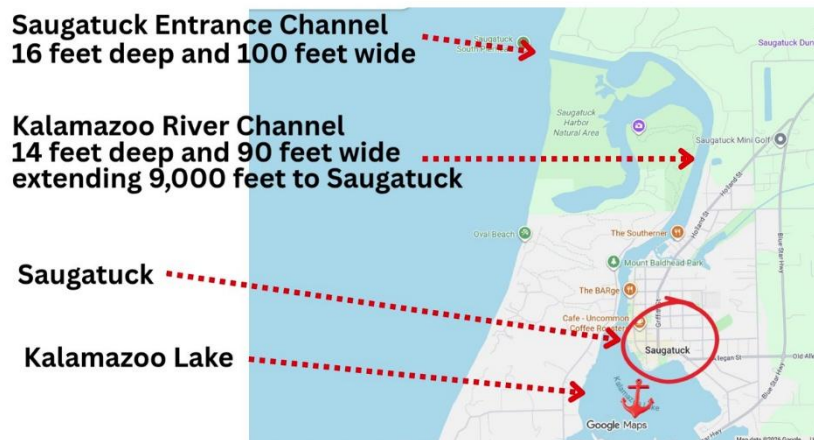
Entrance Channel: 16 feet deep and 100 feet wide from Lake Michigan to the river mouth.

Kalamazoo River Channel: 14 feet deep and 90 feet wide extending 9,000 feet to Saugatuck (maintained at 14 feet).

The river runs about 150 miles along a northwesterly track from its various springs in Hillsdale and Jackson counties to its mouth at Lake Michigan near the village of Saugatuck. Its basin drains about 2,200 square miles of land and has a very gentle fall of about two feet per mile.

Throughout its history, the Kalamazoo River has shaped the fortunes of the communities along its banks. In the years before railroads and highways, it was a major artery for transportation in southwestern Michigan. The river has provided power for gristmills and hydroelectric dams and water for agriculture. <https://www.kpl.gov/local-history/kalamazoo-history/general/kalamazoo-river/>

Kalamazoo Lake is a widening of the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County, Michigan, located directly between the twin towns of Saugatuck and Douglas, and it connects directly to Lake Michigan. Google



The property protects an emergent marsh, steep forested dunes, and Kalamazoo River shoreline and connects to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, creating 275 acres of protected Lake Michigan shoreline habitat. The rare ecosystems in this region are home to many important species of wildlife, fish, birds, insects, and plants.



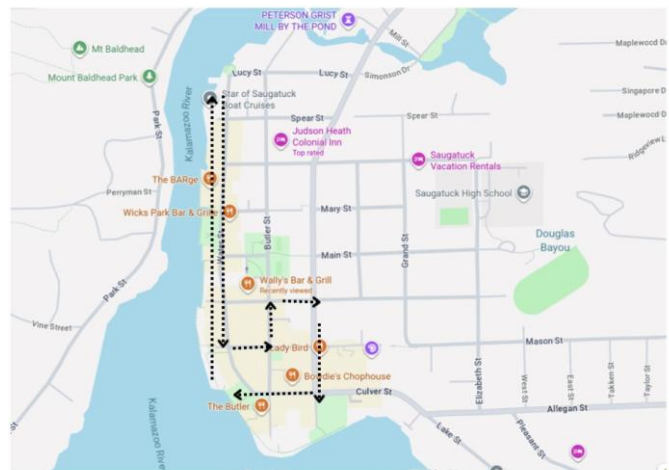
Tallmadge Woods is owned by the City of Saugatuck and Ox-Bow School of Art. In 2008, the City and Ox-Bow worked with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to protect the 102-acre property with a conservation easement to

ensure that neither organization, nor later owners, would be able to significantly alter the character and uses of Tallmadge Woods in the future. https://naturenearby.org/portfolio_page/explore/tallmadge-woods/#:~:text=The%20property%20protects%20an%20emergent,protected%20Lake%20Michigan%20shoreline%20habitat.

Mark spent much of the afternoon planning the next several days. Due to the weather, he has changed up our itinerary. We are leaving Saugatuck tomorrow rather than staying through Saturday. We canceled our dune tour for Friday. So bummed! Tomorrow we will cruise from Saugatuck to South Haven and stay at a marina, then go to St. Joseph for the duration of the bad weather from Thursday to Sunday. No plans after that. Weather may change, because it always does. Anticipated 6' waves later this week on Lake Michigan.

We see some leaves changing color, and the air is crisp and cool. Some would say there is a touch of fall in the air,

We were able to secure a spot for our tender so that we could explore downtown. The river's edge has an extended boardwalk, which we walked, bringing us to the far end of the city. We started making our way back along the tree-lined streets after walking through the park and viewing the Chain Ferry. We kept the mood light with a little banter about how deserted Saugatuck was hiding our disappointment. However, once we went a block in off Main Street, alas, there



were people. Lots of people. It was after 5 pm so many of the stores were closed, but there were a couple of crowded restaurants and breweries that lightened our spirits and gave us a fresh new perspective. Cute and charming come to mind, and during the busy season it is easy to recognize that it is a lively and bustling downtown. The day after Labor Day, not so much. We enjoyed our walk, and once we made it back to the tender, we cruised around viewing what we could by water.

The antique car boats -for lack of a better description were fun to see. The Chain Ferry, although we did not see that actual ferry, still was fun & unique. It is easy to see why so many are drawn here.

Fun Facts:

The Chain Ferry is the last hand-cranked cable ferry of its kind left in the US.

Saugatuck's nickname is the Art Coast of Michigan.

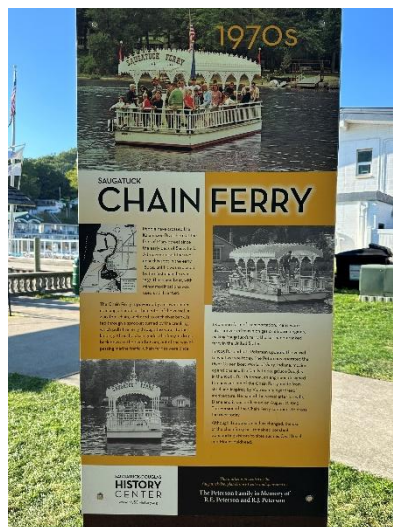
The Saugatuck Chain Ferry is a hand-cranked chain ferry that crosses the Kalamazoo River in Saugatuck, Michigan. It connects downtown Saugatuck to Mount Baldhead Park and Oval Beach. Google

Nearby, Saugatuck once harbored a bustling 19th-century lumber town named Singapore. Founded in 1837, it was eventually buried entirely by shifting sand dunes after surrounding forests were clear-cut to help rebuild Chicago following the Great Fire of 1871. Google.

Saugatuck City Hall: (shown in the video)

History & Architecture

- **Original Construction:** Began in 1880 originally functioning as the village firehouse with meeting rooms located on the second floor.
- **Colonial Revival Redesign:** Redesigned in 1926 by architect Carl Hoerman during a community-wide beautification campaign, giving the building its signature side pilasters, recessed portico, and arched windows.
- **Cultural Significance:** The upper floor served as the village's very first art exhibition gallery and now functions as the official village council room.





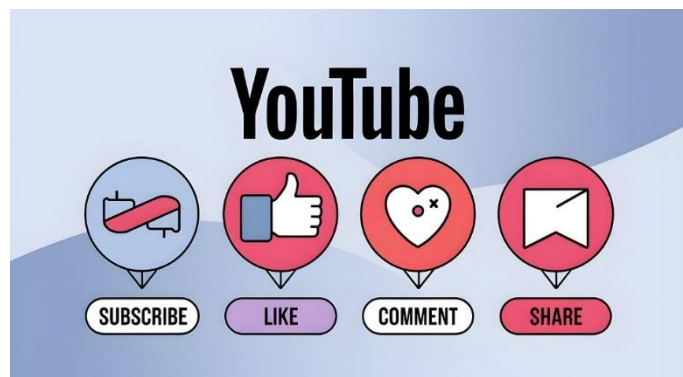
Kalamazoo Lighthouse (photo is the replica). \$5,000 was appropriated for the lighthouse back in 1837. <https://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=1773>

Daily Summary:

Departed from Holland, MI @ 11:04 am
 Arrived at Saugatuck, MI @ 12:12 pm
 Days cruised: 67 Days on the loop: 98
 Hours traveled: 1 hour 7 mins
 Nautical Miles Traveled: 7.26 (1,550.18 total miles)
 Average Speed: 5.8 knots
 Weather: 75 degrees, sunny, light breeze
 Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Holland, south side right next to channel, good hold, quiet overnight, not near any services
 #of locks we went through: (73 total locks)



<https://youtu.be/vYlybTxXtJw>



Time is unrenwable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!