

Trivia Questions

1. **Did you know that sturgeon are prehistoric fish?** Their existence dates back 135 million years!
2. **Did you know that the Grand River is the longest river in the state of Michigan?** It spans 252 miles from Hillsdale County to Grand Haven.
3. **Did you know the Grand River has another name?** The Anishinaabek – the Odawa, Ojibwa and Potawatomi people – are the original inhabitants of this area and they named the river Owashtanong, which means “far-flowing river.”
4. **Did you know that residents and businesses once used the river as a sewer?** Ewww! It’s true! For nearly a century, starting in the mid 1800s, the river was contaminated by logging waste, mixed oil and gas, industrial waste and even sewage. Thankfully, that’s changed. Today the river is cleaner and healthier than it’s been in many years.
5. **Did you know that more than 1,000 Grand Rapids Public Schools eighth graders spend time in the Grand River each year?** The City’s Parks and Recreation Department and Grand Rapids Public Schools partner with Wilderness Inquiry so students can learn about the river and paddle handcrafted canoes in the Riverside Park lagoon.
6. **Did you know there are public fitness stations along the river?** You can find exercise equipment that includes cross ellipticals, a hand cycler, airwalkers and more in Sixth Street Park and Canal Park.
7. **Did you know that sturgeon can live as long as – or even longer – than humans?** While male sturgeons live for around 55 years, female sturgeons can live 80 to 150 years!
8. **Did you know a single sea lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of Great Lakes fish?** That’s why a special barrier, an Adjustable Hydraulic Structure (AHS), is being planned to keep this invasive, parasitic species from migrating upstream and harming our local fish population.
9. **Did you know the Grand River helped Grand Rapids become known as “Furniture City”?** The river not only served as the method of transporting logs, but it also powered the mills that processed trees into lumber. This helped the local furniture industry flourish and Grand Rapids gain its worldwide reputation for high-quality furniture.
10. **Did you know the Grand River is considered one of the finest fishing rivers in Michigan?** You can find brown trout, coho, steelhead, sunfish, blue gill, small mouth bass, channel catfish and many more species of fish in the river.
11. **Did you know there are at least 27 species of freshwater mussels in the lower Grand River?** These include the federally endangered Snuffbox Mussel, whose presence is a

considered a sign of higher water quality in the river. Snuffbox Mussels will be temporarily relocated during work on the river and their habitats improved to help restore their population.

12. **Did you know you can walk along the river right in Downtown Grand Rapids?** There is a 2.1 mile loop that crosses back and forth over the river via pedestrian bridges, links parks, museums, the planetarium, and other attractions. Plus there are plans to create connected paths on each side of the river by constructing new trails and widening existing trails. Imagine traveling from the northern tip of the city to the southern edge all along the riverfront!