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## **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ENDORSES FALL COLOR PADDLE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Holly, Michigan) Canoeing on a Michigan river can be the highlight of our state's spectacular fall season. That is why the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness has endorsed the October 3 paddle on the new Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail as a great way to enjoy outdoor Michigan.

Headwaters Trails invites canoeists and kayakers to begin a seven mile paddle at WaterWorks Park in Holly in northwest Oakland County at 1pm on Saturday, October 3. This free "Canoeing in Color" event will challenge participants to make their way along a twisting segment of the Shiawassee River and experience the beauty of a wild river not far from major population centers.

At 12:30 there will be a formal opening of the new paddling trail. Signage funded by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network will be unveiled at 690 S. Broad Street, the trailhead for the Heritage Water Trail in Holly. These artistic signs designed by Gayle Vandercook highlight the importance of the Shiawassee River in the Saginaw Bay Watershed and provide detailed maps for trail users.

Nature enthusiasts, canoeists, kayakers, and anyone interested in enjoying Michigan outdoors at its best are invited. Canoe and kayak rentals will be available on site with advance registration through Heavner Canoe Rental, Telephone (248) 685-2379. Return transportation from the finish in Fenton to the Holly starting point will be provided for \$5.00.

Sue Julian, president of Headwaters Trails, said "We are really excited about the completion of this river trail. It's through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers that this has become a reality. It's a great way to enjoy nature close to home. Not many people know that they have this wonderful natural resource for fun and fitness at their backdoor."

Headwaters Trails, Inc. is a non-profit group dedicated to the construction of a network of trails for walkers, bicyclists, hikers, paddlers, and equestrian enthusiasts in northwest Oakland County's Headwaters region. A volunteer will answer questions about the scenic paddle event at 248-634-3513 and respond to inquiries about the other proposed regional recreational activities.

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