

# Joining Jordan

## Pedestrian Pathway



2021 Awards of Excellence Nomination  
Builders Exchange of Northwest Michigan

**BACKGROUND**

Over the past decade, the City of East Jordan has been taking steps to pave the way for major economic development.

A new wastewater treatment plant and water tower provided necessary infrastructure for future City expansion. A new municipal boat launch and recent City parks improvements provide valuable and attractive public spaces. However, the most iconic project was a waterfront pedestrian boardwalk that links the residential and downtown districts on each side of the Jordan River - a project appropriately titled “Joining Jordan.”

Joining Jordan was conceptualized through the East Jordan Sub-Area Waterfront Planning process, which included multiple public and stakeholder meetings, and identified this linkage as a priority for the area and future development.

**DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

There had long been a bridge across the Jordan River, which divides the east and west sides of town. However, it was not bicycle or pedestrian friendly and did not allow for safe pedestrian movement from one side to the other. Often, people would get in their cars and drive instead of walking or biking along the waterfront. Either way, it reduced casual strolling or shopping throughout the downtown district and created a physical barrier along the shores of Lake Charlevoix.

Through the design process, an emphasis was put on walkability, pedestrian circulation, and access along the waterfront and City corridors. The pedestrian boardwalk crossing stretches from the downtown marina and across the Jordan River to a new waterfront public space.



*The project includes boardwalk and pedestrian pathways, waterfront pavilions, improved non-motorized circulation, and amenities for users of all types.*

**FUNDING**

Spearheaded by the East Jordan Downtown Development Authority and with assistance from Gosling Czubak, Joining Jordan was funded in large part by a \$2.2M grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through a Community Development Block Grant program in 2020. The East Jordan Downtown Development Authority provided a 10% grant match.



### HIGHLIGHTS

The project includes boardwalk and pedestrian pathways, two waterfront pavilions, improved non-motorized circulation, and amenities for users of all types. A new public waterfront space with benches and bicycle storage can be accessed by boardwalk trail, dotted with seven complementary art sculptures.

