

Appendix A

Our Water Newsletter

Website

cleargeneseewater.org

gcdcswm.com

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GCD Program Details

Septic Brochure

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GCD Education Program Brochure

Partner Newsletters

Other Water Programs

Genesee County Parks Programs

Articles



MDEQ

June 13 / October 1 meetings

On June 13 and October 1 the new permit advisory group met with the MDEQ to go over the new 2013-2017 permit. The biggest change for Genesee County Communities and Nested Jurisdictions is there is no more watershed permits. All new permits issued will be individual permits. Communities can still work together and combine services, but each permit will be custom to each permittee. Instead of filling out a brief application and then spelling out the details of your Certificate of Coverage (COC) in your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI), now all those details will have to be included in the application process so each community permit can be customized. Recognizing that the application process will be much more labor intensive, the MDEQ has decided to phase in the permits over several years. Instead of applying for the new 2013 permit this year, the Flint River Watershed area will go through the application / permit process in 2014-15. This also means that your community will continue to be covered under the 2003 permit until the new permit takes effect some time in 2015.

SWPPI

On June 11, 2012 the MDEQ sent the Drain office a letter with concerns and comments on the County's SWPPI that was resubmitted in Oct 2011. Our office and Tetra Tech met with Stephanie Kammer of the MDEQ and went over those concerns. Based on the letter and our meeting the County's SWPPI was revised and resubmitted in July. Once the County's SWPPI has been accepted, the local communities can expect to see a letter from the MDEQ to revise their SWPPI. Sue from the Drain Commissioner's Office will be available to assist with any SWPPI related concerns.

Annual Report

On July 27, 2012 the MDEQ sent out a letter to permittees notifying them that effective October 1, 2012, the progress report for the NPDES PH II permit will change from annual to biennial (every other year). This is often referred to as the annual report. For continuity the Drain Commissioner's Office sent out questionnaires this October to the Communities and Nested Jurisdictions to report on their activities from Oct 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Permittees were requested to fill out the questionnaire and keep it for submission in 2013. Nested Jurisdictions were requested to fill out the questionnaire and submit it to the Drain Commissioner's Office. Next fall another annual questionnaire will be sent out and both this years and next's will then be submitted together to the State as the biennial progress report.

Public Education

Public Education Booth

Once again in August, we spent the week at the County Fair educating the public on water quality. Thank you to all the community volunteers that took a shift and help educate. This year we made a new arrangement with the Conservation district to provide staff to work the education booth both at the Fair and at other events. It has worked out great. Last year we were able to speak to 662 people, but with the beautiful weather and the additional staff to support the volunteers we were able to double that number and speak to over 1334 people at the fair. Also this fall we had a presence at the CRIM races for the first time and have had the booth at both the Flint and Grand Blanc Farmers Markets.

Riparian Meetings

Once again we offered free workshops to riparian land owners. For those residents that live on the water, specifically this year those who live on the Swartz Creek, Misteguay Creek or the Lower Flint River, they may have different concerns than residents that do not live on the water. Over the years we have spoken to many riparian landowners that are concerned about bank erosion, nuisance animals such as beavers and their dams, and more recently garbage and debris stockpiling in the water. These workshops have provided us the opportunity to meet with residents in small groups and discuss their specific concerns, and possible solutions.

IDEP

As we close on the 2011-12 fiscal year we have completed a significant portion of the IDEP dry weather screening. All of the Phase II permittees, except those listed below have had their outfalls mapped and dry weather screened. If an Illicit connection is confirmed a letter is sent to all affected parties, the property owner, the local community, the State of Michigan DEQ, and any other enforcement agencies such as the Health Department. Once the illicit connection is eliminated, the Drain Commissioner's Office will follow up to confirm the illicit connection has been eliminated.

An Illicit connection or an isolated dumping is often found through methods other than dry weather screening. Such as a resident can call reporting an incident, or an employee can witness a potential illicit connection while out in the field for another reason. Once you are notified of a potential illicit connection, a record must be kept even if you are not the enforcing authority. The monitoring and Mapping Subcommittee has created a spill notification form for your convenience. The form can be found on our website at the following address http://www.gcdcswm.com/PhaseII/Permit_Forms/Permit_Form.htm or in the IDEP plan as an attachment. These records should be kept, so you can include them in your annual report.

Due to the number of outfalls involved, not all Genesee County and City of Burton outfalls have been mapped and dry weather screened.

As part of the IDEP mapping, all the nested jurisdictions under Genesee County have been sent a letter this month requesting maps of their storm sewer systems. Starting this fall the County through Tetra Tech will be scheduling on site physical inspections for nested jurisdictions to review the storm operation and maintenance procedures. This program will not affect Local communities.

The NPDES Ph II permit program had 2 types of permits. The jurisdictional permit and the watershed permit. Currently all Genesee County NPDES Ph II permittees have a watershed permit. Under the new permit cycle, the only permit available will be the Jurisdictional. This may change the interpretation on some of the current permit requirements. As has been the trend, this change to a jurisdictional permit will require each permittee to take more ownership of their individual permit. We will and can continue to work together, but as the permit holder the State holds the individual permittee responsible for all the requirements within their permit, regardless of who performs those requirements. The new permit cycle is 2013-2018, but since the State cannot process all the permittees in 2013, they are staggering the dates for application based on watersheds. For Genesee County communities, that means that in 2014 we will be reapplying for a new permit effective in 2015.

- **Fall 2013: New permit training by MDEQ**
- Winter 2013: Meetings with MDEQ
- April 1, 2014: Applications for new permit due
- Fall 2014: approval of application. Effective 2015

Although there will be few overall changes to how we implement the Ph II program, the new permit will have differences.

- February 13, 2013: The State sent out a letter to permittees, in regards to IDEP dry weather screening. Under the new permit, the permittee may ask for alternatives to the dry weather screening. If an alternative approach was approved under the new permit, there may be savings for communities with a large number of repetitive outfalls.
- Communities would only be responsible for testing the MS4's they own and operate within an urbanized area. The map on the back of this page shows the current urbanized area. This requirement will not affect the cities, but may affect a few of the Townships.

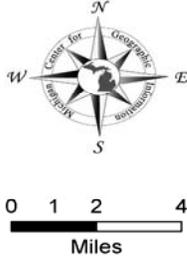
Stephanie Kammer of the MDEQ spoke to the Storm Water Advisory Group (SWAG) at the May 15 regular meeting. Topics included:

- Post construction controls.
- Permit Fee Appeal
- New Permit

The State of Michigan will be performing NPDES Ph II audits this year on City of Davison in April, Genesee County will begin in May and depending on the timing there may be a third audit of a local permittee this year. Additional audits will be held in 2014.

Stephanie Kammer sent out an e-mail to the Communities. Those that wish to file a fee appeal request may see a reduction on their annual permit fees to the state.

FLINT URBANIZED AREA 2000 CENSUS



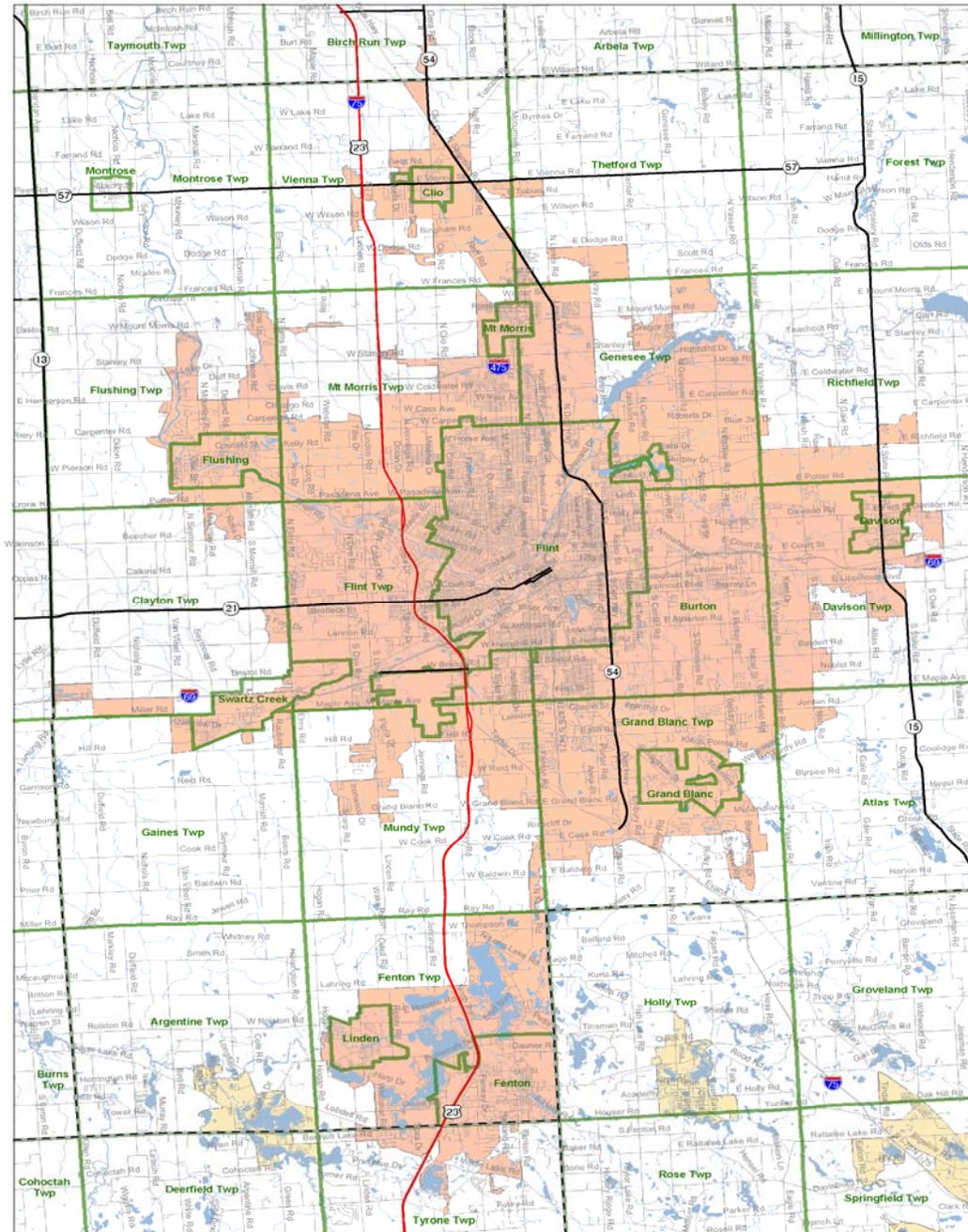
GEOGRAPHY

- Urbanized Area (area of interest)
- Other UA or UC
- Lakes / Rivers
- Hydrography
- County Boundary
- Minor Civil Division
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Roads

Urban Area Population: 365,096



Produced by
Michigan Center for Geographic Information
Department of Information Technology
May 2002



SOURCE: Urban Areas from U.S. Census Bureau TIGERLine, 2002.
Basemap from Michigan Geographic Framework, 2002.

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http://www.cleargeneseewater.org/index.html

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Let's make one thing
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our water
Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

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Welcome to the *Our Water* website, your portal to all information related to Genesee County's clean water initiatives. Here you will find information about upcoming events, USEPA's Phase II program, maps of Genesee County's watersheds, tips for keeping our water clean, and much more...

Who are we?
The Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium is a collection of municipalities, school districts, county organizations, and non-profits charged with overseeing the "Our Water" public education activities. These committed people work to bring awareness, to educate, and to promote stewardship on ways to prevent stormwater pollution and keep our water clean. See the "Partners" section for more information about participating organizations.

And remember -
Let's keep one thing perfectly clear, our water!

Remember, storm drains lead to our lakes and rivers!

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Glossary of Terms
Helpful Links
Newsletters
PowerPoint Presentation
Reporting

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For More Information, please contact
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Let's make one thing
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our water

Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium



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Our Water Overview

In 2001, the communities of Genesee County partnered with the Genesee County Drain Commission to coordinate and apply for the required NPDES Phase II permits. Phase II is an EPA effort to protect, preserve, and improve our water resources. Phase II not only includes drain permitting but also has a public education component. When Genesee County communities were faced with meeting this mandate, they expressed their preference for the County to take the lead. Thus, Genesee County designated the Drain Commissioner's Office as the agency responsible for engaging in watershed management activities and establishing a system of stormwater management services under Act 342, Public Acts of Michigan, 1939. Although not all of the communities located within Genesee County are regulated under the NPDES Phase II program, all the communities have signed a contract with the Genesee County Drain Commission. Genesee County's public education component of the Phase II program has been branded the *Our Water Campaign*. Currently the Genesee County Water Quality Consortium, a collection of municipalities, school districts, county organizations and non-profits, is working to implement the *Our Water Campaign*.

More Information

- Overview
- What is NPDES?
- Why is NPDES needed?
- Who's Involved
- Decision-Making Structure
- Educational Components

- Contact Us
- Glossary of Terms
- Helpful Links
- Newsletters
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Reporting



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our water
Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

Upcoming Events
Oct 26, 2013 10 AM to 2 PM - HHW Collection day [Flyer](#)
Locations:
Davison HS, 1250 N. Oak Rd (HHW, e-waste, tires)
Flint East- WSC, 3310 East Court St (HHW, e-waste, tires)

Past Events
Riparian Landowner Workshop [Flyer](#) [Presentation Materials](#)
Aug 26, 2013- Grand Blanc Library: 6:30 PM-8 PM
Aug 28, 2013- Camp Copneconic: 6:30 PM-8 PM

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Resources

- What is a Watershed?
- For Businesses
- For Kids
- For Municipalities
- For Residents
- For Teachers
- Our Water "Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water" brochure

- Contact Us
- Glossary of Terms
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- Reporting

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our water

Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

Partners

Municipal
Genesee County has 31 municipalities.
Link to all municipal governments and their contact information: www.co.genesee.mi.us/municipalities.htm

County
Genesee County Administration
1101 Beach Street
Flint, MI 48502
Telephone Directory: www.co.genesee.mi.us/telephone_directory.htm
Website: www.co.genesee.mi.us

Genesee County Drain Commission
4608 Beecher Rd
Flint, MI 48532
Phone: (810) 732-1590
Fax: (810) 732-1474
After Hours Emergency: 810-732-2940
Website: www.gdcswm.com

State
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973
Phone: (517) 373-7917
Staff Directory: www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714-13151--,00.html
Website: www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714--,00.html

Non-profit/University

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The Genesee County Drain Commissioner remains committed to the conservation and maintenance o - Internet...

http://www.gdcswm.com/default.htm

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The Genesee County Drain Commissioner remains co...

WELCOME
To The
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Surface Water Management

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[Assessment](#)
[Our Water Program \(NPDES II\)](#)
[Design Standards & Forms](#)
[Maps](#)
[Drain Code](#)
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The Genesee County Drain Commissioner remains committed to the conservation and maintenance of existing natural areas, farmlands, and the redevelopment of our urban areas for the 21st Century. As part of the Commissioner's Goals, The Surface Water Management Division is working toward reducing impairment of our water resources caused by stormwater runoff while addressing the problems caused by flooding and inadequate drainage systems.

Jeff Wright, Drain Commissioner

The **Surface Water Management** Division operates and maintains the drainage systems created by Act 40 Public Acts of 1956 (Drain Code). There are currently over 1400 districts established within Genesee County. (Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners produced a video about the role of Michigan the Drain Commissioners. Click [here](#) to view video.)

The Division also constructs and maintains those Lake Level Controls on rivers and water bodies within Genesee County as designated by the Board of Commissioners. There are currently 11 controls.

The Drain Commissioner is the designated county agency for stormwater management by the Board of Commissioner's and coordinates the efforts in the Watershed Management for the County under the NPDES Phase II requirements.

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NPDES Phase II - Internet Explorer, optimized for Bing and MSN

http://www.gcdswm.com/PhaseII/npdes_pl

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NPDES Phase II

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NPDES Phase II

The Federal Clean Water Act required that municipalities identified by the EPA obtain stormwater permits under the **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit program. In the State of Michigan the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) manages that permit program. The first phase (Phase I) of the program affected municipalities with population in excess of 100,000. In Genesee County only the City of Flint met those requirements. With the development of Phase II of the program the municipalities asked that the Drain Commissioner coordinate an effort on their behalf to comply with the permit requirements.

In 2001 the Genesee County Board of Commissioners designated the Drain Commissioner the County Agency under **Act 342 of 1939** for the purpose of stormwater management. The communities of Genesee County along with the County entered into a contract to jointly develop and obtain the required permits.

[Genesee County Permit Overview](#) , published in [MACDC Pipeline](#)

[Watersheds](#) [SWPPI's & Training](#) [Survey Results](#)
[Ph II Permit & Forms](#) [Low impact Development Manual \(LID\)](#) [Annual Reports](#)

www.ClearGeneseeWater.org

Subcommittees

<u><i>Monitoring and Mapping</i></u> City of Fenton - Dan Czarniecki City of Montrose - Everett Persall City of Mt. Morris - Jake LaFursey City of Swartz Creek - Tom Svrcek Argentine Township - Bob Cole Davison Township - Kurt Soper Flushing Township - Terry Peck Gaines Township - Paul Fortino Mt. Morris Township - Gerald Deloney Village of Gaines - Thomas Keech Village of Lennon-Larry Widigan	<u><i>Public Education</i></u> City of Burton - Paula Zelanko City of Clio - William Kovi City of Davison - Michael Hart Clayton Township - Rick Caruso Flint Township - Karyn Miller Forest Township - Valerie Pace Mundy Township - Dave Guigear Thetford Township - Clyde How d Vienna Township - Bob Palmer Village of Otisville - David Tatro	<u><i>New Construction Standards</i></u> City of Flushing - Dennis Bow City of Grand Blanc - Matt Wurts City of Linden - Scott Fairbanks Atlas Township - Shirley Jones Fenton Township - Boronie Mathis Genesee Township - Steven Fuhr Grand Blanc Township - Mikki Hoffman Montrose Twp - Mark Emmendorfer Richfield Township - Joe Madore Village of Goodrich -
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*Phase II communities are in **Bold**

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Delivery Mechanism / Activity	Public Education Topics	Target Audience(s)	Key Message	Standard of Effectiveness (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Audience (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Message(s) (recommended)	Milestone(s) (recommended)	Timetable / Timeline		Responsible Party	Cost (recommended)	Evaluation
								Development	Implementation			
Road/stream crossing and watershed signs	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location	Public, Residents, Visitors	Educate on specific watershed. Waterbodies the public can affect.	Get 50% of people to know the stream names and that they are in a watershed	Drivers and passengers, visitors going by specific sign	Entering a watershed; specific waterbodies; and watershed website	Increase in number of people recognizing the watershed and waterbodies they live in or passing by	Signs have been installed beginning in 2008	will continue to install until reached 200 sites, approx 400 to 600 signs, then maintain existing signs	SWM/ Road Commission	\$3,000/yr	Measure the number of residents that went to the website based on the information on the sign; social survey response
Watershed Maps	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	School Children, Teachers	Definition of a watershed - Educate on Specific Watershed the public can affect, purpose for protecting the watershed. Effects of human activities on waterways, illicit discharge, what is it? Promoting illicit discharge reporting.	Get 50% of students to know what a watershed is and which one they live in.	Teachers/classrooms	What is a watershed; specific waterbodies; and watershed website	Have maps posted in as many classrooms as possible and discussed in class.	Printed 2010/2011	Distribute to teachers for class use 2010-2013. Reprint and send out upon request after 2013	SWM/CAER	Development - \$780.00 Printing - \$3,000 Promotion - \$910.00/yr Distribution/workshop - \$5,200.00/per session	Number of teachers incorporating lessons into curriculum.
Benthic Monitoring Program	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location	Residents, School Children	Ways that individuals can affect the watershed through their activities. What is the actual condition of our waters?	Maintain current level of sites monitored or expand that number.	Interested volunteers	Your efforts help us to better understand the watershed.	Consistent trends begin to paint a clearer picture of different reaches.	Program has been running for 10 years now.	Twice a year	SWM/FRWC to administer program	\$5,150/yr	No. of volunteers and sites surveyed. Use information to aid decision-making.
Project Green WQ monitoring Program	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	School Children, Teachers	Ways that individuals can affect the watershed through their activities. What is the actual condition of our waters?	Maintain current level of participation or increase number of classrooms.	School children, teachers	Our actions have impacts on local waterways; how to act to better protect adjacent waterbodies.	Increased demand for the program	Program has been running for 12 years now. Last 4 under the FRWC	Yearly	SWM/FRWC to administer program	\$7,500/yr for sampling + private funds Up to \$5,000 for analysis	No. of participating schools and sites surveyed. Use information to aid decision-making. Increased public awareness - social survey.
Display Booth for events	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	Public, public employees	Definition of a watershed - Ways that individuals can affect the watershed through their activities.	Residents adopt the recommended behavior changes.	Home owners, various associations and businesses	Same as "Seven Simple Steps"	Display at 6 functions a year	Developed	Ongoing training of volunteers	SWM/CAER	\$9,500/yr	- Answers to questions on the social survey - Other metrics such as "During catch basin cleanout determine the reduction in the amount of organic debris in the catch basin cleanout materials compared to the previous year."
Website: http://cleargenesee.water.org/	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed 5) Waste management assistance 6) Septic system 7) Benefits of native vegetation 8) Management of riparian lands/maintenance	Public	Have messages on most topics.	Residents adopt the recommended behavior changes.	Permittees, home owners, associations, businesses	Same as key message	Number of hits per year increases.	Developed	Expand site as new material becomes available. Update as needed	SWM	100 hrs a year. Plus periodic costs for updates.	Number of hits on the site Number of times brochure is downloaded.
Conservation District presentation to school districts with Enviroscapes	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	School Children, Teachers	What is a watershed - Importance of a riparian corridor, effects of human activities on waterways and wetlands.	Make presentation to at least 8000 students/ teachers per year	School children	Our actions have impacts on local waterways; how to act to better protect adjacent waterbodies.	Number of presentations per year.	Developed	Schedule presentations annually to reach at least 8000 students/year	SWM/ Conservation District	\$16,000/yr	- Number of presentations, - Answer questions on social survey - Improvement in other metrics
Catch basin stenciling program that includes door to door delivery of brochures	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	Residents, schools, owners and employees of local businesses and industries, boy/girl scouts, volunteers groups	- Storm drains discharge to water bodies - Storm water discharged from separate storm sewer systems does not receive treatment prior to discharge - Impacts of storm water pollutants in the watershed - Knowledge of separate storm water drainage system in a neighborhood and the water body to which the storm water is discharged	Get 10% of the people in the watershed where the catchbasins were labeled to understand where there storm water goes and what the impacts are.	Homeowners; parties distributing brochures and stenciling	Same as key message	Stencil 1000 catch basins/yr - with residents receiving a brochure when stenciling is in their neighborhood	Program began in 2005; materials have been developed	Continue to deliver program plan and brochure in Jan 2010 - 2013	FRWC/CD & SWM maintenance dept.	\$5,300/yr	Phone or mail survey of residents' awareness of the watershed; number of residents that volunteer to stencil storm drains.

Delivery Mechanism / Activity	Public Education Topics	Target Audience(s)	Key Message	Standard of Effectiveness (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Audience (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Message(s) (recommended)	Milestone(s) (recommended)	Timetable / Timeline		Responsible Party	Cost (recommended)	Evaluation
								Development	Implementation			
Creation of an illicit discharge reporting mechanism (See IDEP plan for more information)	3) Public reporting	Public and public employees	What is an illicit discharge? How to report illicit discharge.	Eliminate known illicit discharges to storm drains and waterways	Municipal staff	Report illicit discharges or improper disposal of materials that threaten the water supply using the systems and forms created	Reporting mechanism for IDEP is being used by the communities.	System has been created and is in place	Train staff on procedure	Municipal DPW and/or Water and Sewer Dept. or WWS or Health Dept	Staff costs and phone line charges	Is the illicit discharge reporting mechanism being used.
Distribute brochures promoting the "seven simple steps"	1) Personal watershed stewardship 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	Public and public employees	Actions everyone can take to improve water quality. Effects of residential waste on our waterbodies.	Residents adopt the recommended behavior changes.	All residents	Specific to each of the seven steps: Car Care, proper fertilizing, pet waste, water conservation, HHW, storm drains, earth friendly landscaping	Distribute 2500+ /yr	"Seven Simple Steps" brochure has been developed.	Continue to distribute "seven simple steps" through permittees/ events.	Permittees	\$1,000 every other year	- Answers to questions on the social survey - Other metrics such as "During catch basin cleanout determine the reduction in the amount of organic debris in the catch basin cleanout materials compared to the previous year."
Speakers	1) Personal watershed stewardship 2) Ultimate storm water discharge location & potential impacts 3) Public reporting 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed 5) Waste management assistance 6) Septic system 7) Benefits of native vegetation 8) Management of riparian lands/maintenance	Home owner associations, non-profit groups, rotary clubs...	What is a watershed - Actions everyone can take to improve water quality, effects of residential waste on our waterbodies; and other specific messages (7 simple steps) The talk is broken into segments by topic so each talk can be customized	Residents adopt the recommended behavior changes.	Home owners, various associations and businesses	Same as "Seven Simple Steps"	Address 10+ groups a year	Developed	Train new volunteers to give presentations as needed	CAER/ FRWC	\$2,040/yr	- Answers to questions on the social survey - Other metrics such as "During catch basin cleanout determine the reduction in the amount of organic debris in the catch basin cleanout materials compared to the previous year."
Articles on seven measures to be placed in newsletters, newspaper	1) Personal watershed stewardship 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed	Public, non-profit groups, public employees	What is a watershed - Actions everyone can take to improve water quality, effects of residential waste on our waterbodies; and other specific messages (7 simple steps)	Residents adopt the recommended behavior changes.	Homeowners, businesses, industries	Same as key message	Increase sense of community stewardship and actions taken to protect waterways.	Some have been developed; new articles will be to address timely issues.	Submit articles to group newsletters & newspaper for print	SWM	None	-Articles get published - Responses to the pending social survey
Advertise and distribute flyers about the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	5) Waste management assistance	Public, public employees, businesses	Identification of HHW (household hazardous waste), disposal locations and availability	Increase the number of residents dropping off HHW at events by 10%	Homeowners, businesses (painters, landscapers, etc.)	How and where to dispose of oil-based paint, pesticides, herbicides, etc.	Increase awareness of household hazardous waste and where and when it can be disposed	Develop advertisements/flyers for distribution twice a year	Develop advertisements/flyers for distribution twice a year	All Permittees/ HHW Committee	Cost of advertisement / flyers, staff time, and hazardous waste disposal costs	Track the number of residents and the amount of waste collected during Hazardous Household Waste Collection Days.
Educational materials for Homeowners With Septic Systems to be Given at "Time of Sale". Main Topic: Septic System Maintenance.	6) Septic system maintenance	Homeowners, public employees, realtors, haulers, inspectors	Proper septic system care and maintenance, how to recognize a system failure, impact of failure, where to go for assistance.	Educate septic system owners on proper care and maintenance, recognizing a failure and correcting	Septic system owners	How to properly maintain your septic system	Educate septic system owners on the proper care and maintenance of their systems and how to recognize failing systems.	Information has been developed. Delivery mechanism is being worked out.	Printing and distribute materials beginning in 2009 through communities & real estates agents.	SWM/CAER and TBD	300 - 500 hours *printing - \$3000.00 Mail/distribution - \$1500.00 (estimated until 2013)	Results of septic system owner survey.
River walks	1) Personal watershed stewardship 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed 8) Management of riparian lands	Public, landowners	Purpose for protecting the watershed, ways that individuals can affect the watershed through their activities, improving water quality and habitat and benefits to all.	Realize an increase in the use of the riparian corridor and a corresponding increase of volunteering/ stewardship of the waterbodies	Any resident	People that use the waterbodies for recreation are going to want to protect the waterbodies	Increase in volunteerism	Already ongoing	Schedule events for 2010 to 2013	SWM/FRWC	\$2,500/yr	- The number on new people participating in each event. - An increase in the plantings of native veg.
Canoe trips	1) Personal watershed stewardship 4) Personal actions that can impact watershed 8) Management of riparian lands	Public, landowners	Purpose for protecting the watershed, ways that individuals can affect the watershed through their activities, improving water quality and habitat and benefits to all.	Realize an increase in the use of the riparian corridor and a corresponding increase of volunteering/ stewardship of the waterbodies	Any resident	People that use the waterbodies for recreation are going to want to protect the waterbodies	Increase in volunteerism	Already ongoing	Schedule events for 2010 to 2013	SWM/FRWC	\$4,000/yr	- The number on new people participating in each event. - An increase in the plantings of native veg.

Delivery Mechanism / Activity	Public Education Topics	Target Audience(s)	Key Message	Standard of Effectiveness (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Audience (recommended)	Mechanism Specific Message(s) (recommended)	Milestone(s) (recommended)	Timetable / Timeline		Responsible Party	Cost (recommended)	Evaluation
								Development	Implementation			
Flushing nature park native vegetation presentations	7) Benefits of native vegetation	Public, groups	Using native plants, benefits to habitat and water quality	Realize an increase in the use of native plants	Public, groups	Go native – use native plant species to protect the environment by improving water quality and creating wildlife habitat	Adoption of native planting throughout the community	Already ongoing. Section on native species and invasive species has been added.	Schedule events for 2010 to 2013	Flushing nature park	Nature park staff time	The number of people attending presentations
Mail information to riparian landowners and promote workshop to landowners on landscape improvements to protect waterways.	7) Benefits of native vegetation 8) Management of riparian lands	Riparian landowners, developers, contractors	- Importance of riparian corridors - BMPs for riparian lands - Protection through use of conservation easements - Lawn maintenance for water quality - Landscaping for water quality - Shoreline stabilization techniques - Native vegetation alternative	Get 20% of residential riparian landowners to learn how to better manage the land.	Lake and stream associations, riparian land owners	How to properly manage and dispose of grass, leaf and animal wastes; how to improve your property to better protect adjacent waterbodies.	Educate the number of riparian land owners and related businesses in the knowledge of how to protect banks from erosion and water quality. Educate 25% by 2012 and 50% by 2015	1st mailing of information occurred in 2009.	Deliver all presentations by Dec 2015	SWM/CAER	Develop mail out info - \$365.00 (one time) Mailing - \$600.00/yr Develop workshop - \$1950.00 (one time) Deliver workshop - \$2,250.00 per time	Number of information packets mailed out. Results of survey given after each presentation Number of Landscape improvements
Workshop to landowners on landscape improvements to protect waterways.	7) Benefits of native vegetation 8) Management of riparian lands	Riparian landowners, developers, contractors	- Importance of riparian corridors - BMPs for riparian lands - Protection through use of conservation easements - Lawn maintenance for water quality - Landscaping for water quality - Shoreline stabilization techniques - Native vegetation alternative	Get 10% of riparian landowners at the workshop with problem banks to correct them by providing technical assistance	Lake and stream associations, riparian land owners	How to properly manage property to better protect adjacent waterbodies through vegetation, permitted improvements	Provide additional education for riparian land owners that want to improve property. Hold workshops in each subwatershed and assist 10% with physical changes.	1st mailing of information occurred in 2009.	Deliver all presentations by Dec 2015	SWM/CAER	Develop mail out info - \$365.00 (one time) Mailing - \$600.00/yr Develop workshop - \$1950.00 (one time) Deliver workshop - \$2,250.00 per time	Number of information packets mailed out. Results of survey given after each presentation Number of Landscape improvements
Presentations on proper disposal of medications and personal care products	4) Personal actions that can impact watershed 9) Entity specific pollutants	Public	Proper disposal of of HHW, specifically medications and personal care products	Get 20% of those educated to utilize HHW program to properly dispose of in landfill	Public	Proper disposal of HHW, specifically medications and personal care products	Educate 10% public on program. Increase use of HHW program	Done	Meetings done. Information on WWS website	Water and Waste Services (WWS)	Staff time	Attendance and website hits
Pub ed workshop on proper disposal of restaurant waste	9) Entity specific pollutants	Business owners	Proper disposal of kitchen waste	Get restaurant owners that have had attended workshop to properly dispose of restaurant waste	Business owners	Proper disposal of kitchen waste	Educate 20% restaurants on program	Have program developed by 2010/2011. Currently talk to each individually	Have workshops in 2011	WWS	Staff time and TBD workshop costs	Attendance to workshop
Operation and maintenance 1/2 day workshop for municipalities, entities and their contractors	9) Entity specific pollutants	Public employees, contractors	Good housekeeping practices and their impact on water quality.	Adoption and recording of goodhousekeeping practices	PowerPt and manual	How to properly manage and maintain public infrastructure and related activities	Educate 50% by 2011 and 100% by 2015; Have maintenance crews adopt maintenance protocols on property by 2013	Training is being developed	1st two sections will be spring 2010	SWM/Tetra Tech	\$6,000/yr	Pass MDNRE inspections

Public education actions managed and performed by contract partners not the PEP sub-committee.

Many of the Public Education actions are performed by other permittees or non-permittee partners. Each permittee is responsible to execute the permitted Public education efforts irregardless of who is actually doing the work.

Taking care of your waterfront land will **save you money** because...

- ◆ Healthy waterfront land serves many functions including water filtration, storage of stormwater, flood control, protection of water quality, nutrient cycling, and protection of shorelines and stream banks. When these areas are compromised, expensive engineering solutions may be required, costing you more money in the future.
- ◆ Waterfront properties that are well-planned and are well-maintained or well-managed may sell for more than average market value.



G-4608 Beecher Rd.
Flint, MI 48532

Let's make one thing
Perfectly Clear.
our water
Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

The Water's Edge

How to protect your waterfront property and its value



Brought to you by the communities of Genesee County

We all know how important water is to us. It's just as important that the water banks are protected as well.

Follow the simple actions described in this brochure to avoid costly maintenance repairs in the future.

During a recent study, members of our field crew were approached by many landowners with questions about how to protect their waterfront property. This brochure was developed to address some of the questions you and your neighbors may have about soil or bank erosion.

Whether you have property next to a lake, river, or stream, you reap benefits from your waterfront land almost daily. Not only is your property value enhanced, but issues important to everybody including water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, and recreation use depend on your healthy, maintained waterfront land.

This brochure was written for the Genesee County *Our Water* Campaign, the public education effort of the Genesee County Water Quality Consortium. The Genesee County Water Quality Consortium is a collection of municipalities. These dedicated people work to bring awareness, to educate and to promote stewardship on ways to prevent stormwater pollution and keep our water clean. Funding for this newsletter was provided by the Genesee County Water Quality Consortium.

Stabilize stream banks and shorelines.

The continued wearing away of soil and sediment from a stream bank or shoreline is called erosion. This process can be accelerated or slowed by the actions we take. Altering land to create open areas along rivers, lakes, and streams can quickly result in erosion of property along the banks. Not only is property lost every time it rains, but when too much soil or sediment enters the nearby lake, river, or stream, it can be considered a pollutant.

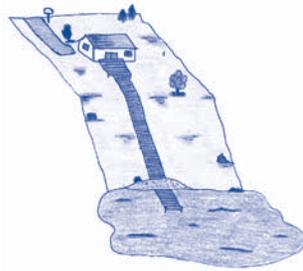
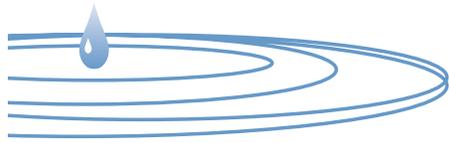
To prevent erosion on your property and save yourself time and money, try these techniques to create a naturalized stream bank or shoreline...

Build plant buffers.

Before your property was developed, your nearby lake, river, or stream was surrounded by native plants, trees, and shrubs that acted as natural water filters and held soil in place. Rooted plants such as wildflowers, shrubs, and trees can stabilize eroding or sensitive slopes.

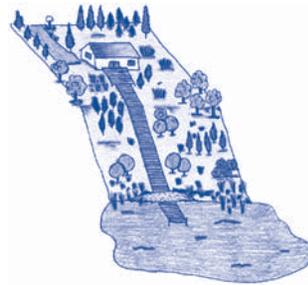
A good buffer strip is wide (30 feet), continuous, and dense with shorter plants nearer the water and taller plants and trees planted further away. Engineered structures like seawalls can reduce animal and plant habitat and are only recommended in erosion-prone locations.

To save yourself time and money, avoid mowing your lawn up to the edge of the water. Letting the lawn closer to the edge of the water grow tall with grasses and shrubs can help stabilize your stream bank or shoreline. Minimize disturbance at the edge of water.



The banks of this property will erode over time because there is little vegetation to keep the stream bank held together.

The banks of this property will not erode over time because there are plant buffers and deep roots to keep the stream bank held together.



What is a plant buffer?

A plant buffer is a strip of trees, shrubs, and other plants along lakes, rivers, and streams that traps runoff before it flows into nearby water bodies. As water seeps through a plant buffer, the plants hold soil, filter out pollutants, regulate water flow, and moderate water temperatures.

Not sure building a buffer is a good choice for your property? Consider these material costs:

- ◆ Maintaining an existing plant buffer = \$0
- ◆ Building a plant buffer = \$10 per foot
- ◆ Installing "riprap" (concrete blocks or large rocks along the edge of water) = \$30-40 per foot
- ◆ Installing a sea wall = \$65-100 per foot

The listed prices are simply cost estimates. Actual costs will depend on many factors including, location, availability of materials, permits, grading, labor, and maintenance.

Keep it legal! Make sure to obtain the proper permits before working along the water's edge. Check with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (1-800-662-9278) and your local township office to see if you need one.

Minimize disturbance at the edge of water.

- ◆ If you have swimming area, try to make it as small as possible.
- ◆ Avoid pulling out aquatic plants. This will save you both time and effort! Plus, aquatic plants provide habitat for local organisms.
- ◆ Also consider mowing only a small trail from your property to your streambank or shoreline.

Mow better and mulch clippings.

- ◆ Keep your grass cut high – set your lawnmower cutting height to 3" to hide clippings, help the grass develop deeper root systems, and defend against weeds and drought.
- ◆ Leave grass clippings on your lawn – they make great natural fertilizer. Leaving them will also save you bagging time!

Don't guess, soil test. A soil test will tell you what, if any, fertilizer is needed in your yard. Contact your Michigan State University Extension county office for more information.

Cover bare spots on your lawn.

- ◆ Establish vegetation on all bare areas.
- ◆ Temporarily stabilize these areas with mulch to minimize erosion.

Create porous walkways.

- ◆ Design paths that follow natural contours to reduce risk and create a more visually interesting landscape.
- ◆ Use porous paving material such as wood decking, bricks, or interlocking stones instead of asphalt or concrete.

Reduce Runoff.

- ◆ Collect and reuse water in rain barrels to water trees, shrubs, and lawn, and save money.
- ◆ Install rain gardens in low areas where water collects.

Remove invasive plants and go native.

- ◆ Use native, low maintenance plants like grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees on your property. Native plants are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizer and water, are more disease resistant, and will attract wildlife.
- ◆ Invasive plants should be removed and replaced with native vegetation. But first, make sure to know about the invasive plants you pull out – you might actually make the problem worse if you don't remove invasive plants properly.

5 Common Southeast Michigan Invasive Plants:

- ◆ Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- ◆ Common Reed or Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)
- ◆ Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)
- ◆ Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- ◆ Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Color images of these five common invasive plants can be found at the *Our Water* Campaign website:

www.ClearGeneseeWater.org/invasiveplants

Information for this riparian landowner's brochure was gathered from the following resources and was adapted for the needs of the Genesee County *Our Water* Campaign.

- ◆ Huron River Watershed Council, Get Buff! Shorelines need muscle to keep our water clean. Informational Handout.
- ◆ Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Riparian Area Management: A Citizen's Guide. Informational Booklet, 2002.
- ◆ Michigan State University Extension, Home*A*Syst: Managing Shoreline Property to Protect Water Quality. Informational Booklet WQ-52, May 1999.
- ◆ Oakland County Drain Commission, Waterfront Wisdom: Healthy Habits for Clean Water. Informational Booklet.
- ◆ Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services, Discovering your Community's Natural Asset. Informational Poster.
- ◆ University of Minnesota Extension Service, Protecting our Waters: Understanding Shoreline BMPs. Factsheets.
- ◆ Genesee County Water Quality Consortium, Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water. Informational Brochure, 2008.

The Water's Edge

How to protect your waterfront property and its value

FREE workshops offered to waterfront landowners in the
Shiawassee River and the Thread Creek Watersheds,

brought to you by the communities of Genesee County.

August 26, 2013 _ 6:30-8:00pm

Grand Blanc District Library, 515 Perry Road, Grand Blanc MI 48439

OR

August 28, 2013 _ 6:30-8:00pm

Camp Copneconic, (in the lounge across from the welcome center) 10407 North Fenton Road, Fenton Twp, MI 48430

Overview:

Genesee County and the communities of Thread Creek, and Shiawassee River (and it's tributaries) Watersheds are fortunate to have an abundance of lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks. Your waterfront land management practices, both good and poor, impact the value of your land and the health of our water. Simple actions taken today can protect your property and our water into the future.

The communities of Genesee County, in partnership with the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office, will be holding two educational workshops for waterfront landowners in these watersheds. These workshops will provide waterfront property owners with a range of low-cost and ecologically-sensitive practices for protecting waterfront property, reducing stream bank and shoreline erosion, and effectively managing stormwater. All workshops are the same, landowners need only to attend one of the workshops. By attending one workshop, participants will learn about a range of opportunities available to improve land management practices and save money. Participants will also walk away with the resources and contacts needed to assist them in protecting their waterfront property and restoring water quality. *Light refreshments will be served.*

Registration Information:

Contact Jeffrey Johnson at (810) 230-8766 Ext 3 or jeffrey.johnson@macd.org to register for ONE of these workshops.

Please RSVP by 5pm on August 21, 2013 – limited space is available.

Event Name: HOME AND GARDEN SHOW
PERANI ARENA

Date: 04/07/2013

CITIES	NUMBERS	
Burton		14
Clio		3
Davison		
Fenton		
Flint		54
Flushing		10
Grand Blanc		4
Linden		3
Montrose		
Mt. Morris		1
Swartz Creek		6
TOWNSHIPS		
Argentine		3
Atlas		5
Clayton		3
Davison		6
Fenton		5
Flint		5
Flushing		3
Forest		2
Gaines		6
Genesee		12
Grand Blanc		15
Montrose		6
Mt. Morris		10
Mundy		5
Richfield		5
Thetford		
Vienna		1
OTHER CO. IN ST		23
OTHER STATES		6



Information Booth: Data Collection

Event Name: FLINT FARMERS MARKET

Date: 06/29/13

CITIES	NUMBERS	
Burton	1	6
Clio		9
Davison		5
Fenton		5
Flint		43
Flushing		15
Grand Blanc		4
Linden		4
Montrose		
Mt. Morris		3
Swartz Creek	1	6
TOWNSHIPS		
Argentine		
Atlas		
Clayton		
Davison		
Fenton		
Flint		6
Flushing		
Forest		
Gaines		
Genesee		
Grand Blanc		5
Montrose		
Mt. Morris		
Mundy		1
Richfield		
Thetford		
Vienna		4
OTHER CO. IN ST		7
OTHER STATES		2

OTHER COUNTRY 1



Information Booth: Data Collection

AUG 12
Rae

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 182

TODAY IT RAINED MOST OF THE DAY!

8/13/2013

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	 /
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest <i>Ortusville</i>	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 238



Information Booth: Data Collection

0 8/14

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 165



Information Booth: Data Collection

8/15

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 184



Information Booth: Data Collection

8/16

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 174



Information Booth: Data Collection

Sat. August 17

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 153



Information Booth: Data Collection

8/18/2013

Event Name: Genesee County Fair

Date: August 12 - 18, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	1 (Oftsville)
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 77



Information Booth: Data Collection

Event Name: The Crim

Date: August ²² 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 328

FLINT CONT. |||



Information Booth: Data Collection

Event Name: The Crim

Date: August ²³ 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	90
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

Total 391

FLINT CONTS |||||



Information Booth: Data Collection

Event Name: The Crim

Date: August 24, 2013

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	1
Fenton	11
Flint	111
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	1
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	111
OTHER STATES	

Total 115

Other Country | 1

Event Name: FLINT FARMERS MARKET

Date: 09/26/13

CITIES	NUMBERS
Burton	
Clio	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Grand Blanc	
Linden	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Swartz Creek	
TOWNSHIPS	
Argentine	
Atlas	
Clayton	
Davison	
Fenton	
Flint	
Flushing	
Forest	
Gaines	
Genesee	
Grand Blanc	
Montrose	
Mt. Morris	
Mundy	
Richfield	
Thetford	
Vienna	
OTHER CO. IN ST	
OTHER STATES	

2013 Storm Drain Stenciling Comments/Feedback/Concerns:

Summarized by Stephanie Nummer, SDS Coordinator 2013

The citizen response to the Storm Drain Stenciling project was quite positive. Several citizens were unaware of the fact that storm drains lead directly to waterways and to the Flint River; citizens also were not aware that dumping can pollute waterways.

In the City of Flint, there was one citizen who thanked us for our efforts and informed us that Montana Avenue by North Averill Street floods with rain. When stenciling this area volunteers noticed that the drains were clogged with leaves and other debris.

The eighth grade students that volunteered in Clio noted how the streets they stenciled were dirty and broken. They also found many drains that were clogged with leaves.

In Grand Blanc several citizens spoke with volunteers and many conversations were struck about how dumping could pollute the water ways. Neighbors in the area had no idea that dumping pollution down a storm drain goes directly to water ways and can eventually make it into our city drinking water. One set of neighbors didn't know that all of the water was connected and didn't realize that they get drinking water from a Michigan waterway.

This year the Flint River Watershed Coalition is sending "thank-you" notes to the volunteer organizations and hopes to get repeat interest from these groups next year.

We also have a great start for 2014. As of right now, there are three scheduled volunteer sessions in the first two weeks of October. In addition, there are three groups that we are working with to pin down an exact volunteering date, and we have one group interested in stenciling in the spring of 2014.

Overall the volunteers were enthusiastic about volunteering with the Storm Drain Stenciling project and said they would enjoy doing it again in the future. Many of the volunteers were excited to learn new information about the environment and ways that they can make a difference about pollution in the Flint River.

FRWC - STORM DRAIN STENCILING

Program completion: 2012 - 2013				Detail for Invoice #212						
#	Date	Municipalities	Groups Participating	Volunteer Demographics	# of Adult	# of Children	Approx. # of Homes	Approx. # of Drains	Locations Requiring Storm Water Awareness	
1	10/4/2012	City of Flint	Private Home School Group	Not available	N/A	N/A	30	15	Woodcroft Estates, Miller Road and surrounding Swartz Crgek Golf Course	
2	7/26/2013	Grand Blanc Twp.	Norris Home School Group	Not available	N/A	N/A	97	15	Wishing Well Subdivison	
3	7/26/2013	Grand Blanc Twp.	Norris Home School Group & Watershed Interns.	Not available	N/A	N/A	52	12	Holly Springs Subdivison	
4	7/30/2013	City of Flint	Flint River Watershed Interns	City of Flint		0	2	20	7	Carriage Town
5	7/30/2013	City of Flint	Flint River Watershed Interns	City of Flint		0	2	130	30	CollegeCultural Neighborhood
6	8/9/2013	City of Flint	Flint River Watershed Interns	City of Flint		0	2	30	6	CollegeCultural Neighborhood
7	8/21/2013	City of Flint	Boys & Girls Club - DNR Workers	City of Flint		5	2	148	24	Wyoming Ave, Colorado Ave, Montana Ave, - Between Averill and Branch Rd
8	8/23/2013	City of Flint	Boys & Girls Club - DNR Workers	City of Flint		5	9	245	38	Henry St, Agree Ave, McClure Ave, Arizona Ave, Wyoming Ave, Colorado Rd - Between Western Rd and Branch Rd
9	9/25/2013	City of Clio (Vienna Twp.)	Clio-Carter 8th Grade Students	City of Clio		2	7	123	33	Poplar St, Clarion St, Rodger Lodge, Buttler St. and Cherry St
10	9/28/2013	City of Grand Blanc (Grand Blanc Twp.)	Nummer Family	Lake Orion, Pontiac and Independence Twp.		4	0	55	18	Via Catherina Dr. between Bella Vista Dr. and Joesph Dr; Joseph Dr. between Bella Vista Dr. and Via Catherina Dr.
<i>Set up After 10/1/2013 - To Be Included in Next Year's Plans and Reports</i>										
1	10/5/2013	Flushing (Flushing Twp.)	Girl Scout Troop	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Location TBD
2	10/7/2013	Grand Blanc Twp. Flushing (Flushing Twp.)	Girl Scout Troop	Pending		2	8	Pending	Pending	Near McGrath Elementary - Exact location TBD
3	10/13/2013	Flushing (Flushing Twp.)	Girl Scout Troop	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Location TBD
4	Pending	Pending	Girl Scout Troop 71019	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Location TBD
5	Pending	Pending	Montrose High School - S.A.V.E	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Location TBD
6	Pending	Pending	Montrose High School - National Honors Society	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Location TBD
7	Spring 2014	Pending	Mott Park Volunteers	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	All of Mott Park Neighborhood



Genesee Conservation District

1525 N. Elms RD. – Flint, MI 48532- Phone (810) 230-8766 Ext. 3

Fax (810) 230-8596 – www.gettrees.org

Your Natural Resource, *Resource!*

July 8, 2013

In the months of April, May, and June the GCD continued facilitating weekly classes (**10** this quarter) at the Boys and Girls Club to promote and educate the youth about the “Our Water Program”, in compliance with the Storm Water Public Education Project – Youth Program. There have been multiple classes held every Friday educating **15 to 20 students per class per week**. Each week students play interactive games and have hands on activities that focus on watersheds, the quality and quantity of water on earth, conservation practices, and ways to identify and report non point source pollution.

June 11, 2013 single visits (**3** this quarter) to the Boys and Girls Club began with the teens. The teens will learn about quality and quantity of water on earth, conservation practices, ways to identify and report non point source pollution, and participate in activities that use their creative abilities to express what they have learned to the community, including Radio/TV PSA, songs, stage play, and storm drain stenciling. The teen program has been scheduled for 9 visits over the course of the summer educating **20 to 30 teens per week**.

June 17, 2013 multiple class visits (**2** this quarter) to U of M Flint began with students aged 7-12. The students will learn about quality and quantity of water on earth, watersheds, conservation practices, ways to identify and report non point source pollution, and the “Seven Simple Steps” to clean water. Classes are held weekly during the course of U of M’s early childhood development summer program educating **15 to 20 students per class per week**. Activities will include storm drain stenciling, a park clean up, interactive games, and participation in the community support initiative.

In class presentations have been held at:

South Western Academy
1420 W 12th St. Flint, MI 48507
10th & 11th Grade Humanities Science Classes
April 18th 2013

Riley Adult / Alternative High School
1149 Klein Beecher, MI 48505
Students Aged 16 to 19
April 22nd 2013

A total of **63** students were reached during these single class visits. They were educated on non point source pollution, the numerous ways we all need and use water, water conservation, and responsible environmental practices. The students were educated using an online game "The Environment Council" in which the students have to work together as city leaders and make environmentally sound decisions about water, water safety, water quality, economics and the citizens of their neighborhood, farm, park, and city. The students receive a score at the end of the game to track the success of their decisions. Once the activities were done the students received a brochure on the "Seven Simple Steps" to take home and share with their families.

The GCD staffed and attended three public events in compliance with the Storm Water Public Education Project - General Education Program:

Home and Garden Show
April 6th & 7th, 2013 at Perani Arena – Flint
A total of **539** individuals were reached at this event.

Earth Day Celebration
April 13th, 2013 at U of M – Flint
A total of **136** individuals were reached at this event.

Flint Farmers Market
June 29th, 2013 at Farmers Market – Flint
A total of **126** individuals were reached at this event.



Genesee Conservation District

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Fax (810) 230-8596 – www.gettrees.org

Your Natural Resource, *Resource!*

September 30, 2013

In the months of July, August, and September the GCD continued facilitating weekly classes (6 this quarter) at the Boys and Girls Club to promote and educate the youth about the “Our Water Program”, in compliance with the Strom Water Public Education Project – Youth Program. There have been multiple classes held every Friday educating **15 to 20 students per class per week**. Each week students play interactive games and have hands on activities that focus on watersheds, the quality and quantity of water on earth, conservation practices, ways to identify and report non-point source pollution and the “Seven Simple Steps” to clean water.

Single visits (5 this quarter) to the Boys and Girls Club were held with the teens. The teens learned about quality and quantity of water on earth, conservation practices, ways to identify and report non point source pollution, and participate in activities that use their creative abilities to express what they have learned to the community; including Radio/TV PSAs, songs, stage play, and storm drain stenciling. The teen program was administered over the course of the summer educating **20 to 30 teens per week**.

Multiple class visits (9 this quarter) to U of M Flint were held with students aged 7-12. The students learned about quality and quantity of water on earth, watersheds, conservation practices, ways to identify and report non-point source pollution, and the “Seven Simple Steps” to clean water. Classes were held weekly during the course of U of M’s “Growing Up Green” early childhood development summer program educating **15 to 20 students per class per week**. Activities included interactive games, shooting a PSA TV commercial with both classes, and participation in the community support initiative.

On site presentations have been held at:

Freeman Elementary

4001 Ogema Ave. Flint, MI 48507

2nd Grade class – September 19th, 2013

3rd Grade class – September 18th, 2013

4th Grade class – September 19th, 2013

5th Grade class – September 24th, 2013

6th Grade class – September 18th, 2013

New Standard School

2040 W. Carpenter Rd. Flint, MI 48505

2nd – 4th Grade

July 17th, 24th, 31st, & August 7th, 2013

Montague Elementary

344 W. Mt. Morris Rd. Mt. Morris, MI 48458

K – 5th Grade

July 16th, & 23rd, 2013

Camp Copneconic

10407 North Fenton Rd. Fenton Township, MI 48430

Students aged 8 – 12

July 16th & August 6th, 2013

Crim Health and Fitness Summer Camp

Max Brandon Park Flint, MI 48505

Students aged 5 – 15

July 30th, August 6th, 13th, & 20th, 2013

Howard Estates

1928 Howard Ave. Flint, MI 48503

Students aged 5 – 12

July 25th, July 30th

A total of **66** classes were held during this fiscal year, educating an average of **20 - 25** students per class during these single and multiple class visits. They were educated on non point source pollution, the numerous ways we all need and use water, water conservation, and responsible environmental practices. The students were educated using online games (**Discoverwater.org**), hands on activities (**Build your own Watershed**), and games that demonstrated the water cycle (**Water Cycle Relay Race**), filtering water (**Filter the Pollution**), storm water runoff, and non – point source pollution (**A-maze-ing Water**). The students were also allowed to share the knowledge and information they'd learned with others in the community (Community Support Initiative), using PSA commercials written by the students, "Water Deputy" graduation badges, and citations to issue as they deemed necessary.

A total of 8 storm drain stenciling projects were completed in compliance with the Storm Water Public Education Project – Storm Drain Stenciling:

Youthquest – Montague Elementary School

July 16, 2013

Red Maple Dr. – Read Ave. – Walnut St. – Spruce St. – Oak St. – Beach St.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458

Man UP Community Service

July 26, 2013

Pinehill Pl. – Applehill Ct. – Redwood Dr. – Warner Rd. – Pinewood Ct. – Pinewood Dr.
Flushing, MI 48433

Boys & Girls Club

July 26, 2013

McClure Ave. from Averill to Branch – Arizona Ave. from Branch to Averill
Flint, MI 48506

Howard Estates Kids Club

July 30, 2013

Howard Estates Property
Flint, MI 48503

Crim Summer Camp

August 20, 2013

Half of Max Brandon Park
Flint, MI 48505

Burton Area Jaycees

September 25, 2013

Half of Max Brandon Park
Flint, MI 48505

Job Corps

September 26, 2013

Tuxedo Ave. – Edith Ave. – Victoria Ave. – Simcoe Ave. – Barrie Ave. – Bloor Ave.
Flint, MI 48507

Job Corps

September 30, 2013

Woodlawn Park Dr. – Brookside Dr. – Ridgelawn Ave. – Brookwood Dr.
Flint, MI 48503

One article has been published in the Genesee Conservation District fall newsletter pertaining to the "Our Water" program which has been distributed to over **2,500** Genesee County residents.

The GCD staffed and attended five public events in compliance with the Storm Water Public Education Project - General Education Program:

Genesee County Fair

August 12th & 18th, 2013 at Genesee County Fair Grounds – Mt. Morris
A total of **1,173** individuals were reached at this event.

Crim Health and Fitness Expo

August 22nd – 24th, 2013 at The Riverfront Conference Center – Flint
A total of **834** individuals were reached at this event.

Grand Blanc Farmers Market

September 22nd, 2013 at Farmers Market – Grand Blanc
A total of **71** individuals were reached at this event.

Flint Farmers Market

September 26th, 2013 at Farmers Market – Flint
A total of **74** individuals were reached at this event.

Applewood Harvest Fest

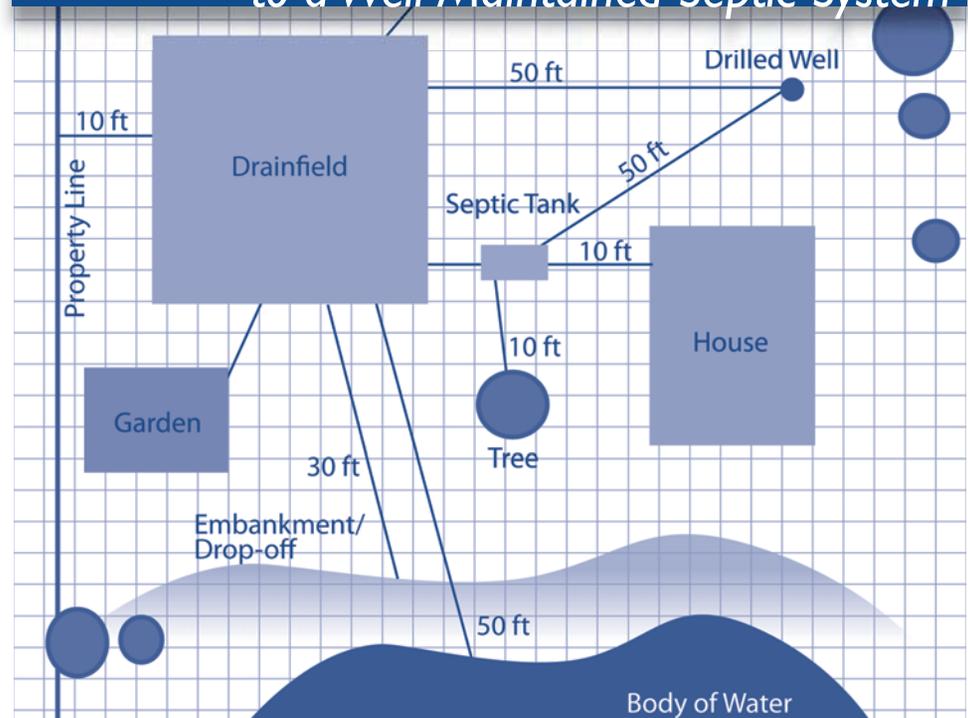
September 28th, 2013 at Applewood Estate – Flint
A total of **416** individuals were reached at this event.

The GCD facilitated **2** riparian landowner workshops:

August 26th, 2013 – Grand Blanc District Library
August 28th, 2013 – Camp Copneconic



A Genesee County Homeowner's Guide to a Well-Maintained Septic System



Not sure if you have a septic system? Here are some questions to help you find out:

- 💧 Do your neighbors have septic systems? If so, it is likely that you also have a septic system.
- 💧 Do you get a bill from your town or city agency charging for sewer services? If so, it is likely that you DO NOT have a septic system.

Congratulations on purchasing your new home!

The information in this booklet is designed to assist you, a septic system owner. Because your residence is connected to a septic system instead of a public sanitary system, you have the opportunity and responsibility to operate and maintain your own septic system. A properly maintained septic system positively influences the quality of our local water resources. By taking the useful, simple actions described in the following pages, small efforts at your residence can save you money and have large, lasting impacts on our lakes, rivers, and streams.

This guide will help you keep your septic system in working order. It will help you better understand how your septic system works and the steps that can be taken to keep a septic system functioning properly. Additionally, this guide provides you with the tools and resources to identify and fix a malfunctioning septic system.

Why care about septic systems?

As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system. If your septic system is properly designed, built, and maintained, it can effectively treat your household wastewater, save you money, and keep our local water clean for many years. If a septic system is not properly maintained, a lot of costly damage could be done.

A malfunctioning septic system can...

- ◆ Cost thousands of dollars to replace or repair
- ◆ Make selling your home very difficult
- ◆ Lower your property value or pose legal liability
- ◆ Spread infection and disease
- ◆ Contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water
- ◆ Pollute nearby lakes, rivers, and streams

Remember, a septic system is not the same as a municipal sewer system. Septic systems have a limited life expectancy that can be shortened by not monitoring and properly maintaining it.

Top 4 actions to ensure a septic system is properly maintained:

1. Inspect (every 3 years) and pump (every 3 to 5 years) your septic system.
2. Use water efficiently.
3. Refrain from dumping solids or hazardous household wastes down drains or into toilets.
4. Care for drainfields.

This booklet was written for the Genesee County Our Water Campaign, the public education effort of the Genesee County Water Quality Consortium. The Genesee County Water Quality Consortium is a collection of municipalities. These dedicated people work to bring awareness, to educate and to promote stewardship on ways to prevent stormwater pollution and keep our water clean. Funding for this newsletter was provided by the Genesee County Water Quality Consortium and the Genesee County Drain Commission.

Information for this septic system guide was gathered from the following resources and was adapted for the needs of the Genesee County *Our Water* Campaign.

- ◆ University of Minnesota Extension Service, Protecting our Waters: Understanding Shoreline BMPs. Factsheets.
- ◆ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems. Informational Guide, EPA-832-B-02-005, Dec 2002.
- ◆ Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, DEMO Info: Septic Systems. Informational Handout.

Helpful Resources

What to do if your system fails

Check with a septic system professional or the Environmental Health Division of the Genesee County Health Department if you suspect your septic system is failing. Remember to have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years!

Contact Information for the Genesee County Health Department:

Floyd J. McCree Courts and Human Services Center
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48502-1540
Phone: (810) 257-3603
Fax: (810) 257-3147

Consult your local telephone directory for a listing of professional septic pumpers, installers, inspectors, and tank manufacturers.

Reporting

- ◆ Report illegal dumping of hazardous materials into storm drains, local water bodies, or drainage ditches to 911 or the local police.
- ◆ If you would like to report a flooding ditch not caused by a roadway, contact the Genesee County Drain Commission, Office of Surface Water Management at (810) 732-1590.
- ◆ If you would like to report flooding caused by a culvert under a road or flooding on a road, contact the Genesee County Road Commission at (810) 767-4920.

Household Hazardous Wastes

If you have household hazardous wastes that need to be properly disposed, look for one of the household hazardous waste collection days organized by the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

General Information

- ◆ Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office: <http://www.gcdcwws.com>
- ◆ Genesee County Health Department: <http://www.gchd.us>
- ◆ Genesee County Our Water Campaign: <http://www.ClearGeneseeWater.org>

How septic systems work.

Generally, septic systems have four main components:

Septic systems are also called:

- ◆ On-lot system
- ◆ Onsite system
- ◆ Individual sewage disposal system
- ◆ Onsite sewage disposal system
- ◆ Onsite wastewater treatment system

1. A pipe from your home

All the wastewater produced in your home exits through a pipe that leads to the septic tank.

2. A septic tank

Your septic tank may be a watertight container that is buried somewhere on your property. Usually they are made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene and hold your wastewater long enough to allow the different materials in your wastewater to settle or float to the top. Solids will settle to the bottom of the tank, while fats and oils will form a layer towards the top of

the tank. Between these two layers is the wastewater. T-shaped outlets, holding compartments, and screens keep sludge, solids, and oils from leaving the tank and traveling to the drain field.

3. A drainfield

When wastewater exits the septic tank, it goes into your drainfield for further treatment by the soil. The partially treated water from your septic tank gets pushed farther into your drainfield with the addition of new wastewater into your septic tank.

If your drainfield gets overloaded with too much liquid, from either overuse or a break in the system, it can flood, causing sewage to flow into groundwater. This creates backups in your plumbing fixtures and prevents treatment of wastewater.

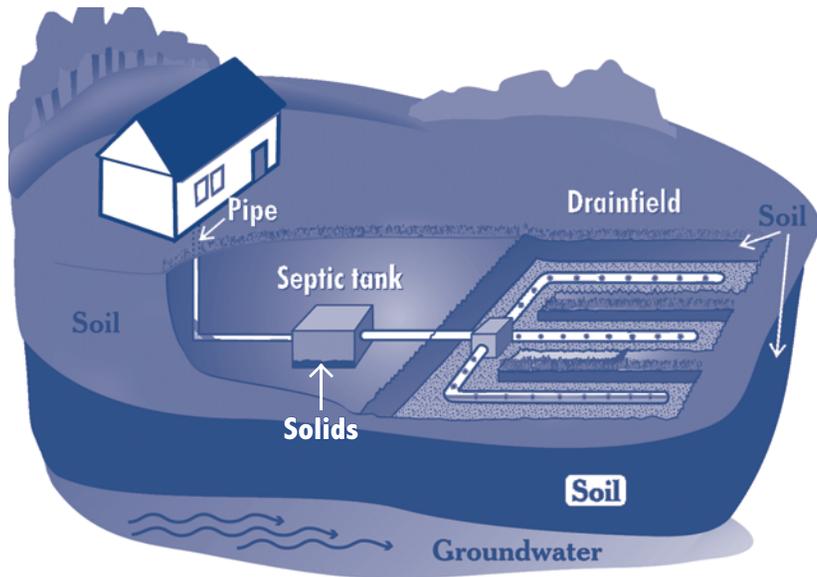
4. Soil with digesting microbes

When septic tank wastewater flows into your drainfield, it percolates into the soil. High quality soil has many useful micro-organisms in it that digest harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients commonly found in wastewater. This process is very similar, although on a smaller scale, to the one that occurs at a municipal waste water treatment plant.



Do you know where your septic system is located?

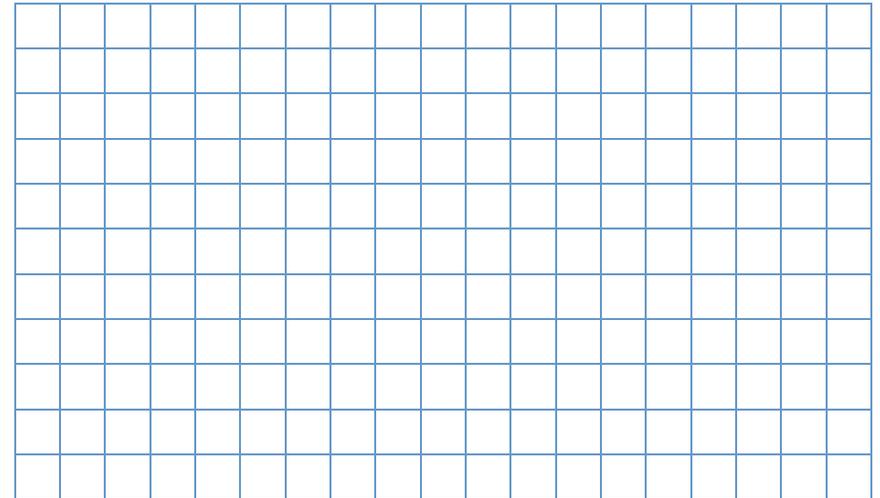
You may want to consult with an inspector or septic pumper to help you find the location of your septic system..



In some situations, effluent from a septic tank will not be dispersed to a traditional drainfield. Alternative systems in use today include sand filters, mounds, wetlands, gravel-less drainfields, pressure dosing, and aerobic units. Servicing requirements for these systems vary and should be obtained from your local sanitarian or septic system contractor.

For your records: septic system layout and preventative maintenance table

Use this grid to map your septic system, showing the relative location of your septic tank and drainfield in relation to your house and water well.



Use this table to keep track of your system repairs and tank pumping. Remember to have your tank pumped every three years.

Date	Work Done	Firm Doing Work	Phone Number	Costs	Notes
03/2009	Inspection	Joe Plumber	555-5555	\$75	Good job.



How to tell if a septic system does not work.

Thankfully, it is fairly easy to tell if a septic system is not working properly.

Signs of system failure include:

- ◆ Odors, surfacing sewage, wet spots, or lush vegetation on or near the drainfield
- ◆ Plumbing or septic tank backups
- ◆ Slow-draining fixtures and toilets
- ◆ Gurgling sounds in the plumbing system
- ◆ Buildup of aquatic weeds or algae in lakes or ponds adjacent to your home
- ◆ Pooling water or muddy soil around a septic system or in the basement
- ◆ Presence of nitrates or bacteria in a drinking-water well
- ◆ Septic systems also fail when partially treated wastewater comes in contact with groundwater. This type of failure can be difficult to detect and can result in pollution of nearby wells, streams, or other water bodies.

Common causes of system failure:

- ◆ Household hazardous wastes such as oil paints, solvents, and chemical cleaners dumped down drains
- ◆ Excessive use of household cleaners
- ◆ Draining a hot tub or pool into a septic tank or onto a drainfield
- ◆ Water purification systems that unnecessarily pump excess water into a septic system
- ◆ Frequent use of garbage disposals
- ◆ Improper design or installation
- ◆ Excessive use of water
- ◆ Improper or excessive cover or vegetation

Expected costs for repairs and maintenance of your septic system:

- ◆ Inspecting a tank: less than \$80-300
- ◆ Pumping: \$185-\$375
- ◆ Uncover the tank: \$75-\$200
- ◆ Pumping out a chamber: \$10-\$250
- ◆ Replacing a drainfield: \$3,000-\$25,000
- ◆ Engineering a drainfield: \$10,000 and up

If septic systems are not properly maintained, the entire system may have to be replaced, costing lots of money.

How to keep your septic system functioning properly.

You can keep your septic system functioning at its peak performance by following the four actions listed here.

I. Inspect and pump septic systems

Keeping up-to-date on a system's inspection and pumping schedule can help keep the system functioning longer and better.

Inspect regularly.

- ◆ Have a septic system inspected by a professional every three years. Systems with electrical float switches, pumps, and mechanical parts need to be inspected more frequently. Remember to keep track of system repairs and tank pumping with maintenance records (see page 9 of this guide).

Pump often.

- ◆ Pump septic tanks regularly, usually once every three to five years. If a pumper suggests repairs, do so as soon as possible but first check with the local health department to see if you need a permit.

Four factors influence the frequency that tanks should be pumped: number of people in a household, amount of wastewater produced, volume of solids in the wastewater (using a garbage disposal increases the amount of solids), and septic tank size.

Go natural.

- ◆ Stay away from additives and "starters". It is unclear if they actually help and some may harm your system and contaminate groundwater. Periodic pumping is a much better way to ensure a system functions properly.

*** Items recommended for an inspection:**

- ◆ Locating the system
- ◆ Uncovering access holes
- ◆ Flushing the toilets
- ◆ Checking for signs of backup
- ◆ Measuring scum and sludge layers
- ◆ Identifying any leaks
- ◆ Inspecting mechanical components
- ◆ Pumping the tank, if necessary

** There isn't a standard protocol for septic inspections. Check with your inspector to see what is included in their quote.*



2. Use water efficiently.

Excessive water use is one of the most common causes of septic system failure, so reducing water used for bathing, laundry, and flushing the toilet can greatly reduce the chances of system failure.

Go low flow.

- ◆ Install low-volume toilets and low-flow shower heads.
- ◆ Replace old dishwashers, toilets, and clothes washers with high-efficiency versions.
- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes machine when there is a full load.
- ◆ Avoid peak surges. Running water in your sink, shower, and toilet at the same time can cause a peak flow, overwhelming your septic system.

Maintain plumbing.

- ◆ Identify and repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets to reduce water wastes.
- ◆ Check to make sure the toilet's reservoir isn't leaking into the bowl. Quickly check this by adding a few drops of food coloring to the reservoir before going to bed. Check to see if there is any trace of the food coloring in the bowl the next day.

3. Refrain from dumping household wastes down drains or into toilets.

The materials that go down drains or into toilets have a big impact on how well a septic system functions.

Avoid dumping.

- ◆ Keep from flushing non-biodegradable materials like facial tissue, diapers, tampons, plastic, cooking fats, or oils down drains or toilets. They do not decompose easily, or at all, and may cause unwanted build-up in a septic tank.
- ◆ Never dispose chemicals by dumping them down drains. Chemicals will harm the micro-organisms in the soil of a drainfield.
- ◆ Keep the use of household chemicals and cleaners to a minimum. Consider using low cost, natural cleaning products. The products can be purchased at local grocery stores or made at home by combining one part water with one part vinegar.
- ◆ Dispose of hazardous household wastes properly. The county holds two hazardous household waste collection days—one in the fall and one in the spring.

Bypass the disposal.

- ◆ Stay away from using the garbage disposal unit. Excessive use of garbage disposals can increase the volume of solids in a septic tank, requiring more frequent pumping.
- ◆ Throw away or make compost out of vegetable wastes, coffee grounds, eggshells, and other compostable kitchen wastes.

Examples of Hazardous Household Wastes

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◆ Batteries | ◆ Paint thinner |
| ◆ Pesticides/Herbicides | ◆ Aerosol cans |
| ◆ Motor oil | ◆ Mercury |
| ◆ Solvents | ◆ Old prescription medicines |
| ◆ Oil-based paint | |

4. Care for the drainfield.

The drainfield is an important part of a septic system and its proper maintenance is critical for effective treatment of wastewater.

Discharge into the tank.

- ◆ Discharge all sewage waste from the house into the septic tank. Never allow solids or scum to leave the septic tank and enter the drainfield.
- ◆ Keep roof drains, sump pumps, rainwater, and other surface water drainage systems away from the drainfield. Flooding of the drainfield can slow down or stop treatment processes.

Plant grass and shallow roots.

- ◆ Landscape over the drainage field with dense grass cover and other shallow-rooted plants. Keep trees away from the drainage field. Deep roots will tear field pipes apart overtime.
- ◆ Avoid impermeable or compacted surfaces over the drainfield such as concrete, asphalt, plastic, or compacted soil. Compacted soil can damage pipes, the tank, or other components of a septic system and may also keep the system from obtaining the necessary oxygen needed to complete the waste water treatment cycle.
- ◆ Keep the surface of the drainfield properly drained by slightly mounding soil over the drainfield and not stockpiling snow.

2013 EDUCATIONAL CANOE TOURS

1	25-May-13	Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer	Holloway Dam to Irish Road	7	Clarkston, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc
2	15-Jun-13	Lazy Day Paddle	City of Flushing to Village of Montrose	14	Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Gaines, Lansing, Lapeer, Mayville, Swartz Cree Davison, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Holly, Lansing, Lapeer, I
3	6-Jul-13	Dog Days of Summer Paddle	Irish Road to Mott Lake	20	Morris, Ortonville, Wolverine Lake
4	20-Jul-13	Sunny Day Paddle Summer Getaway with the	Village of Montrose to Birch Run	6	Davison, Fenton, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Vassar
5	3-Aug-13	Friends of the Flint River Trail	Vietnam Veterans' Park in Flint to Bray Road	13	Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Holly, Ortonville
6	17-Aug-13	Fun Times on the Flint River	University Avenue in Flint to River Road in Flushing	11	Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc
7	7-Sep-13	Welcome in Fall Paddle	Mitson Road in Flint Township to River Road Flushing	8	Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Indianapolis
8	21-Sep-13	Celebrate the Fall Colors	Taymouth Township to Seymour Road in Flushing	14	Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Holly, Metamore, Owosso

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Join Us For Some River Fun on Our Water Paddles!

Paddling Events are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 11:00 am, unless otherwise stated, and are \$10 per person if you are providing your own canoe/kayak, and \$15.00 per person if renting. This includes insurance and shuttle fees. Additional charges for some events depending upon shuttle service. A limited number of canoes and kayaks are available so register early!

PADDLERS MUST contact Jaime Welch prior to event to make arrangements for shuttle/canoe/kayak/rental and to register at: jwelch@FlintRiver.org/ (810) 767-7140



May, 2013

25th Holloway Dam to Irish Road Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer!
Please note this paddle takes place on the 4th Saturday. Come enjoy the start of summer with our first paddle of the year!
Location: Take I-69 to M-15 (Dawson exit). Go north on M-15 about 6.5 miles to Stanley Road. Go east (right) on Stanley Road about 1 mile to Oak Road, then go north about 1/2 mile to Carr Road. Take Carr Road 0.3 miles to launch at the base of the Holloway Dam

June, 2013

1st Riverview Park to Flushing Warm Weather is here!
This is the perfect way to spend your weekend! This 2 1/2 hour paddle is along a relaxing stretch of the Flint River, just the perfect way to welcome summer.
Location: Flushing Riverview Park on Cherry St. (behind A&W) to Flushing Township Nature Park. We will be meeting at 2 pm at Riverview Park.
15th Flushing to Montrose Lazy Day Paddle
Enjoy a lazy day of floating along the river. Prepare to enjoy a calm and relaxing 3 hour paddle awash with beautiful scenery.
Location: Flushing Township Nature Park to Barber Memorial Park, just south of Vienna Road on Seymour Rd in Montrose.

July, 2013

6th Irish Rd to Mont Lake Dog days of Summer Paddle
Escape the heat by taking a refreshing paddle on the river. This stretch is home to several Bald Eagles, if we are lucky we may see them during our 2 1/2 hour trip. Location: Just north of the Richfield Park entrance off of Irish Rd. (north of Richfield Rd.). Paddling to boat launch off of E. Stanley Rd. east of Genesee Rd.
20th Montrose to Birch Run Sunny Day Paddle
Enjoy the beauty of summer with a lovely paddle along the Flint River. Prepare to enjoy a calm and relaxing 2 1/2 hour paddle awash with beautiful scenery.
Location: Montrose Barber Memorial Park, south of Vienna Road on Seymour Rd in Montrose.

August, 2013

3rd Gray Rd to Viet Nam Veterans Park Summer Getaway
This is the perfect end your weekend! This 2 hour paddle is the perfect way to prepare for the coming work week ahead.
Location: Gray Rd, north of Carpenter Road.
17th University Ave to River Rd Fun Times on the Flint River
Prepare to enjoy a relaxing paddle along the Flint River as you embark on this 3 hour paddle.
Location: We will be meeting at River Road, one mile west of Elms and transporting from there.

September, 2013

7th Mitton to Flushing Welcome In Fall Paddle
This is the perfect way to usher in fall! This 2 1/2 hour paddle is along a beautiful stretch of the Flint River, just the way to unwind from a long week.
Location: Riverview Canoe Landing, at Mitton Blvd south of Flushing Rd.
21st Flushing to Montrose Celebrate the Fall Colors
Enjoy the last day of summer of celebrate the start of fall with a colorful paddle along the Flint River. Prepare to enjoy a calm and relaxing 3 hour paddle awash with beautiful scenery. Location: Flushing Township Nature Park to Barber Memorial Park, just south of Vienna Road on Seymour Rd in Montrose.

American Canoe Association
Founded in 1890, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public. They provide education related to all aspects of paddling and stewardship. For more information visit: www.americancanoe.org
If you plan to paddle more this year, you should look at the membership options. All FRCWC paddling events require one of the following memberships:
- \$10 Event Membership (one activity canoeing, no member benefits)
- \$30 Individual Club Membership/1 year (normally \$40)
- \$60 Family (3 adults, women's) Club Membership/1 year (normally \$80)
- \$15 Six month full membership with member benefits.



For more information, or to register, contact
Jaime Welch, Program Coordinator at
810-767-7140; jwelch@FlintRiver.org
Pre-registration is required to attend

Flint River Watershed Coalition
www.FlintRiver.org
420 N. Saginaw Street, Suite #233; Flint, MI 48902,
810-767-6690
Facebook: Flint River Watershed Coalition

"Our Water Campaign" Speakers Bureau

Count	1-Jan-01	# Participants	Group	Comments and Notes
1	26-Oct-12	25	Students at Lakeville Middle School, in the Lakeville Community School District - 1 of 2	The students were excited to learn about a watershed. The presenter gave them a pop quiz at the end of the presentation asking them to give feedback about what they had learned. Students wanted to know how they could conserve water by drawing a tub of water to do dishes. They wanted to help the watershed by not littering.
1	26-Oct-12	25	Students at Lakeville Middle School, in the Lakeville Community School District - 2 of 2	Two presentations were made at Lakeville to two separate groups. For comments and notes, See the summary under 1 of 2.
1	19-Dec-12	26	East Side Business Association, Flint	The participants remembered that Jeff Wright had spoken to this group 6 to 8 weeks earlier, and could relate the FRWC presentation to the Drain Commissioner's talk.
1	1-Mar-13	500 +	Steelheaders Show	Although the Steelheaders Show takes place in a venue outside of Genesee County, numerous participants who visit our booth are from this county. We have been a regular at this event for many years, and our followers from Genesee County always look for us there.
1	9-Mar-13	28	Flushing Walleye Festival, Flushing	Participants were most interested in the water quality data. A stilt walker was interested in walking the Flint River Trail on stilts.
1	19-Mar-13	30	Flint Womens' Forum, Holiday Inn	Participants were overwhelmed by the presentation. They had a new found respect for the Flint River.
1	24-Mar-13	100 +	Mott Community College Volunteer Fair	
1	13-Apr-13	200	"Earth Matters" - Earth Day Conference, University of Michigan - Flint	
1	4-May-13	10	Chevy in the Hole - Community Art Project	
1	7-May-13	15	Grand Blanc Rotary	Focusing on the development in the Grand Blanc area, this presentation emphasized fertilizers and landscaping.
1	14-May-13	14	Swartz Creek 4H	The kids were excited about being part of the FRWC. They said that they would use rain water to water their new garden. They were shown a sample of benthic critters, and helped identify some of the bugs. They were interested in participating in our programs.
1	16-Jun-13	20	Flint Unitarian Church Youth group	
1	19-Jun-13	50	Flushing Summerfest Parade, Flushing	
1	23-Jun-13	100	Flint Unitarian Church full congregation	Based on the presentation, this group has now signed up to become a volunteer group for benthic monitoring and storm drain stenciling.
1	12-Aug-13	50+	Genesee County Fair, Genesee County Parks	One young girl made it a point to mention that her dad washes their car in the driveway. She promised to give brochures to him.
1	9-Sep-13	32	Joint meeting with the General Motors 'GM Cares' volunteers from the GM Flint Assembly plant	
1	18-Sep-13	27	West Flint Business Association, Flint Township	Most participants came from Flint Township, but there were some present from Flint, Swartz Creek, Mundy Township, and Clayton Township.
1	18-Sep-13	31	Michigan Education Association, Genesee County Chapter of Retirees	
1	20-Sep-13	45	City of Flint College and Cultural Neighborhood Association	
1	20-Sep-13	27	Democratic Club 225 Luncheon Group	Participants came from all over Genesee County, and were not concentrated in any one geographic area
1	20-Sep-13	8	Safe and Active Genesee Coalition	
21				

Community Support Initiative

This initiative is a 3 phase program. Designed along with a menu of activities to engage the youth of Genesee County, and motivate them to become active in their own community.

- **Awareness:** Youth will be informed on a few environmental issues facing Genesee County, such as surface water/ stormwater pollution, and the need to conserve water and other natural resources.
- **Education:** Students will learn what they can do to make a difference in and around their own home/community, using conservation, observation, and renewal practices.
- **Making A Difference:** All participants K-12 will be given the opportunity to either become a “Little Deputy” (K-2nd), “District Deputy” (3rd-6th), or create a public service announcement (PSA) for radio (7th-9th) or television (10th-12th).

In cooperation with the Genesee County Drain Commission (GCDC), the Genesee Conservation District (GCD) will educate students about the Seven Simple Steps to clean water.

Let's make one thing
Perfectly Clear.

Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

Menu Of Activities

Storm Drain Stenciling: This is a group activity for citizens of all ages. Participants will label storm drains in a selected area. The labels are meant to create awareness about the storm drains final destination. The labels also urge other citizens not to dump anything down the drains. Small and large groups are welcome.

Freddy The Fish is a hands on presentation/activity that will help students visualize the harmful effects that stormwater pollution can have on our lakes, rivers and the animals that use it as habitat.

The Incredible Journey: This hands on activity will teach students about the different states of water as it moves through the water cycle. This is meant to show that the same water has been recycled for millions of years and how important it is to conserve and care for water now.

Water Fun For You: Word puzzles, picture puzzles and creative assignments, designed to engage and educate students about the diverse number of living things that use water and the necessity for humans to use it wisely.

Enviroscape Activity: A model of a city used to show how everyday pollution ends up in our rivers and lakes. This is a interactive activity. Students will use household items to represent pollution, then using spray bottles “make it rain” and watch the flow of the stormwater through the cityscape into the river or lake.

Foods Amazing Journey: This interactive activity will help students understand and learn how food goes from the field or farm to the store. Students will also learn about the economics of farming, and the different occupations involved in getting food from the farm to the store.

You Are The Farmer: This activity will help students realize the importance of math in “real world” applications, while learning that farming is a business requiring many different math computations.

Rain On: A hands on experiment that gives a up close visual display of the water cycle. Students will be able to see evaporation, condensation, and precipitation, key elements in the water cycle and learn its importance.

Usable Water: A demonstration that will educate students on the locations of water on earth, and emphasize the need for water conservation. This activity will show the amount of water available for use and consumption by people and animals.

Amazing Water: A-maze-ing water is an interactive game where students are educated on urban runoff, stormwater pollution, nonpoint source pollution, storm drains and contaminants. Students take turns becoming water and going through a maze of “storm drains” on their way to the lake.

StormWater Savvy: This is a survey to pique the interest of the students taking it, on the subject of prevention. The survey will give them a score based on what they are or are not doing to help prevent stormwater pollution. Used with the “Seven Simple Steps” to clean water.

Understanding Insects as Friends or Foes: This engaging presentation will assist students in learning how to identify certain insects and the impact they have on farming. They will learn why there are “good” and “bad” insects, associated with farms. Students will also learn a few of the methods farmers use to control the bad insects.

Water Treatment Model: This is a model sewage treatment plant that will demonstrate to students the key concepts of water treatment. Students will get an inside look at some of the physical, chemical and biological processes that go on during water treatment at a real water management plant.

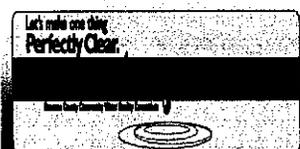


Message from the Board Chair

Submitted by Nancy Szikszay

Seven simple steps to clean water...

1. Practice good car care.
2. Fertilize sparingly & carefully.
3. Clean up after your pet.
4. Save water.
5. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil.
6. Help keep pollution out of storm drains.
7. Choose earth friendly landscaping.



A LOOK INSIDE:

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Genesee Conservation District (GCD) is taking a leadership role in the local, state, and federal effort to reduce the sediment moving from our ditches, streams, and rivers into the Saginaw Bay and the Great Lakes. Within this newsletter you will see articles from our staff and our new USDA-NRCS District Conservationist explaining their role in this important effort.

Some of them are working with the farmers and the owners of farm ground. Others are involved in the effort to educate the adults and children who are not connected to agriculture. There are many new faces in our office, so please stop in to meet us and hear more about what we are doing to keep our environment healthy.

Last year we distributed a resource assessment in an effort to find out what resource concerns were important to you, our constituents. We received very few of those back, so we are including

a revised document in this mailing. We have tried to make it easy for you to complete. Please take a few minutes and fill in the blanks and return it to us. You are welcome to remain anonymous. If you prefer to respond in an electronic format, that version is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSZZLHC>.

We offered two workshops connected to our city tree program this year and intend to continue offering workshops. If there is a workshop of interest to you, let us know. If it is feasible, we will offer it during the coming year.

GCD does not receive any stable funding from local, state, or federal governments. All of our funding comes from our spring and fall tree sales and the grants we write. Our employees and board members all believe in our mission and work long and hard hours to bring these programs to the residents of our county.

MAEAP 3-System/3-Phase



The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks. Michigan is the second most agriculturally diverse state. As a result, a one-size-fits-all approach to environmental protection simply does not work on Michigan farms. MAEAP effectively overcomes this challenge by offering areas of concentration known as systems. Each system focuses on a different aspect of a farming operation. Farmers can become verified in all systems applicable to their farm. The systems are: Farmstead, Cropping, and Livestock. Within the three systems are three phases including: education, on-farm risk assessment, and third-party verification. There are many environmental, social, and safety benefits to becoming MAEAP verified. Call Bob Carlin at the GCD office to learn more, and visit www.maeap.org on the web.

Phosphorus Reduction Funding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has over \$1.5 million in conservation funds available for farmers in the targeted central Michigan watersheds. The funds are available to help farmers incorporate conservation activities that will reduce the amount of phosphorus reaching the Great Lakes.

"This funding will help farmers protect our state's most valuable natural resources, the Great Lakes," said State Conservationist Garry Lee. "Reducing the amount of phosphorus entering the Great Lakes will improve water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitat, and recreation."

The funding was provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and is available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications are ongoing with multiple deadlines. Phosphorus entering the Great Lakes from agricultural land and other sources contribute

to algal blooms that degrade water quality and aquatic habitat. Areas eligible for the funding include the Mid-Shiawassee River Watershed and the Kearsley, Swartz, and Thread Creeks Watershed. The two watersheds are located primarily in Genesee and Shiawassee counties with smaller portions in surrounding counties.

Producers can apply at their local USDA office for funding to implement conservation practices that reduce the amount of phosphorus entering groundwater from agricultural land. Some practices eligible for funding include cover crops, conservation crop rotation, windbreaks, prescribed grazing, nutrient management and residue and tillage management. Applications are selected on a competitive basis with highest scoring applications funded. Selected applicants will receive funding after conservation practices are applied.



In Through the Out Door

It's a concept that is relatively simple--what goes in, must come out...somewhere. So when we put materials in our storm drains, good or bad, where is it ending up? It may surprise you to realize that the out door is most often our lakes and streams, without any filtration process in between. So let's work together to promote storm drain awareness, keep Our Water clean and clear, and make sure that what we're putting in our storm drains is what we're comfortable seeing come through the out door.



Student volunteers participating in a local drain stenciling project.

Did you know? Storm drains and ditches lead directly to our streams, lakes, and rivers.

Dream Green

A *Green Job* is defined by the United Nations as "any job in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), administrative, and service activities that contributes to preserving or restoring environmental quality." A 2004 study by the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL) at UC Berkeley reported that the *Green Jobs* sector generates more jobs than the fossil fuel-based sector per unit of energy delivered across all

aspects! This means for the first time in history we have more opportunities in *Green Jobs* than in factory jobs or all other fuel-based energy sectors jobs.

As your children grow older and consider their future career endeavors encourage them to dream green. GCD supports *Green Jobs* and often offers continuing educational opportunities! Stay up to date on all *Green Job* opportunities by visiting our website at www.gettrees.org!

What Floats Your Boat

When it comes to water, we're all in the same boat. And who wants to get lost at sea? Certainly not me! That's why the Genesee Conservation District (GCD) and the Genesee County Drain Commission (GCDC) invite you to get on board, strap on a life jacket and participate in keeping our lakes and streams clean!

Whether you're aware of it or not, you are part of a watershed. More specifically, as residents of Genesee County you are part of the Flint River watershed, which encompasses 1,400 square miles and is home to over 600,000 people. As members of the community, you are likely to use the watershed for a variety of reasons, including a primary or secondary source of drinking water or a place to recreate. Also, the Flint watershed provides critical habitat for highly valuable and visible members of the aquatic community including small mouth bass, walleye and Northern pike.

Over the coming summer and fall months, GCD will help spread the word about how you can help improve water quality in our lakes and streams and keep Our Water CLEAN!

To help make a difference in your community and join us for an afternoon of storm drain stenciling or environmental education, contact Kristin Martinez, Education Outreach Coordinator, at Kristin.martinez@macd.org to promote awareness and encourage our neighbors to follow the seven easy steps to a healthy, happier aquatic ecosystem!

Watershed Workshops
will be held in September.
Check our website for dates,
times, and locations.

Congratulations to Richard Winacoff of Swartz Creek, the winner of a conservation product (rain barrel) awarded for completing and returning the Swartz Creek Watershed Survey.

 Memorial Trees 

Consider a lasting tribute to a loved one by having a City of Flint street tree planted in their honor. Contact GCD today for more information.

GLRI Initiative in the Watershed Update

In the GCD winter/spring newsletter, the effort to improve water quality in the Saginaw Bay by GCD, NRCS, and USGS was rolled out to readers. Since that article, several positive pieces of work have been accomplished.

To start this news update a few definitions need to be described to readers so that the terminology of the environment might be better understood. First, the concept of a watershed. A watershed is that geologic feature of the land that has water moving through it in a common direction. The water may be moving beneath the surface in aquifers or underground streams spread throughout the soil and rock profile of the land. Water also moves across the surface of the land in rivers and streams in a common direction toward the lake or sea.

Nutrients are those compounds that cause plant life to flourish. These nutrients primarily contained in soil sediment are nitrogen and phosphorus. These elements together are largely responsible for the eutrophication of Saginaw Bay. Eutrophication is the process where plant material ties up oxygen in the water, reaches maturity and dies. The decay of this material ties up oxygen in the water and potentially can cause a fish kill. If the process is allowed to continue over long time frames, a lake that is eutrophic will eventually become a bog and then become land. Much discussion is being made presently and data sought to determine if Saginaw Bay is eutrophic. While eutrophication is a natural process, human activities can greatly accelerate the process.

In early spring 2012 three auto sampling devices were installed on the Alger and Lum creeks. The samples obtained from these devices will give clear indication of the nutrient amounts in these waters. These nutrients eventually make their way through the watershed and end up in Saginaw Bay.

Removals of phosphate-based laundry detergents from store shelves and mandated industrial waste water pollution discharge permits have greatly reduced the amount of phosphorus present in watersheds. The phosphorus remaining in surface waters is generated by nonpoint source pollutants. These can be thought of as pollution from sources that can, to some extent, be controlled by humans and include agricultural fertilizer applications and leaking household sewer systems.

During the second quarter of 2012, producers in the watersheds were offered cost share money to implement conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion and nutrient loading of the watershed. These practices have a proven track record of positively impacting water quality. To date, 30 producers have filled out applications under GLRI funded practices, 20 farmers have been ranked for approval of cost share, and 14 farmers have had money approved for practices.

NAME _____ ORDER # _____											
TREES											
TYPE	VARIETY (bare root)	Age	SIZE	1	10	25	50	100	250	Quantity	Cost
CONIFERS	White Pine	2-1	8-15"	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$75.00	\$140.63		
	Red Pine	2-1	8-15"	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$75.00	\$140.63		
	Norway Spruce	2-1	8-15"	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$75.00	\$140.63		
	Blue Spruce	2-1	8-15"	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$75.00	\$140.63		
	Concolor Fir	2-1	8-15"	\$4.50	\$22.50	\$45.00	\$67.50	\$90.00	\$168.75		
	Fraser Fir	2-1	8-15"	\$4.30	\$21.50	\$43.00	\$64.50	\$86.00	\$161.25		
	White Pine XL		2-3'		\$17.50	\$87.50	\$175.00				
Please remember to visit us at www.gettrees.org for more information about the fall tree species selected and products for sale!							TREE Subtotal:				
							State Sales Tax		x .06	\$	
							Processing Fee		\$1.00	\$1.00	
							TOTAL			\$	

Tree Planting Site Selection Guide					
Species	Native	Growth	Light	Soil Conditions	Height at Maturity
White Pine	X	Fast	Full sun	Sandy loam soils. Will tolerate clays.	60'-100'
Red Pine	X	Fast/long-lived	Full sun	Well-drained sandy soils.	60'-90'
Norway Spruce		Moderate to fast	Full sun	Average soil conditions.	60'-100'
Blue Spruce		Moderate	Full sun	Moist, well-drained loam to sandy loam soils.	80'-100'
Concolor Fir		Slow	Shade	Grows well on most upland soils.	40'-70'
Fraser Fir		Moderate	Full to partial sun	Sand, clay, loam. Moist to damp.	30'-50'

Tree pick-up: Saturday, October 6th
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 at For-Mar Nature Preserve
 ~Reminders will be sent a week in advance~

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Charge your order:			
Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Master Card <input type="checkbox"/>	Discover <input type="checkbox"/>	
Expiration Date <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>			
Account Number			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Name on card:			
Signature:			

Send orders by **September 29** to:
Genesee Conservation District
1525 N. Elms Road
Flint, MI 48532
 Questions? Call us at (810) 230-8766 ext. 3





Message from the Administrator

This newsletter offers articles addressing a range of environmental and natural resource topics meant to interest, inform, and inspire. To those who know us well and others unfamiliar with the District, we welcome you to peruse this publication to become better acquainted with what we do. We are passionate about our work and aspire to exceed your expectations in the services we provide.

A fundraising mainstay for conservation districts are tree sales. It is at this time of year when many of us have had enough of being cooped up indoors that we plan for spring and summer planting and

beautification projects. Within these pages you will find available for purchase a wide variety of trees and shrubs to satisfy.

This spring, Genesee Conservation District is proud to be partnering with Sloan/Longway to host a Family Science Day. Together we will provide fun, educational, and hands-on natural resources and environmental science activities. We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 20 from 1-4 p.m. at Longway Planetarium in the Flint Cultural Center for this free and open to the public event.

Vegetable Garden Spring Calendar

MARCH

- Plan your garden space and order seeds
- Get a soil test once the ground has thawed

APRIL

- Once soil is dry prepare garden bed and apply fertilizer based on soil test recommendations
- Direct seed cool season crops (lettuce, carrots, onions, etc.)
- For a continuous harvest plant cool season crops again after two and four weeks

MAY

- Plant warm season crops and transplants after danger of frost has passed (late May)
- Begin harvest of early cool season crops
- Mulch around plants and between rows to conserve moisture and suppress weeds

JUNE

- Be on the look out for pests and diseases as temperatures rise



MAEAP Update

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is gaining momentum throughout the State. The program signed into law by Governor Snyder gives farmers protection from litigation for farming practices that comply with GAAMPS, the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices. These practices are developed by the major land grant Universities. In Michigan, MSU is the leader in establishing the GAAMPS.

MAEAP is the method by which a farm's practices can be determined to be compliant with the GAAMPS. Using the tool of the A*Syst, a booklet of standard questions, a Conservation District MAEAP technician will visit the farm and sit in a one-on-one format with the farm operator and discuss the A*Syst booklet. Questions about the practices used on the farm are answered and ranked as low, medium or high environmental impact. The process is completely confidential and non-regulatory. Once practices that negatively impact the environment are known, the farmer and MAEAP technician can explore mitigating solutions. Most solutions can be funded with NRCS cost share money that in most cases provides funds to alleviate the potential problem. When it is established that the farm is being operated according to MAEAP standards, the MAEAP technician will call for verification. During verification, a third party audit is conducted by the verifier checking that MAEAP standards are being followed on the farm. Verification can be found for three systems: livestock, cropping, and farmstead.

A separate pool of NRCS cost share money earmarked for farms nearing verification has increased producer interest in MAEAP. Statewide, Governor Snyder has set a goal of 5,000 verifications be completed by 2015. To schedule a MAEAP A*Syst contact Robert Carlin at 810-230-8766 ext. 102. Additional resources may be found at www.maeap.org.

After a very successful sign up last year, Genesee Conservation District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are gearing up for 2013. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, commonly referred to as EQIP, is the primary tool we are using to clean up waterways in Genesee County and the Saginaw Bay area.

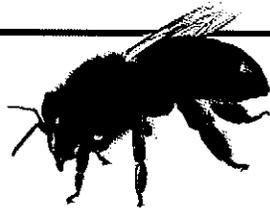
EQIP is a program that considers conservation and production agriculture as having compatible goals. Through it, we are able to offer technical assistance and cost share to producers for the implementation of conservation practices. These practices support environmental quality along with the productivity of local farms.

The idea is to help farmers implement conservation practices on their land, such as cover crops and nutrient management plans. A cover crop is one of

several erosion reducing practices that work by both tying up nutrients and preventing sediment from washing off the land. Nutrient management plans help producers to apply only the nutrients that their crop needs, preventing excess fertilizer from making its way into streams. These practices, among many others, combine to have an enormous impact on the health of both the land and the water here in mid-Michigan.

Applications for EQIP are accepted year round and our staff is always available for assistance. For more information on NRCS programs, the watershed project, or to voice your comments and concerns, please contact one of our Soil Conservation Technicians: Brian Schorr or Robert Carlin, or the District Conservationist, Jermaine Jenkins. Reach us by phone at (810) 230-8766 extension 3.

Bee Wise



Worldwide there are 20,000 species of bees, 4,000 species native to the U.S. Bees and other pollinators such as butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds are important in 35% of global crop production. While the non-native European honey bee is the most important crop pollinator in the U.S., native bees contribute \$3 billion worth of crop pollination here. Habitat information is available at the GCD office.

Removing Dead Wood

In cooperation with the City of Flint, the District continues removing high-risk city street trees. Over the past couple of years more than 750 dead or diseased trees have been removed clearing the way to plant nearly 250 street trees.

Removed trees have been reclaimed and milled into lumber available for purchase in a variety of sizes and species from Genesee County Habitat for Humanity's ReStore perfect for your hobby and building projects. Send us pictures and tell us about your projects using this wood.

Live Fish for your Pond, Lake or Stream

Harrietta Hills, a Michigan-based fish farm, is once again this year partnering with GCD to offer a Fish Day Event. We want your stocking project to be successful, so too does Harrietta Hills. They are available by phone or email for stocking recommendations. Harrietta Hills live game fish are a great addition to your pond or lake. Trout, hybrid sunfish (bluegill), largemouth bass, channel catfish, and yellow perch are terrific for fishing fun an ecological balance. Other species of game fish and minnows are available seasonally.

Fish Day Events are a convenient way to pick up small orders at a location convenient to you. Genesee Conservation District is hosting a fish day event scheduled for Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow this link <http://www.harriettahills.com/fishdayevents.html> to place your advance online order or contact them by phone at (877) 389-2514.

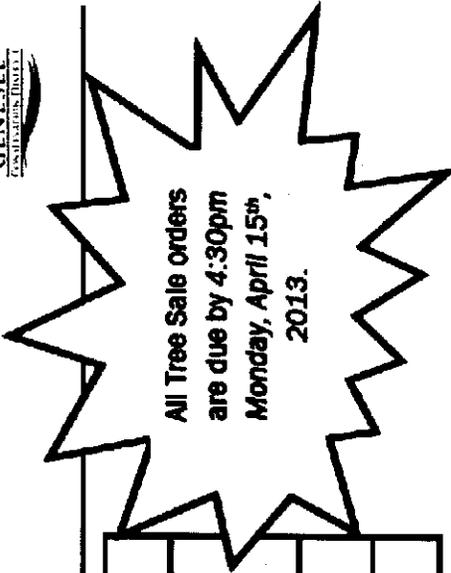




2013 ANNUAL SPRING TREE SALE



Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	



Charge your order:

<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expiration Date	□□/□□
Account Number	□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□
Name on card:	
Signature:	

Please remember to visit us at www.gettrees.org for more information about the spring tree species selected and about some of the other products for sale!

Contact us at 810-230-8766 ext 3

Thanks again for supporting your local conservation office!

Checks should be made out the Genesee Conservation District and mail back to 1525 N. Elms Road Flint, MI 48532. All Tree Sale orders are due by 4:30pm Monday, April 15th, 2013. Pick up is at For-Mar Arboretum on April 26th and 27th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Pick up reminders will be mailed out to every order. Thanks for supporting your local Conservation District. Happy Planting!

Tree and Shrub Information Chart		Annual Growth			Soil Type			Soil Moisture				Light			Mature Size		Uses & Characteristics									
Species		Fast 15" and up	Medium 13-24"	Slow 12" or less	Sand	Loam	Clay	Dry to moist	Moist	Moist to wet	Wet	Full sun	Partial shade	Full shade	Height	Spread	Christmas trees	Erosion control	Fall color	Flowering	Lumber/Vaneer	Naturalizing	Reforestation	Shade	Wildlife	Windbreak
		Conifers	Balsam Fir		x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	45-75'	20-25'	x						x	
Norway Spruce	x		x			x	x	x	x	x		x	x		40-60'	25-30'	x								x	x
Red Pine	x				x			x				x			50-80'	30'	x	x			x		x			x
Tamarack	x								x	x	x	x			50-75'	25'									x	
White Cedar				x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x		40-50'	10-20'					x				x	x
White Pine	x				x	x		x	x	x		x	x		80-100'	20-40'	x	x			x		x		x	x
Deciduous	Black Walnut		x	x		x	x	x	x			x			70-80'	50-75'					x		x	x	x	
	Callery Pear		x			x		x	x			x			35'	20'			x	x						
	Hybrid Poplar	x				x			x	x		x			40-50'	30'								x	x	
	Red Maple	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		60-75'	40'			x		x			x	x	x
	Red Mulberry	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x		40-50'	40-50'								x	x	
	Red Oak	x	x		x	x	x	x	x					x	45'	60-75'					x		x	x		
	River Birch	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x			40-60'	40-70'		x								
	Sugar Maple	x	x			x						x			60-75'	40-50'			x		x			x		
	Sweetgum	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			60-75'	40-50'			x		x					
	Sycamore	x	x			x			x	x		x	x		80'	60'					x			x		
	Tulip Poplar	x				x	x		x	x		x			70-90'	40'			x	x	x			x		
	White Oak		x	x			x		x			x			50-80'	50-80'					x			x		
Shrubs/Small trees	Common Lilac		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		8-15'	6-12'				x					x	
	Common Witchhazel		x		x	x		x	x			x			15-30'	15-25'				x						
	Flowering Dogwood		x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x		20'	20'				x				x	x	
	Fragrant Sumac			x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		3-8'	6-10'				x		x				
	Highbush Cranberry			x	x	x	x	x	x				x		6-12'	6'						x			x	
	Spicebush			x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	6-12'	15'				x		x			x	x
Fruit	Blueberries			x	x	x		x	x			x			6"-3"					x		x			x	
	Gala Twin Bee Apple			x		x		x	x			x			10-12'	6'-8'				x					x	
	Smoothie Apple			x		x		x	x			x			18-22'	8'-10'				x					x	
	Wolf River Apple			x		x		x	x			x			18-22'	8'-10'				x					x	

A good root system must be developed before trees and shrubs reach their indicated growth rates. Once planted or transplanted, most trees and shrubs grow slowly over the first three years and more rapidly after their root system becomes developed. General care, soils, weather, animal or other damage, wood, grass, and plant competition affect growth rates. More information can be found on our website www.gettrees.org. Website sources: Arbor Day Foundation, University of Illinois Extension, Ohio DNR, Michigan DNR, Michigan State Extension, Washtenaw CD.

Brain Teaser

1. What tree is America's National Tree?
2. What is Michigan's State tree?

1. Named as the U.S. National Tree in 2004, the oak tree is valued for its shade, beauty, and lumber. Over 60 species of oaks grow in our country.
2. Michigan's State tree is the white pine. Designated in 1955, white pines are the largest conifer and the only one to have five needles in each bundle.

GLRI Initiative in the Watershed Update

Pollution entering the Flint River is an ongoing concern in Genesee County. This pollution damages our local waterways and affects every down stream community as it travels toward Saginaw Bay, where it accumulates. Modern regulations have helped to clean up industrial wastewater and some urban pollutant sources, but now the focus has turned to agricultural runoff.

Sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus are key pollutants that often originate on agricultural land. When these elements build up in the Saginaw Bay they literally fertilize the plants in the water, especially algae. As the plants grow and die they tie up oxygen, meaning that fish and other organisms can no longer survive. Eventually this process will destroy the value of our water for recreation, fishing, hunting, and even drinking.

GCD is working closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through the EQIP program, along with other partners to address these problems. With funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) we have provided nearly \$2.5 million to Genesee County farmers who are now employing conservation and pollution reducing strategies.

The first statewide EQIP sign up is underway and we are currently working toward the completion of nearly 40 applications representing several thousand acres of crop and forest land.

We are anticipating a second EQIP sign up this spring that will be funded through GLRI. This sign up will likely target Swartz Creek and Kearsley Creek watersheds here in Genesee County. Producers in these watersheds are encouraged to apply.

Community Tree Planting

In the fall of 2012, GCD offered a mini-grant opportunity for community groups to plant street trees in City of Flint owned right-of-ways. Six community groups were awarded funds to organize, coordinate, purchase materials, and plant trees. Volunteers clocked over 500 total hours while planting 120 street trees in October and November. Congratulations to all participants on a job well done!

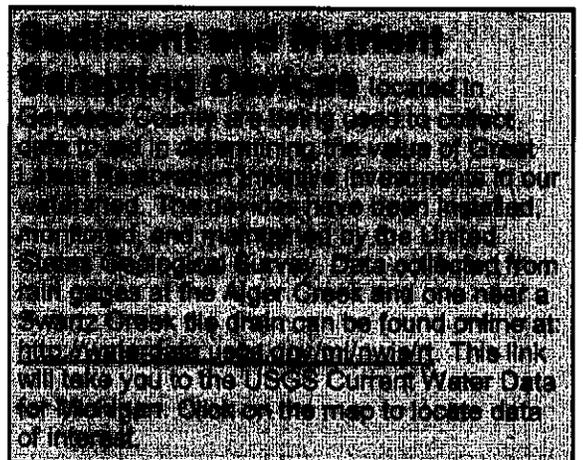
GCD will offer another round of community planting mini-grants this year. Contact us to request more information or to have your neighborhood considered for a similar project.



Chelan Street neighborhood tree planting volunteers organized by Chelan Street resident Shirley Milton (center).

Environmental Education

Classes are available to classrooms and youth groups in Genesee County. Sessions are specifically tailored to appeal to young people via hands-on activities covering a variety of concepts tied to state standards. Classes are available as stand alones or as a series of lessons. Contact GCD's Education/Outreach Coordinator, Jeff Johnson, for more information or to schedule an appointment.



MAX BRANDON Our Park. Our Future!

Max Brandon Park is a unique feature to the City of Flint with 100+ acres of oak savanna. This jewel, the oak savanna, is a plant community with open grown oaks. In contrast to a forest with its closed canopy, an oak savanna canopy ranges from 10-50%. This type of habitat receives dappled sun and shade allowing growth of a wide diversity of flowering plants and grasses. In the Midwest where oak savannas were once abundant, they are now considered a threatened plant community. Numerous species of plants and animals dependent on this habitat are suffering from the loss; many are named on the Michigan Threatened and Endangered species list.

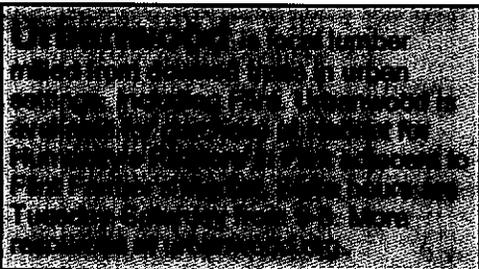


District Forester Margaret Studer, Friends of Max Brandon Park, and local silviculturalists (tree and forest experts) survey the park.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of parks and forestry funds, Max Brandon Park has become overgrown and undesirable species of trees and plants are out-competing and taking over. Much of the habitat can be restored simply by tree thinning and brushing. In 2012 the Genesee Conservation District applied and received a federal grant to restore the habitat of Max Brandon Park and perform much needed high risk tree maintenance and removals along the park paths and by the park playgrounds thereby improving both the habitat and safety for those using the park. It is Genesee Conservation District's vision that one day the City of Flint becomes a model for oak savanna restoration throughout the country.

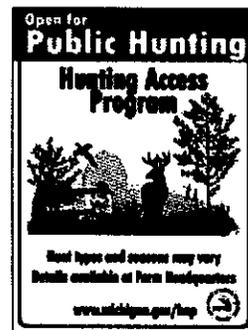
What is restoration?? Restoration is the practice of restoring land that has been degraded or destroyed back to its original and ideal state. This is done through proper forest management. **What to expect??** Genesee Conservation District's Forest Scientist will be working within the park to

identify high-risk trees and work on ideal restoration locations. Large equipment may be brought in to perform some of these tasks and residents will be notified when this will occur. **When will this be completed??** This project will be completed by April of 2014. **How can you help??** Residents can help in this restoration project by spreading the word and supporting the District and our partners at the Friends of Max Brandon Park in the combined effort to maintain and protect this unique and wonderful city park. **If I have questions who should I contact??** Remember that no question is a bad question! For any reason, please feel free to contact Genesee Conservation District by phone or email at (810) 230-8766 ext. 3 or at geneseeecd@yahoo.com

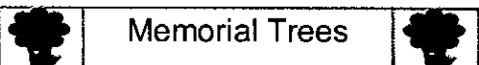


7 Simple Steps to Clean Water

- Practice good **car care**.
- **Fertilize** sparingly and carefully.
- Clean up after your **pet**.
- Save **water**.
- Carefully store and dispose of **household cleaners, chemicals, and oil**.
- Help keep pollution out of **storm drains**.
- Choose earth friendly **landscaping**.



MDNR is pleased to introduce the new HAP logo (left) that will be used in signage. The image depicts the look and feel of what the HAP program strives to do: connect hunters with hunting lands through mutually beneficial agreements with farmers and private landowners.

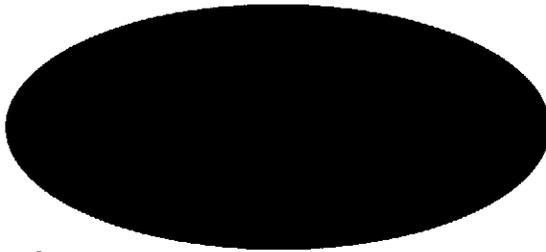


Memorial Trees

Consider a lasting tribute to a loved one by having a City of Flint street tree planted in their honor. Contact GCD today for more information.



Edible Flint Garden Starters kits are being offered at \$15 each for gardens located in Genesee County. Kits include seeds and transplants designed for a 1,500 square foot garden, about 30 ft by 50 ft. To learn more or to purchase a kit, contact Deb Hamilton at MSU-Extension at 810.244.8547 or on the web at www.edibleflint.org.



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Genesee Conservation District
1525 N. Elms Rd.
Flint, MI 48532

Phone: (810) 230-8766 ext. 3
Fax: (810) 230-8596

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or current resident
4608 Beecher Rd
Flint MI 48532-2617

**YOUR Conservation
Planning Team**

GCD & NRCS STAFF

- Angela Warren
Administrator
- Margaret Studer
District Forester
- Brandon Whittaker
Environmental Engineer
- Jeffrey Johnson
Education/Outreach Coordinator
- Brian Schorr
Soil Conservation Technician
- Jermaine Jenkins
District Conservationist
- Robert Carlin
Soil Conservation Technician
- Luke O'Brien
Environmental Engineer
- Laura Jostock
Farm Bill Specialist
- Tom Wert
MAFAP Technician

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<i>Director</i> | |

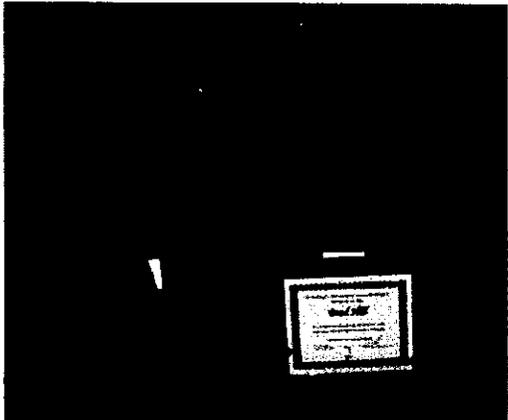
Conservation Calendar

- **March 9 Keep Genesee County Beautiful Leadership Conference**
- **March 20 Vernal equinox Spring begins**
- **April 13 Earth Day & Garden Celebration UM-Flint**
- **April 15 GCD spring tree orders due**
- **April 20 GCD and Sloan/Longway Family Science Day 1-4 p.m.**
- **April 26-27 spring tree sale pick-up at For-Mar**

All NRCS & District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis with regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or handicap.



Hill named Director of the Year by MACD



MACD President, Art Pelon, presents Brad Hill with the 2012 MACD Director of the Year award.

For his outstanding work and leadership in natural resource conservation, the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) named Brad Hill, board member of the Genesee Conservation District (GCD) as the 2012 Director of the Year during the MACD Annual Convention, in November, 2012, held at the Best Western Plus – Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing. "Brad has a great passion for the environment and has volunteered considerable amounts of time as a director of GCD," said Angela Warren, Administrator for GCD. "Brad was instrumental in securing Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding which has greatly assisted in establishing proven conservation practices throughout the county."

Brad has long been involved in natural resource conservation at the local, regional, and state levels. He spent several years supporting and advising watershed committees in the Saginaw Bay watershed before joining GCD. He has been tireless in his efforts and strong commitment to Michigan's natural resources, the work of Conservation Districts, and to establish GCD as a leader in environmental conservation in Genesee County.

Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of Michigan Conservation Districts and works to strengthen Districts through leadership, information and representation at the state level. Michigan's 78 Conservation Districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

USDA NRCS

In partnership with the District, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers conservation management practices locally on the land as provided in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Staff are available to provide technical assistance to landowners and producers and to assist with the application process for cost share programs, which are accepted year-round. Implemented practices positively impact the environmental health of our natural resources.

Calling All Artists:

What can you do with reclaimed wood?

Genesee Conservation District and Genesee County Habitat for Humanity are teaming up to present:

will highlight how reclaimed local trees can become useful objects and imaginative works of art. Whether you are a crafter, an artist, or a traditional woodworker, we hope that you'll share your talent and join in the excitement!

Farmers protecting the environment



Did you know that Genesee County has nearly 1,000 farms in operation encompassing over 100,000 acres? It's true. According to the most recent US Agriculture Census data (2007) these farms' production market value is nearly \$59 million; chief among the crops is soybeans. Many of these farms are actively protecting the environment by voluntarily participating in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, commonly referred to as MAEAP. With strong support from Governor Snyder, Michigan is a leader among the states in natural resource protection.

Becoming MAEAP verified is comprehensive and proactive—designed to reduce farmers' legal and environmental risks through a three-phase process: education, farm-specific risk assessment (A*Systs), and on-farm verification that ensures the farmer has implemented environmentally sound practices.

At the local level, partners of MAEAP, Genesee County Farm Bureau and GCD, are collaborating to encourage participation in the program, with outreach efforts strengthened thanks to a Michigan Farm Bureau grant. A Conservation District MAEAP technician is available to work with farmers through the process. More at meap.org.



Our Water Education Program is Flowing

On location, the District educates the community on the importance of clean water by using the Genesee County Drain Commission's "Our Water" Program. From school programs to community events to sports camps, reaching the intended audience, oftentimes youth, takes a special approach. "By putting words into actions that resonate with people, it gives them perspective to understand how we all play a role in water quality,"

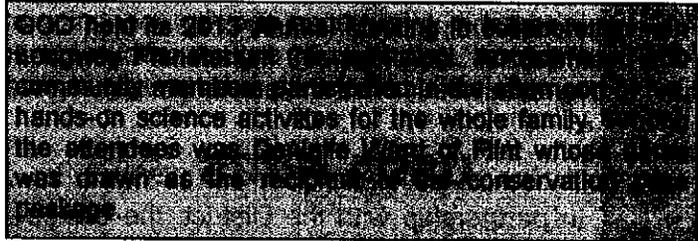


said Jeff Johnson, GCD Education/Outreach Coordinator.

Recently, Johnson presented the Our Water Program to youth participants of the Mateen Cleaves basketball camp. In an engaging activity, Johnson demonstrated how improperly discarded trash, like candy and fast food wrappers left on the street, is pulled by rainwater into storm drains that lead directly to lakes, streams, and rivers. Further, he noted the importance of hydration to athletes; scoring points with the need for clean drinking water. More at cleargenesewater.org.

Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

- Practice good car care.
- Fertilize sparingly and carefully.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Save water.
- Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil.
- Help keep pollution out of storm drains.
- Choose earth-friendly landscaping.



Tree Selection Guide	Species	Roots	Soils / pH	Soils Conditions	Height
	Balsam Fir	Moisture	Shallow roots	Moisture 4.0-6.0	Silt loams, stony loams, gravelly sands
Canadian Hemlock	Slow	Water depending	Moist to well drained 4.0-7.0	upland sandy loams, loamy sands, silt loams	60-100'
Douglas Fir	Moisture	horizontal roots	Well drained 4.5-7.0	well drained sandy or clay loam soils	40-80'
Western White Pine	Slow	shallow roots	Moist to well drained 4.0-7.0	shallow loam	70-80'
Norway Spruce	Fast	horizontal and lateral roots	Moist to well drained 4.0-7.5	Loamy sandy clay soils	40-80'
Red Pine	Moisture	horizontal roots	Well drained 5.0-8.0	dry sandy soils and gravelly ridges, low soil fertility	60-100'
White Pine	Fast	horizontal roots	Moist to well drained 4.0-8.0	Sandy to heavy textured soil	70-100'



Genesee Conservation District Fall Tree Sale

Place your order by **September 20, 2013** for

**Tree Pick-up Friday, September 27, 2013 • 9am until 7pm at
Genesee Conservation District Office • 1525 N. Elms Rd.
Flint, MI 48532 • 810.230.8766 ext. 3**

Balsam Fir, Canadian Hemlock, Concolor Fir, Norway Spruce, Northern White Cedar, Red Pine, and White Pine 2 year old seedlings are available. Fill out the form below and submit it with payment to: Genesee Conservation District, 1525 N. Elms. Rd., Flint, MI 48532. Thank you for supporting the District through this fundraising event.

GCD is not responsible for orders not picked up on the scheduled distribution date. Survival rates are not guaranteed. **LIABILITY CEASES UPON DISTRIBUTION.**

Keep this portion. No invoice or reminder will be mailed.

SPECIES	SIZE	10	25	50	100	QTY	AMT DUE
Balsam Fir	5-10"	\$14.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$80.00	_____	\$ _____
Canadian Hemlock	6-12"	\$20.65	\$44.25	\$73.75	\$118.00	_____	\$ _____
Concolor Fir	5-12"	\$15.75	\$33.75	\$56.25	\$90.00	_____	\$ _____
Norway Spruce	9-15"	\$14.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$80.00	_____	\$ _____
Northern White Cedar	8-15"	\$21.00	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$120.00	_____	\$ _____
Red Pine	5-10"	\$15.75	\$33.75	\$56.25	\$90.00	_____	\$ _____
White Pine	6-14"	\$15.75	\$33.75	\$56.25	\$90.00	_____	\$ _____

Name _____

Order total \$ _____

Address _____

- Discount \$ _____

City _____ Zip _____

Sub-total \$ _____

Phone _____

+ 6% tax \$ _____

Email _____

Total \$ _____

Payment Method

Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card Type Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____



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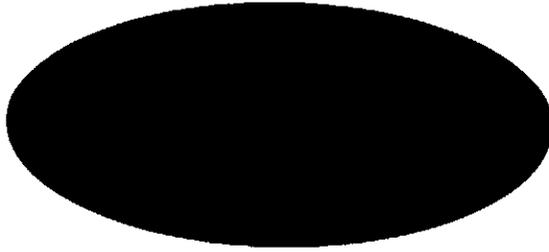
Order # _____

Date Received _____

Cash _____

Check # _____

CC Approv # _____



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Flint, MI 48532

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- Angela Warren—Administrator
- Jermaine Jenkins—District Conservationist
- John Bauer—Soil Conservation Technician
- Jeff Johnson—Education/Outreach Coordinator
- Laura Jostock—Soil Conservation Technician
- Luke O'Brien—Environmental Engineer
- Brian Schorr—Soil Conservation & Watershed Tech
- Dana Voorheis—Forestry Coordinator
- Brandon Whittaker—Environmental Engineer

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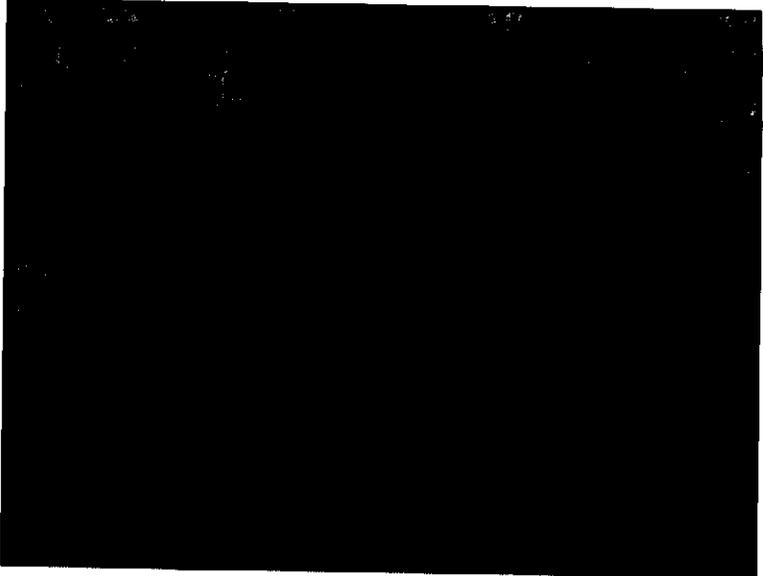
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Watershed

REPORTER

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

APRIL 2013

PARTNER, PROTECT, IMPROVE AND PROMOTE!

REBECCA FEDEWA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rebecca Fedewa

I have a photo of the Flint River as the background on my laptop. It was taken last summer from a helicopter at about 500 feet, during a fundraising event we held in August. It's on my computer not just because it's a pretty picture, but because it's a great conversation starter. People see it, and invariably ask where it was taken. And generally, the asker is shocked when I happily exclaim that it is their very own Flint River.

As it turns out, I all too frequently run into folks who don't recognize the Flint River for the wonderful amenity it is to all of the communities that fall within it's nearly 1,400 square miles of watershed. There are as many reasons why as there are people in the watershed. But each day, the folks involved with the Flint River Watershed Coalition—volunteers, staff, board members, or other advocates—are working to advance our mission to protect, preserve, and improve this vital resource. Now I'd like to add one more verb to that statement: Promote!

Our river is beautiful! Our river is full of recreation opportunities! Our river provides important economic benefits to our community, in addition to serving as the backup water supply for thousands! Our river matters!!!

You can help us make sure that message gets out.

We have seen many changes in the last five or so years – there are new businesses focused on the river, more and more people are attending our

events, and more of our elected officials are taking a serious look at what they can do to improve their communities through river conservation and protection. We are so excited about this, but we know that our "Voice" for the Flint River needs to continue to expand. So that when people one day see an uncommonly beautiful picture of a river, they will say "Hey, that's the pedestrian bridge over the Flint River in Flushing!" or "I canoed that stretch just last week!" or "My kids and I walk on that trail a few times a week!" rather than "Oh, was that taken somewhere up north?"



Aerial view of Flint River

Photo: Gary Nickols

THE FLINT RIVER CLEAN TEAM 2013

You are invited to join the Flint River Watershed Coalition in its mission to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River watershed at our annual Flint River & Community Clean-Up Day! We will be collecting trash and natural debris from the river, its banks, and surrounding areas.

This year's clean-up will be held on April 27th from 9:00am-12:00pm. An updated list of clean-up sites, as well as other information is on our website: www.flintriver.org. Or visit our Facebook page and "Like" us to share this event with your friends or organization! Lunch is provided to all volunteers.

This is a great opportunity for all community



members, especially students and scouts in need of service hours. This is a fun day of environmental stewardship and community connectedness.

Find something truly unique or

unusual, and you could be a contender for the coveted Golden Gloves Award! Jeff Welch was 2012's winner with his Pfeiffer's Beer can circa 1955. What item will win this year's prize? Come and find out! Be a champion for the Flint River, and you could be the next winner!

No pre-registration is required to be a volunteer at the Flint River & Community Clean-Up. Just show up at your site on April 27. We do ask that groups of five or more call us in advance so that we can have enough supplies for everyone. If you have a large group, or are interested in sponsoring the clean-up, please contact Holly Rosser at (810) 767-9491 or send her an e-mail at hrosser@flintriver.org.



400 N. Saginaw St., Ste. 233
Flint, MI 48502
810-767-6490

www.FlintRiver.org

The Watershed Reporter is published quarterly by the Flint River Watershed Coalition. The Coalition is dedicated to promoting the importance of protecting our natural resources. It works closely with the public and private agencies and citizens' groups in carrying out its mission.

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FRWC Board Meetings are held
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Newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood

SUNDAY RIDES ARE COMING SOON

Spring has arrived, and it's time to get those bicycles tuned up, tires checked, and 'get stretching'; the bike riding season is upon us! As has occurred for the past 15 years, the Friends of the Flint River Trail will start the regular Sunday rides on the first Sunday in May (May 5th). They will continue at 2:00 PM EVERY Sunday through October from the Flint Farmers' Market. These are pleasant, leisurely rides of about 10-12 miles in length along the Flint River Trail. There is no need for advance registration: Just "show up and ride." Helmets are STRONGLY recommended. Light refreshments are available after each ride.

In addition, the FFRT schedules Saturday rides on other mid-Michigan trails within an hour's drive from Flint. This year, the rides will be on the third Saturday of each month, May through October. Our first ride will be on the Southern Links Trail from Columbiaville to Otter Lake, Millington and back. The total ride is about 20 miles with a brief rest stop in Millington. Questions about the rides can be directed to Jack Minore at jacksonmin@aol.com or to Bruce Nieuwenhuis at bnbaton@gmail.com.

Please join us for the trail and river clean-up from 9am to noon on the last Saturday in April. We will meet at the Vietnam Veterans Park on the west side of the river, just south of E. Hamilton Ave. Teams will be dispatched from there to clean and groom the trail to prepare for the first Sunday ride on May 5th. Lunch will follow.



OTHER RIDES

Watch for two new rides in Flint this year. On May 11th, the Crim will sponsor the inaugural "Tour de Crim," a 10 mile ride along the 'blue line' of the Crim Route. This is a non-competitive ride with some fun side attractions. And on June 8th, the Health Department will sponsor a family-friendly ride – with details yet to be announced.

GET TO KNOW THE FLINT RIVER FROM THE VIP SECTION!

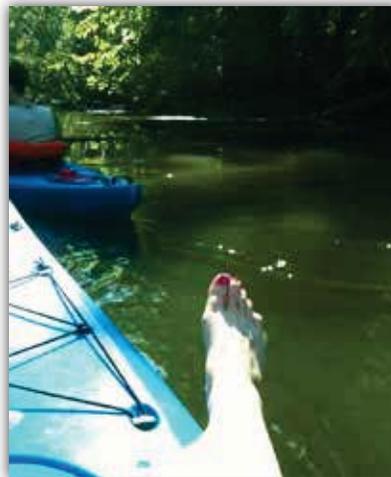
The Flint River is truly amazing and there is no better way to see it than from in a kayak or canoe floating down stream. Every year we meet people who think they have to go north to kayak. We love it when people come out and experience that "up north" feeling by floating down a river that is right in their own back yard. The Flint River has many views, from small rapids to lazy streams to calm lakes surrounded by birds that are just waiting for our paddlers to enjoy. You never know what you will see during our paddles, but we guarantee it will be an experience you won't soon forget. From bald eagles to turkeys to musicians playing the bagpipes, we have seen and heard many natural wonders during our trips. Just when we think we have seen

everything there is to see, the river pulls out another surprise for us.

Our paddles, as we call our canoe/kayak trips, are for all levels of experience. You don't even need to own your own kayak or canoe to come along! We can arrange for a rental if you need it and transportation is always provided. The FRWC paddles are part of the 'Our Water' program generously sponsored by the Genesee County Drain Commission.

Our first paddle is scheduled for Saturday, May 25th at 10 am from Holloway Dam to Irish Road, a truly gorgeous stretch of the river. **We will be holding two paddles a month from June through September, weather permitting.** Check

out our calendar or our paddles webpage for more information or contact Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or jwelch@flinriver.org. Hope to see you on the river this summer!



FIND YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE WATERSHED

AMY McMILLAN, BOARD CHAIR



Amy McMillan

Spring 2013 made its official arrival at 7:02 a.m. on March 20. As a tried and true fan of any season that does not begin with a "W", I faithfully counted the days until spring returned pretty much since the beginning of the 2012 "W" season.

The Flint River Watershed is where I look to find the first signs of spring each year. I can count on seeing my first robins along the shores of Mott Lake, people breaking out their fishing poles up and down the Flint River, just testing the water and watching for walleye. The sound of water rushing under the little footbridge over the Kearsley Creek as it runs through my neighborhood

unrestrained by an icy crust? Music to my newly earmuff-free ears.

If you don't yet have a favorite place in the Watershed to greet spring in all of its green glory, make 2013 the year that you set out to explore the tremendous natural resource that is right here in our own backyard. Mark your calendar, put some air in your tires, and make plans to join the Friends of the Flint River Trail for a Sunday bike ride. Put on a PFD and register for one of the FRWC's paddling events. Head out to For-Mar, hike out into the woods, and hear the post-winter power of the Kearsley Creek as it rushes and roars under the footbridges that link the trails.

Still not sure where the best spot is to welcome spring? Give the friendly and informative Flint River Watershed Coalition staff a call or send us an email. The natural wonders of the watershed await!

SPRING MONITORING

It is getting to be that time of year again! The weather is slowly warming up, grass is starting to turn green, and flowers are thinking about making an appearance. That means that monitoring season is almost here! Every spring and fall the FRWC spends two weeks doing water quality monitoring at 34 sites around the watershed. Volunteer monitors visit their spot and complete site assessments, including collecting benthic samples (such as dragonfly nymphs and caddisfly larvae). The samples are then taken back to one of our lab locations in Genesee or Lapeer County for identification, and those identifications are verified by our Master Identifiers. From that information we are able to tell how healthy our local streams are and identify problem areas. We also share our results with several local and state agencies. This information is available on our website under the Water Monitoring tab.

We are always looking for volunteers. This is a great way to make a difference in

the watershed and to get family and friends involved in protecting our precious waterways. To find out more, attend our training session on Thursday, April 11th with 2 times available, either 1-4 pm or 5-8 pm at Jack Abernathy Park in Davison. We will walk you through the process and show you where and what to look for, and then pair you up with an experienced monitor at one of our sites.

Our lab days for spring monitoring will be Sunday, April 21st, from 12-5 and Thursday, May 2nd from 12-6 in Genesee County and on Saturday, May 4th from 12-4 pm in Lapeer county. With 34 sites around the watershed, we are sure to have something close to you. Find out how your local stream scores and what is living under that seemingly calm

surface. Contact Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or jwtelch@flintriver.org for information or to reserve a spot at the training session.



The FRWC is also pleased to announce that we have expanded our monitoring program, and are now studying the impact of road salting on our streams and how it is affecting the local ecology. We have started out with three sites that we visit twice a month all year long to take samples and assess the specific conductivity and chloride levels. We recently started this program, made possible by a grant from the University of Wisconsin, and are very excited to see what the data shows in the coming months.

If you are interested in finding out more about this new program or in volunteering, contact Jaime Welch for more information.

WATERSHED PROJECT 2013



After a very successful sign up last year, the Genesee Conservation District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service are gearing up for 2013. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, commonly referred to as EQIP, is the primary tool we are using to clean up waterways in Genesee County and the Saginaw Bay area.

currently working toward the completion of nearly 40 applications representing several thousand acres of crop and forest land. Applications for EQIP are accepted year round and our staff is always available for assistance.

EQIP is a program that considers conservation and production agriculture as having compatible goals. Through it, we are able to offer technical assistance and cost share to producers for the implementation of conservation practices. These practices support environmental quality along with the productivity of local farms and are typically aimed at improving the value of our water, soil and wildlife habitat.

We are anticipating a second EQIP sign up this spring that will be funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This sign up will likely target Swartz Creek and Kearsley Creek watersheds here in Genesee County. Informational meetings about this project will be held at the end of March, however specific dates have not been determined at this point.

For more information on NRCS programs, the watershed project or if you would like to attend one of our upcoming meetings, please contact one of our Soil Conservation Technicians: Brian Schorr (brian.schorr@mi.nacdnet.net) and Robert Carlin (robert.carlin@mi.nacdnet.net). Reach us by phone at (810) 230-8766 extension 3.

The first statewide EQIP sign up is already underway and we are

2013 VOICE OF THE RIVER



ANNUAL GATHERING

PLACE-MAKING was the topic, and the PLACE to be in January was the 'Voice of the River' Annual Gathering!

Each year, the Flint River Watershed Coalition holds a celebration to thank our wonderful supporters and volunteers, and to give everyone a preview of the upcoming river happenings. Following this tradition, on January 31, 2013 the 'Voice of the River' Annual Gathering was held at the Stonegate Banquet Centre in Davison. Over 125 brave river enthusiasts risked the inclement weather to join us.



Our keynote speaker was Mr. Rodney Stokes, appointee of Governor Rick Snyder, leading the governor's initiative on CITY PLACEMAKING.

'Placemaking' is a mindset that emphasizes that economic development and community development go hand in hand. Mr. Stokes shared his regional experiences related this topic, and provided many examples of the importance of the Flint River and our watershed in the economic success of the surrounding communities and Michigan. He affirmed our conviction that the Flint River is an important PLACE to all of us.

Our partners from the Genesee Conservation District also joined us at the meeting to give a short presentation on what they are doing



in the watershed. It's gratifying when we can collaborate with other organizations in ways that provide benefits to both groups.

After the speeches, the Annual Gathering gave way to an important FRWC ritual, the presentation of awards to those who have had a positive impact in the watershed in the past year. The Joe Leonardi Leadership Award was presented to Steve Kress and Steve Smith, both of Lapeer. The dedication of these two individuals has been evidenced by their sustained volunteerism throughout the year by working with youth groups and the Lapeer Chapter on the canoe path clearing effort, by raising funds for the work, and maintaining



equipment. Their efforts in the watershed and in their communities showed true leadership and commitment. We were honored that they could be present to accept their award. The Dr. Gary Pace Volunteer of the Year Award was bestowed on one of our long term workers, Earl Gravlin. Earl was one of the first volunteers involved in the FRWC Stream Obstruction Removal Project. Since that effort started in 2005, Earl has put in well over 200 hours, all on a volunteer basis. We admire his skill and appreciate his generosity. The coveted 'Golden Gloves' were presented to Jeff Welch for the cleanup work that he did at the Flint Farmers' Market site. As part of the Flint River and Community Clean Up effort, Jeff accomplished something that no has done in 57 years – He pulled a Pfeiffers beer from the banks of the river. Jeff did a lot of research on the brand, but based on the condition of the can, he won't be partaking of this popular

Detroit beer that hasn't been brewed since 1955. Special recognition was given to Jeff Spinney, the intrepid pilot who donated his



time, expertise, and gas to help raise funds for the FRWC during our "Fun OVER The Flint River" fundraising event held in the summer. Oh, did we mention that he donated his helicopter too, so that our major donors could view the river from hundreds of feet over the watershed. Jeff deserved the recognition and appreciation that he received.

The Annual Gathering is a fifteen year tradition of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. It's our way of recognizing all those who partner with us in our river mission. We appreciate all those who participated in the event and who were so generous in our fundraising.

PLACE the last Thursday of January 2014 on your calendar for next year's event.



MANY THANKS TO OUR FUND RAISING PARTNERS!

The fundraising at the Annual Gathering was a success also. We raised almost \$14,000 for our 2013 programs. These funds will help us carry out the promise that we all made at the meeting in January, to be a collective 'voice of the river.' Congratulations to everyone who was a successful bidder on our great auction offerings, and to those who purchased a chance to win \$269 in the 50/50 drawing. Everyone enjoyed the fundraising, and it certainly helped us out.

The Annual Gathering would not have been possible without the financial support of our Event Sponsors. They are:

Pike- \$1,500 Supporter



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.
Connect with the Future®

Pike - \$1,000 Supporter



Jeff Wright,
Genesee County Drain Commissioner

Walleye - \$500 Supporter



Bass - \$250 Supporter



**Dr. Robert McAllister in loving
memory of Donna K. McAllister**

Jim & Andrea Ananich



**ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY**



WADE TRIM

Blue Gill - \$100 Supporter



Atwood Stadium Authority

Ernest Carter

Deb Cherry,

Genesee County Treasurer

John and Penny Kreucher



Gerry & Shelly Masters



**Steve's Plumbing & Heating
Company, Inc.**

**Scott & Ahlissa Vaubel
Vern's Collision & Glass**

Again this year we were challenged by an anonymous donor to raise \$2,000 during the silent auction. We were able to surpass our goal of \$2,000 and receive a generous 3:1 match on the revenues. Thank you to all our donors and bidders who helped us meet this challenge. Please thank our silent auction donors if you see them on the river, and make sure to support their business when you are looking for great products and services.

Silent Auction Donors

Marilyn Alvey, Shaklee Products

Jim Ananich

Dave Beaulieu

Ellen Brothers

Sharon Harrison Burris

Captain's Club at Woodfield Grand Blanc

David Churchill

Shannon Clark of Meinburg Wellness Advantage

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Greg and Pam Palinsky

Wade Pyles of Team Prudential Great Lakes Realty

Sabrina Race of Creative Cleaning

Suzanne & Holly Rosser

Heather Sisto

University of Michigan-Flint Rec Center

The Yoga Loft

Gabe Zawadzki

A GREAT START TO A GREAT YEAR

We have started the year out right, and we're going to keep at it. Our members are the reason for the success of FRWC programs. A contribution of any level helps put a monitoring volunteer IN the river, allows our bikers to enjoy the trail that runs BY the river, and provides the tools to educate the river enthusiasts of the future in the GREEN curriculum.

You are going to read a lot about our spring and summer programs in this edition of the Watershed Reporter. But there is no way that we could organize any activities without the financial support of our members. We want to recognize all of our new and renewing individuals and families who generously supported the FRWC since the last newsletter was publicized. They are:

Jennifer Acree
 Kathleen Bach
 Dave Beaulieu
 Morgan Boyer
 Benjamin Brock
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burroughs
 Nancy Byder
 Mary Christian*
 Deb Cherry,
 Genesee County Treasurer
 Matt Didier
 Michael Freeman

Cheryl Gault*
 Debra Goulet*
 Mike Haley
 Henry and Nancy Hanflik*
 Joel and Ann Harris
 John Helsom and Edna Bick*
 Jeanne Pepper and Tom Herman*
 Holloway Lake Association
 Raymond and Kathleen Kelly*
 James Kettler*
 Richard and Ann Kraft*
 John and Penny Kreucher
 Joe and Lili Leonardi
 Kay Lennerth
 Riley McLincha
 MIS Environmental Services,
 Craig Kostus*
 Jack Nettleton
 Mary Porte*
 Terry Reechko*
 Michael and Julianne Riha*
 Paul Roetter
 Amy Shannon*
 Ron and Maureen Shoemaker
 Debra Golden-Steinman

Taylor & Morgan, CPA, P.C.
 (Jeans Friday)
 Doug Weiland*
 William and Carol Welch
 Dave Woolfenden

There are many ways that our supporters can become members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We accept contributions in the traditional way with cash and checks, but now, at any time during the year, members can use the convenience of the internet. By going to the FRWC website at www.flintriver.org and pressing the 'Donate Now through Network for Good' button on the home page, credit card users can become new members or renew their membership in the Coalition. Starting this year, we can now take credit card information over the phone and process your membership through a secure payment option that allows you to receive an immediate confirmation by e-mail.

There are seven levels of membership available. Please contact any one of our Board members or staff if you are interested in membership or volunteer opportunities with the Coalition. Also, included with this newsletter is an application form. Please feel free to detach this and give it to an individual or business that may be interested in joining the FRWC. Or, call our offices and we will be glad to reach out to them on your behalf.

**Designates a membership of \$100 or greater.*

Become a member of FRWC now!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - APRIL 2013

name _____
 organization _____
 address _____
 city/state/zip _____
 phone (h) _____ (c) _____
 email _____

_____ student \$10

_____ individual \$25

_____ family \$40

_____ river sponsor \$100

_____ river patron \$250

_____ watershed

protector \$500

_____ watershed

guarantor \$1000

_____ other

\$ _____

Some companies will match an employee contribution to an eligible charity or non-profit organization. Please check with your employer to obtain a matching gift form, if applicable.

Your support is sincerely appreciated. The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: **Flint River Watershed Coalition or FRWC, 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233 Flint MI 48502**



400 N Saginaw Street, Suite 233
Flint, MI 48502

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GEARING UP FOR GREEN!



The Flint River Watershed Coalition is pleased to announce that season GREEN (Global River Environmental Education Network), is in full swing!

Our teachers and mentors attended a Professional Development Day, March 22nd at Mott Community College. Here, teachers learned about the water quality tests that their students will use when they venture out to measure the health of the water within the Flint River watershed. Students and teachers will begin their testing the week of Earth Day, April 22nd, 2013. The finale to the GREEN season will

be at our annual Student Summit, held on May 17th from 8:00am-2:00pm at Kettering University.

At the Summit, students from Genesee, Lapeer, Saginaw, and Oakland counties will present their water quality findings to their peers and community members. Following their presentations, students take part in fun and educational break-out sessions. Sessions tentatively scheduled for this year include: Sewer CSI, Bee Keeping, Edible Plants, Fly-tying, a tour of the new developments at



the Chevy in the Hole site, and much more! The community is invited to come and see the student presentations and support their hard work in protecting the environment.

If you would like more information about GREEN, the Student Summit, or would like to volunteer, please contact Holly Rosser at (810) 767-9491 or by email at hrosser@flinriver.org. Go GREEN and please visit our website for more information and updates!



MAY

Family Fun for Everyone!



The Mounds Off Road Vehicle Park

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 Knee-High Naturalist: It's May!!!

For-Mar

Enjoy a hike to see what's blooming and learn about May Day traditions.

For children, all abilities, ages 3-6.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 4/29/13.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 Wild Adventures: Alien Invasion

A Vanishing Acts Program

For-Mar

Michigan has been invaded! We will learn about Michigan's invasive species, what makes a species invasive, and how they impact the environment.

For youth, all abilities, ages 7-12.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 4/29/13.

THURSDAY, MAY 2 Knee-High Naturalist: It's May!!!

For-Mar

Enjoy a hike to see what's blooming and learn about May Day traditions.

For children, all abilities, ages 3-6.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 4/30/13.

SATURDAY, MAY 4 Vanishing Acts: Knocking at Our Back Door!

For-Mar

New pests continue to threaten Michigan trees. What is the best way to handle them? By understanding what these new pests are capable of and how you can play a part in keeping them out of Michigan. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

For adults, all abilities, ages 16 and older.

Time: 10am-noon. Cost: \$10 per person.

Pre-registration required by 5/2/13.

9 years of experience studying them. Discover where and when to find salamanders and hunt for live creatures. Dress to hike and get muddy!

For families, not recommended for children under 5 years of age.

Time: 2-5pm. Cost: \$3 per person.

Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

SUNDAY MAY 5 Monthly Birders Breakfast Club

For-Mar

Come enjoy your morning coffee or tea with one of For-Mar's friendly birders.

Learn about different bird varieties, birding tips, and go on a naturalist led birding hike.

Great for beginning birders and those who have been birding for years. Please bring your own binoculars. A limited number of binoculars are available.

For adults, all abilities, ages 16 and older.

Time: 8:30-10am. Cost: \$1.50 per person.

Pre-registration required by 5/3/12.

MONDAY, MAY 6 Ultimate Dash Training Beginner/Intermediate

Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4

Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 Knee-High Naturalist: Big, Tall, Short, Small

For-Mar

Practice measurement while we learn about animals of all sizes.

For children, all abilities, ages 3-6.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 5/6/13.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 Wild Adventures: Fantastic Flowers

For-Mar

We will learn the parts of flowers and their functions during hands-on activities.

For families, all ages and abilities.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 Wild Adventures: Let's Hear it for Herps!

For-Mar

Is it a lizard or a salamander? We will be very hands-on while we learn about reptiles and amphibians along with their similarities and differences!

For youth, all abilities, ages 7-12.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 5/13/13.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 The Mounds re-opens for the season.

Mounds ORV Park

Think you have what it takes to conquer The Mounds? Think again!

Time: 8am-dusk. Please refer to page 2 for Mounds vehicle fees.

Pre-registration required by 5/13/13.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 Knee-High Naturalist: Defense, Defense!

For-Mar

Test the fascinating ways animal defend themselves.

For children, all abilities, ages 3-6.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 5/14/13.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 Ultimate Dash Training Advanced

E. A. Cummings Center, Control Building

Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 Endangered Species Day

For-Mar

Join For-Mar Naturalists as we celebrate Endangered Species Day. Explore different endangered species from throughout the world and in your own backyard. Make an endangered species mask to take home.

Drop in any time from 1-4pm.

Pre-registration required by 5/15/13.

SATURDAY, MAY 18 Growing Gardeners: Gardening; It's For the Birds!

For-Mar

What are some good plants to grow in your garden to help feed our feathered friends?

Join us for a lesson on what plants and elements to include in your "bird garden" and help us plant one at For-Mar!

For youth, all abilities, ages 7-12.

Time: 2-3:30pm. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 5/16/13.

SATURDAY, MAY 18 Natural Beauty

For-Mar

Create your own products for a personal spa day using natural materials. Learn about aromatherapy and the use of plant materials for healthy living. Massage Therapist Lisa James from Directional Health, will be here to help you create your own massage oils and learn self-massage techniques. Come make-up free to enjoy relaxing facial treatments.

Herbs that are discussed and used in the program will be available for purchase, courtesy of Walker's Farms.

For ages 14 and older, all abilities.

Time: 6-9pm. Cost: \$18 per person.

Pre-registration required 5/16/13.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 Happy Mudder's Day

The Mounds ORV Park

Oh, is that your mommy calling? We're honoring all mothers and mudders today! The muddiest mom and the muddiest vehicle will each win a Mounds Annual Permit.

For all moms and all vehicles.

Time: 9am. Please refer to page 2 for Mounds vehicle fees.

Pre-registration required 5/16/13.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 Adventures of a Wildlife Researcher: Sea Lamprey

A Vanishing Acts Program

Join us for a lesson on what plants and elements to include in your "bird garden" and help us plant one at For-Mar!

For youth, all abilities, ages 7-12.

Time: 2-3:30pm. Cost: \$3 per child.

Pre-registration required by 5/16/13.

FRIDAY, MAY 24 Bluebell, Buttercup, and Clo Beaches Open for the Season

For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: 8am-8pm daily. Cost: FREE!

FRIDAY, MAY 24 Peepers and Leapers

For-Mar

Peep, Peep, Croak, Croak. Join biologist Teresa Yoder-Nowak, on a quest to catch the frogs and toads of For-Mar. We'll learn to identify them, count them, and ways to help scientists protect them.

Dress to hike and get muddy!

For families, not recommended for children under 5 years of age.

Time: 6-8pm. Cost: \$3 per person.

Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

SATURDAY, MAY 25 For-Mar Eco-Photo Excursion

For-Mar

Experience a Great Lakes Photo Tour: nature eco-photo tour or eco-photo excursion. Explore inspiring and scenic Great Lakes natural eco-systems at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum.

Capture stunning images...with your own camera right from the start! Take advantage of over 50+ years of combined nature photography experience with naturalist photographer, Mark S. Carl; and digital photography expert, Bob Gzresiak. All photographers are welcome regardless of skill or experience! For more information about this program, if you have questions please contact: info@greatlakesphototours.com or 517.230.1655.

For ages 16 and older.

Time: 10am-3pm. Cost: \$89 per person.

Pre-registration required by 5/15/13.

Please register for this excursion at www.greatlakesphototours.com, look For-Mar under the Events tab.

cities around the world and like most of us; the trees planted in our cities are expected to do more with less. Let's take a walk and learn how to identify some of these trees, along with their benefits and drawbacks. Bring a snack or sack lunch for this 4-hour outdoor excursion. For adults, ages 16 and older, all abilities. **Time: 9am-1pm. Cost: \$20 per person.** Pre-registration required by 5/30/13.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1
Who's My Baby?**

For-Mar
Learn, recognize and match different animal parents to their babies. For individuals with cognitive disabilities. **Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$2 per person.** Pre-registration required by 5/30/13.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1
National Trails Day**

For-Mar
Get out and get active on For-Mar's 7.5 miles of trail during National Trails Day. Stop into the For-Mar Visitor Center to enjoy active living activities and let us know that you took part in the For-Mar "National Trails Day" event. For families, all ages and abilities. **Time: 10am-3pm. Cost: FREE!** Pre-registration not required.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1
Growing Gardeners:
Very, Berry Gardens**

For-Mar
What kinds of berries can we grow in our Michigan gardens? Join us for a lesson on what they are and how to grow them. Help us plant some in the For-Mar Children's Garden and pot one up to get your home berry garden growing!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2
Monthly Birders
Breakfast Club**

For-Mar
Come enjoy your morning coffee or tea with one of For-Mar's friendly birders. Learn about different bird varieties, birding tips, and go on a naturalist led birding hike. Great for beginning birders and those who have been birding for years. Please bring your own binoculars. A limited number of binoculars are available. For adults, all abilities, ages 16 and older. **Time: 8:30-10am. Cost: \$1.50 per person.** Pre-registration required by 5/31/13.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3
Ultimate Dash Training
Beginner/Intermediate**

Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

For-Mar
Discover how worms live and how they help us. Make a "worm farm." For children, ages 3-6, all abilities. **Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.** Pre-registration required by 6/3/13.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
Wild Adventures: The
Wonders of Wetlands**

For-Mar
Discover the importance of wetlands when we explore the ponds and wetlands at For-Mar. Dress for the outdoors and expect to get your hands and feet dirty! For children, ages 7-12, all abilities. **Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.** Pre-registration required by 6/3/13.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
Ask an Expert: Mark
Torregrossa, Weather
Gardening**

For-Mar
Learn from the weather man himself, Mark Torregrossa! He'll teach you just how to garden for the weather. Learn how to grow unique plants using the different microclimates in your own backyard. You may have hotter spots or protected spots that can grow plants you wouldn't normally expect here. Weather permitting; please dress for the weather. We'll be outdoors in the For-Mar gardens for a portion of this presentation. For ages 10 and older, all abilities. **Time: 6:30-7:30pm. Cost: \$3 per person.** Pre-registration required by 6/3/13.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6
Knee-High Naturalist:
Wonderful Worms**

For-Mar
Discover how worms live and how they help us. Make a "worm farm." For children, ages 3-6, all abilities. **Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.** Pre-registration required by 6/3/13.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6
Ultimate Dash
Training Advanced**

Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7 AND
FRIDAY, JUNE 14
Yoga in Nature**

For-Mar
Looking for a good stretch and relaxation? Maybe you just want time away from everyday stress. Learn breathing techniques and posture control with certified Kripalu yoga instructor, Judy Freiheig. You will leave refreshed and excited for the next class. Class will be held indoors in case of bad weather. Wear layered, loose, comfortable clothing, bring your yoga mat or blanket.

Pre-registration required by 6/5/13.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8
9th Annual Kids Fishing Derby**

Bluegill Boat Launch
Bluegill, Rock Bass, Perch, Walleye or Carp? What will you catch? Bring fishing gear if you have it; we'll supply the bait, the boats, the experts, and lunch! A limited number of rods and reels will be available for kids who don't have their own. Co-sponsored by the Flint River Valley Steelheaders and Fishing Tackle Grab Bag. For families, all ages and abilities. **Time: 9am-2pm. Cost: Purchase of an annual or daily pass required for entrance into the facility. Participation in the Fishing Derby is FREE!** Pre-registration not required. Please refer to page 2 for vehicle fees.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8
3rd Annual Mother
Goose Hayride**

For-Mar
Travel the trails by hayride or on foot and visit your favorite Mother Goose rhyme and storybook characters! For families, all ages and abilities. **Time: 10am-3pm. Rides leave hourly starting at 10am. Last ride leaves at 2pm. Cost: FREE!** Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead. Maximum of 25 people per hayride, more trips will be added to accommodate.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8
SPROUT Family
Friendly Bike Ride**

Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
The SPROUT Coalition (Genesee County's Childhood Obesity Coalition) and SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education) present a Family Bike Ride! Start at Bluebell Beach and ride to the Flint Farmers' Market. SPROUT and Sage Coalition members and Friends of the Flint River Trail will join you on the ride.

Start at Bluebell Beach with Bicycle Safety workshops, Helmet Fitting, a Bicycle First Aid Station and a bicycle rodeo for the youngsters. Ride down the Flint River Trail and end up at the Flint Farmers' Market for nutrition education activities, cooking demonstrations, and healthy snacks! Then we'll ride back to Bluebell Beach. When you're done, you'll be able to brag that you rode a total of 12 miles! For families, recommended for kids age 10 and older.

Time: 9am-2pm. Cost: FREE! For additional information, call 810-768-7970. Riders will be asked to sign a waiver before the ride begins. Pre-registration not required.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9
DIY Green Craft Day: Wine**

Ready, Set Grow!

The weather is warm and the time is right! Get to know the many uses of seeds and how to get them to grow into plants. You'll even get to plant your own seed to get your garden started. For children, ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

10:30am-noon Linden County Park, Pavilion 2
1:30-3pm Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

10:30am-noon For-Mar
1:30-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

10:30am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
1:30-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

11am-noon Richfield County Park, Pavilion
1:30-3pm Wolverine Campground, behind the camp store

Gardens Outside the Plot: Vertical and Container Gardening

Did you know that gardens can grow up, down, and all around? You don't need a yard to have a garden. We'll show you how and you'll get to build a trellis and pot up a se to take home!

For children, ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

10:30am-noon Linden County Park, Pavilion 2
1:30-3pm Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

10:30am-noon For-Mar
1:30-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

10:30am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
1:30-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

11am-noon Richfield County Park, Pavilion
1:30-3pm Wolverine Campground, behind the camp store

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
Musical Performance by
Rusty and Laurie Wright**

For-Mar
Rusty and Laurie bring the "Blues" back **Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!** Pre-registration not required. Rain location, inside the For-Mar Visitors Center.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13
Knee-High Naturalist: Frogs,
Toads, and Salamanders**

For-Mar
Dress for a walk to the pond so we can explore the world of amphibians. Make a toad house to take home. For children, ages 3-6, all abilities. **Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.** Pre-registration required by 6/11/13.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13
Geocaching 101**

Linden County Park, Clover Beach Pavilion
Join the Auto City Cachers for a beginner's course in Geocaching, an adventure game using GPS that combines technology with location-based gaming, social networking, treasure hunting, GPS navigation, and outdoor recreation. Geocaching is a worldwide game of hidden treasure. Bring a GPS if you have

what story-telling is and how it can be translated via visual arts. Note: This is a three session workshop. For youth, ages 11-15, all abilities. **Time: 6-8pm. Cost: FREE!**

Visual Composition

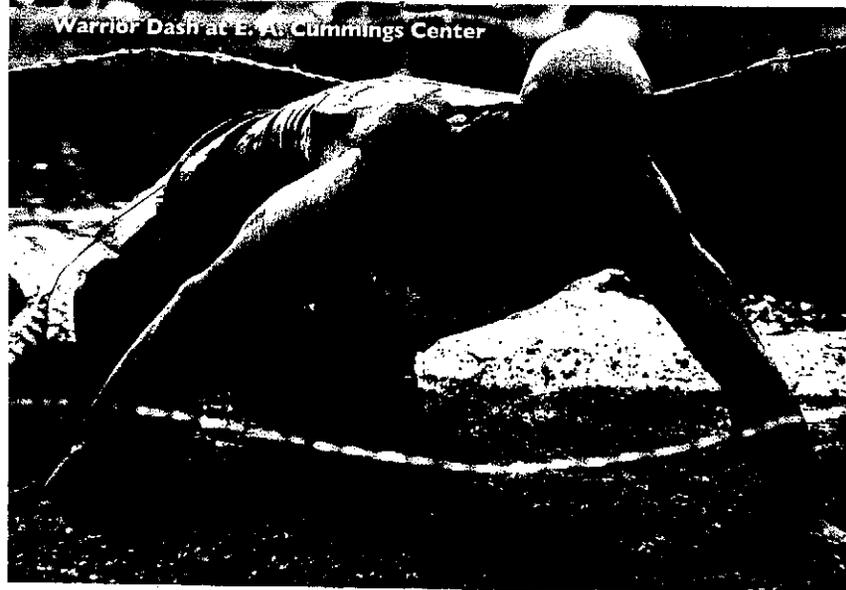
Using models and object placement, students will see the importance of understanding anatomy and still life to position them on paper in the most dynamic translation possible; technique introduction such as contour drawing, chalk/pastel application, and marker manipulation will be displayed for the students to see and do themselves. Note: This is a three session workshop. For youth, ages 11-15, all abilities. **Time: 1-3pm. Cost: FREE!** Pre-registration not required, but the workshop is limited to 12 participants.

**Session 3: Sunday, June 16: Final
Production and Presentation - Gallery
Showcase**

This final day of the workshop will revisit the lessons learned from the prior days; understanding the role that artists play in society past, present and future; showcase highlights of student works from the prior days and certificate presentation for completion of the workshop. Note: This is a three session workshop.

For-Mar On The Road

Warrior Dash at E. W. Cummings Center



mention it's all FREE?
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

MONDAY, JUNE 17 Summer Playground Program Starts!

Join us Monday-Friday, 11am-3:30pm at Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1 or Davison Roadside Park Pavilion.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18 Yippee, It's Summer!

Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
Summer vacation has just begun, but it won't be long before you're hearing, "I'm bored." We can cure that! Join us for free ice cream and a preview of all the FREE summer programs taking place in YOUR Genesee County Parks. Did we mention it's all FREE?

For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 Citizen Science: Fruits of Your Labor, Help Plant an Orchard at For-Mar (Part I)

For-Mar
Our first Citizen Science project is planning an orchard for For-Mar's Arboretum. In science speak, we're going to talk about the advantages of growing sustainable perennials; what we really mean is that we're going to talk about fruit bearing trees and plants! For families, recommended for children ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

Time: 1-2pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 Geocaching 101

Richfield County Park, Pavilion 3
Join the Auto City Cachers for a beginner's course in Geocaching, an adventure game using GPS that combines technology with location-based gaming, social networking, treasure hunting, GPS navigation, and outdoor recreation. Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure and is like a secret worldwide swap meet! Bring a GPS if you have one, but come even if you don't! We'll have some available for your use. For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: 6:30-8:30pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 Theatre in Our Parks: Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

For-Mar
When triumphant soldiers arrive in Messina, they find romance among the ladies, but wicked plots threaten their love. Drama, humor and romance mark one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20
Ultimate Dash
Training Advanced**
Crossroads Village, Mason Tavern
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

Time: 10am-noon. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration required by 6/20/13.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 Ask an Expert Series: Jim Withers Honeybee Biology

For-Mar
Jim Withers is back at For-Mar to talk about what life in a hive is really like. Come learn why Honeybees are so important and how they function as super organisms. For ages 12 and up, all abilities.
Time: 1-3pm. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration required by 6/20/13.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 Bluebell Bike Rides

Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
Learn to Ride a Bike Clinic Learn to Ride Clinic is for youth who want to learn the correct way to ride a bicycle. Lesson will include how to wear a helmet properly, how to ride a two-wheel bike and how to ride in a single-file line. For youth, ages 7-12.

Time: 2-3pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

Bike Riding for Teens You'll learn the fundamentals of riding a bike safely. Starting from Bluebell Beach, we'll visit nearby points of interest while learning bicycle safety practices. For teens, ages 13-18.

Time: 3-4pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 Great American Campout

Buell Lake County Park, ball field at the back of the park
Try a mini-vacation and join us for one night of FREE camping! We'll even provide all the ingredients for s'mores! For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 5pm-10am. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration required by 6/21/13. Limited to the first 50 families. Tents only!

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 Theatre in Our Parks: Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

Flushing County Park, Pavilion 5
When triumphant soldiers arrive in Messina, they find romance among the ladies, but wicked plots threaten their love. Drama, humor and romance mark one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

Time: Noon-1pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 Citizen Science: Fruits of Your Labor, Help Plant an Orchard at For-Mar (Part II)

For-Mar
It's time to dig! You helped us plan; now it's time to plant! We're adding an orchard to the collection at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum. For families, recommended for children age 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 Rescue 911

Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
STAT EMS has partnered with local communities, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Hurley Medical Center, the region's only Level One Trauma Center, to teach kids all about Police, Fire, and EMS/First Aid Safety. Rescue 911 is fun, hands-on learning that gives children the knowledge, skills and confidence to protect themselves and react safely in emergency situations. Take part in programs like the Identification Kid and child safety/burn programs, as well as many others.

For children, ages 6 and older.
Time: 9am-1:30pm, check in begins at 8:30am. Cost: FREE!

To register, please visit www.statems.net/community and indicate how many children you are registering. Children will be registered on a first come, first served basis and registration will be limited to 30 children per session. The event is FREE. Each child receives lunch and a graduation certificate upon completion of the program. For more information, please call Chris Watts at the Community Coordination Department, 810.238.7672, ext. 205.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 WERQ™

Linden County Park, Pavilion 4
WERQ™ (pronounced "work") is a fiercely fun dance fitness class based on today's pop, rock, and hip hop music taught by Certified Group Fitness Professional Katie Slaughter! All the moves used in the dances are inspired by the song lyrics and music videos. The class borrows its name from dance slang; when you perform the perfect dance move, you're "werqing it." Class starts with a dynamic warm-up to prepare you for 360 degree movement and previews the dance moves that will be used in the class. The cool-down uses yoga-inspired static stretching. For ages 14 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!

Join the Auto City Cachers for a beginner's course in Geocaching, an adventure game using GPS that combines technology with location-based gaming, social networking treasure hunting, GPS navigation, and outdoor recreation. Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure and is like a secret worldwide swap meet! Bring a GPS if you have one, but come even if you don't! We'll have some available for your use. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 6:30-8:30pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 Tree Defects

For-Mar
A healthy tree is not always a sound tree. Looking at trees, we might see green leaves and good growth, but we often overlook defects that plague them. These defects can become problems down the road. Walk through For-Mar and learn how to identify some of the most common defects and what they might mean for your trees. For adults, ages 16 and older.
Time: 10-11am. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration required by 6/27/13.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 International Mud Day

Bluebell Beach
Pigs love mud and so do we! Wear something old, bring a towel, and come prepared to slip, slide, and wallow in our mud pit! For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 1-3pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 Nature's Nightlights

For-Mar
Come learn about Nature's glow-in-the-dark creatures...the ones you can see at For-Mar, the ones that live deep in the ocean, and the ones scientists have created. We will look for glowing creatures at For-Mar and see a living glowing salamander. For families, recommended for children ages 5 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-8:30pm. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30 Taxidermy Basics: Birds

For-Mar
For-Mar Naturalist, April Payne will be teaching the basics of how to create taxidermy bird mounts and study skins. She will take participants through the step-by-step process of how taxidermy of birds is done. For ages 10 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-3pm. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration required by 6/28/13.

ou 24 hours a day." June
nglasses Day and we're
decorating a pair of shades
ar all summer long!
ages and abilities.
Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

JULY 2
Monarchs and Me
Park, Pavilion 1
Monarchs need houses and
dressed in your fairy or
a story. Then we'll build
houses to attract little visitors!
Ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

monarchs! Monarch Watch is an
ongoing citizen science project that
has been tracking monarch butterflies
across the country for the last ten years.
Come learn how to capture, rear, tag and
release caterpillars and butterflies. Help
us determine what butterfly species call
our parks home and create a graphic
display of the data we collect.
For families, recommended for children
ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.



For-Mar's TRUCK FARM

For or Not: Natural Forecasting

Do you need to water the garden? Come learn weather lore and the reasons
behind the weather. We'll teach you to use some of the things you have to
predict the weather in your own garden.

Ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

JULY 3
For-Mar
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 2
Linden County Park, Pavilion 1

FRIDAY, JULY 5
10:30am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
1:30-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

JULY 4
For-Mar
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 5
Wolverine Campground, behind the
camp store

SATURDAY, JULY 6
11am-noon Richfield County Park, Pavilion 5
1:30-3pm Wolverine Campground, behind the
camp store

For Together! Companion Planting

Companion planting is the idea that plants have friends in the garden. They help each other
by providing food and attracting/deterring bugs. Come learn about companion
planting and how to take home to your garden.

Ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

JULY 10
For-Mar
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 2
Linden County Park, Pavilion 1

FRIDAY, JULY 12
10:30am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
1:30-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

JULY 11
For-Mar
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 1

SATURDAY, JULY 13
11am-noon Richfield County Park, Pavilion 5
1:30-3pm Wolverine Campground, behind the
camp store

Beware! Animal Foragers

Some wildlife in order to grow. A few key players include bees and
ants that help with pollination and worms that provide soil aeration. Even so, you
want to protect your favorite flowers and carefully tended veggies becoming someone
else's. Learn the ways that you can prevent unauthorized garden nibbling.

Ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

JULY 17
For-Mar
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 1

FRIDAY, JULY 19

out your family and friends!
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

WERQ™
Linden County Park, Pavilion 4
WERQ™ (pronounced "work") is a fiercely
fun dance fitness class based on today's
pop, rock, and hip hop music taught by
Certified Group Fitness Professional Katie
Slaughter! All the moves used in the
dances are inspired by the song lyrics and
music videos. The class borrows its name
from dance slang; when you perform the
perfect dance move, you're "werqing it."
Class starts with a dynamic warm-up to
prepare you for 360 degree movement
and previews the dance moves that will
be used in the class. The cool-down uses
yoga-inspired static stretching.
For ages 14 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Citizen Science: NABA Butterfly Count
For-Mar
Join For-Mar naturalists for the 38th
annual NABA Butterfly Count. Counts
are used to track butterfly populations of
North America. May include the use of
personal vehicle to count various locations
throughout the Genesee County Parks.
Count starts at For-Mar.
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 9am-noon. Cost: FREE!
*Pre-registration not required, but organized
groups are asked to call ahead.*

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Crawling Caterpillars Equals Winged Beauties
For-Mar
Let's take a look at how butterflies transform.
For individuals with cognitive disabilities
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$2 per person.
Pre-registration required by 7/4/13.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

Monthly Birders Breakfast Club
For-Mar
Come enjoy your morning coffee or tea
with one of For-Mar's friendly birders.
Learn about different bird varieties, birding
tips, and go on a naturalist led birding hike.
Great for beginning birders and those who
have been birding for years. Please bring
your own binoculars. A limited number of
binoculars are available.
For adults, all abilities, ages 16 and older.
Time: 8:30-10am. Cost: \$1.50 per person.
Pre-registration required by 7/5/13.

MONDAY, JULY 8

Ultimate Dash Training
Beginner/Intermediate

Michigan animals need to survive in their ecosystems.
FRIDAY, JULY 5
11am-noon Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
2-3pm Linden County Park, Pavilion 2

Programs for both age groups run simultaneously.
Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

TUESDAY, JULY 2
2-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
11am-noon For-Mar
2-3pm Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4

THURSDAY, JULY 4
Happy Independence Day!
No Programs today.

Dino Days

AGES 3-6 Discover the exciting world of our Jurassic friends. Join a For-Mar naturalist for
dinosaur themed activities and a craft. Help us excavate our dinosaur fossils!

AGES 7-12 Dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes once roamed the Earth. Come learn about the
differences between several of these giant reptiles. Create your own fossil to take home.
Programs for both age groups run simultaneously.
Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

TUESDAY, JULY 9
2-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
11am-noon For-Mar
2-3pm Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4

THURSDAY, JULY 11
11am-noon Buell Lake County Park,
Pavilion 1
2-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

FRIDAY, JULY 12
11am-noon Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
2-3pm Linden County Park, Pavilion 2

SATURDAY, JULY 13
11am-noon Wolverine Campground,
behind camp store
2-3pm Creasey Bicentennial Park,
Sledging Hill Pavilion

Wealthy Wetlands

AGES 3-6 Wetlands are more than just full of mosquitoes. Come learn about the wonders
of wetlands. Start your own wetland garden to take home.

AGES 7-12 What is a wetland? You're invited to help us conduct an experiment to learn
about the importance of wetlands. Start your own wetland garden to take home.
Programs for both age groups run simultaneously.

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

TUESDAY, JULY 16
2-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
11am-noon For-Mar
2-3pm Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4

THURSDAY, JULY 18
11am-noon Buell Lake County Park,
Pavilion 1
2-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

FRIDAY, JULY 19
11am-noon Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
2-3pm Linden County Park, Pavilion 2

SATURDAY, JULY 20
11am-noon Wolverine Campground,
behind camp store
2-3pm Creasey Bicentennial Park,
Sledging Hill Pavilion

Fitting In

AGES 3-6 Ever wonder why a skunk is black and white, why some salamanders have no
lungs, or why deer are more active at dawn and dusk? Explore these and other questions
as we learn about adaptations and how animals fit into their environment.

AGES 7-12 Ever heard of a Polarphant? We're talking about how animals fit into their
environment. Design your own imaginary animal made especially for the environment of

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
WERQ™

Linden County Park, Pavilion 4
WERQ™ (pronounced "work") is a fiercely fun dance fitness class based on today's pop, rock, and hip hop music taught by Certified Group Fitness Professional Katie Slaughter! All the moves used in the dances are inspired by the song lyrics and music videos. The class borrows its name from dance slang; when you perform the perfect dance move, you're "werqing it." Class starts with a dynamic warm-up to prepare you for 360 degree movement and previews the dance moves that will be used in the class. The cool-down uses yoga-inspired static stretching. For ages 14 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Musical Performance by Sweet Willie Tea

For-Mar
Sweet Willie is BACK! Sweet Willie Tea is a genuine, bona-fide, one-man-band who performs Roots, Blues and Americana music. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy as Sweet Willie brings the gardens to life with his amazing talent. Rain location; inside the For-Mar Visitor Center. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Citizen Science: It's Time To Get Wet, Help Survey Kearsley Creek (Part I)

For-Mar
Fish biologists conduct animal surveys of habitats in order to evaluate the health of that habitat. Join the For-Mar naturalists and an expert fish biologist to learn how and why these surveys are conducted. Then meet us again next week to get down and dirty (and wet!) doing science. For families, recommended for children

ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

THURSDAY, JULY 11
Ultimate Dash Training Advanced

Cummings Center, Control Building
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

THURSDAY, JULY 11
Dig In: For-Mar's Truck Farm

Flint Public Library
Dig into the Summer Reading Program with a visit from For-Mar's Truck Farm. Visit with one of For-Mar's horticulturists and see how

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Theatre in Our Parks: Sleeping Beauty

Linden County Park, Clover Beach, top of hill
This classic fairy tale of the enchanted princess awakened by love's first kiss features fairies, kings, queens, music, dance and laughter. Perfect family fun! For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

FRIDAY, JULY 12 & FRIDAY, JULY 19
Yoga in Nature

For-Mar
Looking for a good stretch and relaxation? Maybe you just want time away from everyday stress. Learn breathing techniques and posture control with certified Kripalu yoga instructor, Judy Freiheig. You will leave refreshed and excited for the next class. Class will be held indoors in case of bad weather. Wear layered, loose, comfortable clothing, bring your yoga mat or blanket. For ages 9 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6-7pm. Cost: \$7 per person for a single class or \$12 per person for both classes.
Pre-registration required by 7/10/13.

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Outdoor Movie Night: Carnivorous Plants

For-Mar
A nerdy orphan, a flower shop, a strange and mysterious plant.... "Feed me, Seymour!" It's a plants eating people kind of world out there! Enjoy a song-filled and action packed evening of entertainment when a fictional man-eating carnivorous plant runs rampant. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. For ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-9pm. Cost: FREE! There will be refreshments available for purchase.
No preregistration required.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Rookie Ranger Academy

Flushing County Park, Pavilion 5
Did you know that Genesee County Parks Park Rangers are certified police officers? That's just one thing you'll learn during the Rookie Ranger Academy. Other topics include park rules, gun safety, how to call 911, detective work, finger printing, handcuffing, how to handle emergency situations in the park, water safety, physical agility, emergency vehicles, traffic stops, and talking on the radio. You'll have a chance to win prizes and everyone will become a Rookie Ranger complete with a certificate! For youth ages 9-12 all abilities

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Kids Fishing Club

Buell Lake County Park, Fishing Dock
A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of doing just about anything else! Bring your rod and we'll supply the bait. We'll have a short lesson on things like tackle, casting, or fishing rules and then we'll fish! For kids, ages, 4-18, all abilities.
Time: 9-11am. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Vanishing Acts: The Comeback Kids

For-Mar
Some of our most cherished trees have been hit hard by invasive pests and have been almost completely eliminated from

our ecosystem. Continuing efforts have been able to save these species and they are beginning to be reintroduced into our landscapes. Learn what has been done and how you can help!
For adults, ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 10-11am. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration required by 7/11/13.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Ask an Expert Series: Bill Heyworth; Stingrays Are Sharks Too

For-Mar
Stingrays, there are at least 200 species of stingrays in the world and their stings can be painful and even deadly. Learn how Stingrays

MONDAY, JULY 15
Ultimate Dash Training Beginner/Intermediate
Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

TUESDAY, JULY 16
Cooking Matters for Families
(6-Week Program, July 16-August 20)
Davidson Roadside Park Pavilion
Cooking Matters for Families is a 6-week series that will empower families with the skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy and affordable meals. With the help of our culinary and nutrition experts, Cooking Matters course participants learn how to select nutritious and low-cost ingredients and prepare them in ways that

provide the best nourishment possible for their families. Families will be provided a grocery bag full of supplies to take home so they can re-create the delicious meal.
Cooking Matters for Families is partially funded with Federal funds from USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 6-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Register for this program by calling 591-5134. Families are asked to commit to the entire 6-week program and class size is limited, so register early!

TUESDAY, JULY 16
Cockadoodle Doo



Flushing County Park

Professional Katie Slaughter! All the moves used in the dances are inspired by the song lyrics and music videos. The class borrows its name from dance slang when you perform the perfect dance move, you're "werqing it." Class starts with a dynamic warm-up to prepare you for 360 degree movement and previews the dance moves that will be used in the class. The cool-down uses yoga-inspired static stretching.
For ages 14 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Citizen Science: It's Time To Get Wet, Help Survey Kearsley Creek (Part II)

For-Mar
Join us again this week and let's get down and dirty (and wet!) doing science! Bring your boots or waders and jump on in as we survey Kearsley Creek's aquatic species! Data collected will be added to other scientific findings about our area's parks. For families, recommended for children ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

THURSDAY, JULY 18
Music in the Parks Concert

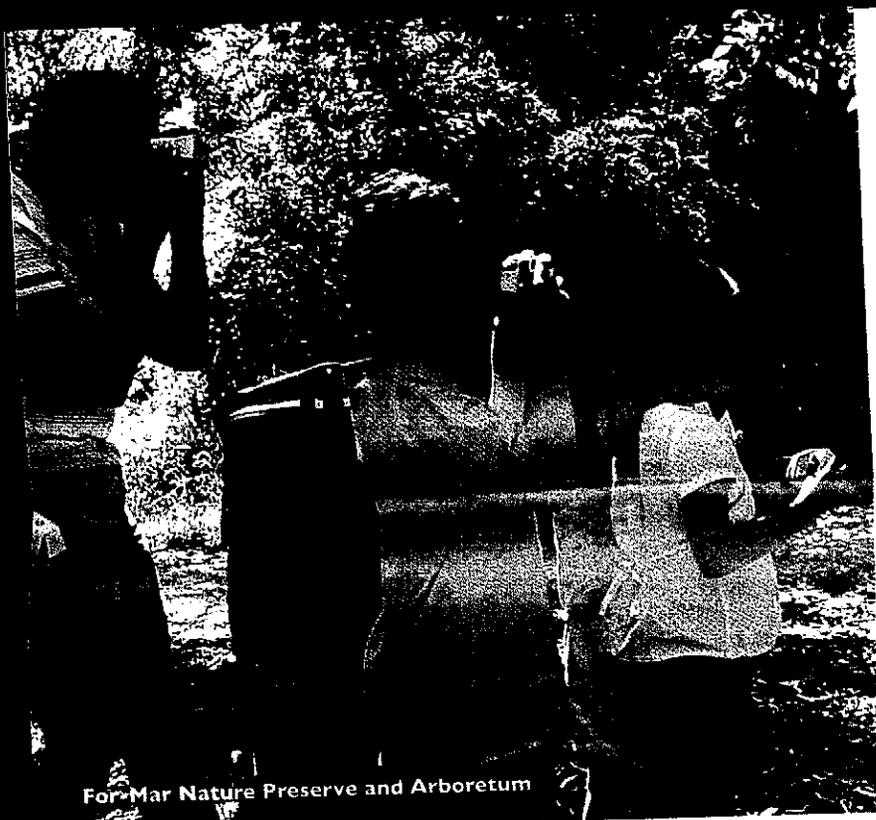
Crossroads Village
Join the Flint Symphony Orchestra for the opening of the 2013 Music in the Parks series. Don't forget your lawn chair or blanket! Crossroads attractions will be open until the concert starts. Food will be available for purchase.
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: Crossroads Village opens at 5pm. The concert starts at 7pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.



JULY

Family Fun for Everyone!

Genesee Belle



For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum

FRIDAY, JULY 19
Family Adventures in Nature (F.A.Ns): Get Outdoors and Cook

For-Mar
 Join Boy Scout Leader and For-Mar Naturalist, Lisa Kelley for a lesson in outdoor cooking! Did you know you can cook with fire, hot coals and even the sun? You'll even create your own outdoor solar

SUNDAY, JULY 21
Adventures of a Boy Scout: Log Cabin Restoration

For-Mar
 Want to learn what it takes to rebuild a rustic log cabin from the ground up? Soon to be Eagle Scout, Lucas Kelley completely rebuilt a YMCA log cabin and he's going to share his story.
 For families, all ages and abilities. Great for

TUESDAY, JULY 23
Simply Safer Personal Defense Intro

Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
 Personal Defense Connection will help you train your body and mind to defend yourself. You'll learn tips and techniques to put you in control of your safety and to defend against dangerous situations, along with an overview of our innovative and exclusive Simply Safer courses.
 For ages 15 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required. Limited to 24 participants.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Citizen Science: Amazing Monarch Migrations, Monarch Watch (Part II)

Goldenrod Disc Golf Course, north side of the parking lot
 Be part of the nationwide effort to capture and tag amazing migrating monarchs! Monarch Watch is an ongoing citizen science project that has been tracking monarch butterflies across the country for the last ten years. Come learn how to capture, rear, tag and release caterpillars and butterflies. Help us determine what butterfly species call our parks home and create a graphic display of the data we collect.
 For families, recommended for children age 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Mind Reading Is Impossible, Or Is It?

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
 Minds tell on us all the time and thoughts can be influenced. Join along for a live

SATURDAY, JULY 27
Bluebell Bike Rides
Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

Learn to Ride a Bike Clinic The Learn to Ride Clinic is for youth who want to learn the correct way to ride a bicycle. Lesson will include how to wear a helmet properly, how to ride a two-wheel bike and how to ride in a single-file line.
 For youth, ages 7-12.
Time: 2-3pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

Bike Riding for Teens You'll learn the fundamentals of riding a bike safely. Starting from Bluebell Beach, we'll visit nearby points of interest while learning bicycle safety practices.
 For teens, ages 13-18.

Time: 3-4pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

SATURDAY, JULY 27
Warrior Dash

E.A. Cummings Center
 Warrior Dash will have participants jumping through fire, crawling through mud pits, climbing over vehicles and working their way through nine additional grueling obstacles. The first wave of the race will begin at 9am, followed by waves of 600 racers taking off to battle the course every half hour until the last group finishes.
Pre-registration required by Tuesday, July 23 at 11:59pm.

SUNDAY, JULY 28
Warrior Dash

E.A. Cummings Center
 Warrior Dash will have participants jumping through fire, crawling through mud pits, climbing over vehicles and working

with an overview of our innovative & exclusive Simply Safer courses
 For ages 15 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required. Limit participants.

TUESDAY, JULY 30
Cooking Matters for Families (Week 3)

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
 Cooking Matters for Families is a 6 series that will empower families v the skills, knowledge and confiden to prepare healthy and affordable meals. With the help of our culinar nutrition experts, Cooking Matters participants learn how to select nu and low-cost ingredients and prep in ways that provide the best nourish possible for their families. Families be provided a grocery bag full of s to take home so they can re-create delicious meal.

Cooking Matters for Families is p funded with Federal funds from US Supplemental Nutrition Assistance For families, all ages and abilities
Time: 6-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Register for this program by call 591-5134. Families are asked to the entire 6-week program and limited, so register early!

TUESDAY, JULY 30

The Puzzling Environm
Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
 Magical Mad Scientist Mark Trip exciting experiments, audience p and clean clever comedy to show "everybody can do something" to small planet on which we live. He questions like, "Just how does yo routine unknowingly rob or replen earth? What commonplace things will have a cataclysmic effect on

AUGUST

Family Fun for Everyone!

Wolverine Campground

For-Mar On The Road



Clayton Beach

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
Ultimate Dash
Training Advanced
 Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
 Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 AND
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
Yoga in Nature
 For-Mar
 Looking for a good stretch and relaxation? Maybe you just want time away from everyday stress. Learn breathing techniques and posture control with certified Kripalu yoga instructor, Judy Freitheig. You will leave refreshed and excited for the next class. Class will be held indoors in case of bad weather. Wear layered, loose, comfortable clothing, bring your yoga mat or blanket. For ages 9 and older, all abilities.
Cost: \$7 per person for a single class or \$12 per person for both classes.
 Pre-registration required by 7/31/13.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
Car Tunes for Teens
 Flushing County Park, Pavilion 5
 There's more to having a driver's license than just driving! You need to know how to keep your vehicle running smoothly and in tip-top shape. Join ASE Certified Master Mechanic Shane Schmitt for an introductory lesson on preventative vehicle maintenance.
 For teens, ages 14-19.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: FREE!
 Pre-registration not required. Limited to the first 10 participants.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
Fish Stories
 Buell Lake County Park, Fishing Dock and Pavilion 2
 Let's take a trip to Buell Lake, catch some fish and tell big fish tales! Hopefully the big ones won't get away!
 For individuals with cognitive disabilities.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$2 per person.
 Pre-registration required by 8/1/13.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
Where Do The Children Play? Movie Viewing
 For-Mar
 Visit For-Mar for a public viewing of the movie, Where Do The Children Play?, a thought provoking locally made movie documenting the change in how and where children spend their free time. We need to start a discussion about re-instilling the importance of play and nature into the daily lives of our children!
 For adults, ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-3pm. Cost: FREE!
 Pre-registration required by 8/1/13.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
Monthly Birders Breakfast Club
 For-Mar
 Come enjoy your morning coffee or tea

Look Up

Ages 3-6 Clouds! Why are clouds important and what's their job? Make a happy raincloud to hang from your window.
Ages 7-12 Clouds, perhaps one of the most overlooked aspects of nature. Learn all about the mysterious world of cloud formations and how to recognize different cloud types with your own cloud viewer.
 Programs for both age groups run simultaneously.
Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
 11am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
 2-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
 11am-noon Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
 2-3pm Linden County Park, Pavilion 2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
 11am-noon Wolverine Campground, behind camp store
 2-3pm Creasey Bicentennial Park, Sledding Hill Pavilion

For-Mar's TRUCK FARM

The Five Senses Garden

A five senses garden is designed to stimulate all of you! Come learn how easy it is to incorporate your ears, eyes, fingers, taste buds, and nose into an herb garden design. Put up an herb to get your five senses garden growing.
 For children, ages 4-6 and 7-12, all abilities.
Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
 10:30am-noon Linden County Park, Pavilion 2
 1:30-3pm Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
 10:30am-noon For-Mar
 1:30-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
 10:30am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
 1:30-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
 11am-noon Richfield County Park, Pavilion 5
 1:30-3pm Wolverine Campground, behind the camp store

Komeback Kids

Ages 3-6 Explore the story of our nation's proud symbol, the bald eagle, a beautiful bird of prey. Discover how bald eagles went from levels of near extinction to thriving in Michigan.
Ages 7-12 The gray wolf was once an endangered species and has now made a great comeback. Come learn what the wolves need to survive. Retell their story with a simple craft.
 Programs for both age groups run simultaneously.
Cost: FREE! Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
 2-3pm Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
 11am-noon For-Mar
 2-3pm Richfield County Park, Pavilion 4

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
 11am-noon Flushing County Park, Pavilion 1
 2-3pm Linden County Park, Pavilion 2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
 11am-noon Wolverine Campground, behind camp store
 2-3pm Creasey Bicentennial Park, Sledding Hill Pavilion

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
 11am-noon Buell Lake County Park, Pavilion 1
 2-3pm Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1

A Flutter Garden: Butterfly Gardening

Butterflies are some of the most beautiful and interesting creatures on Earth and it's so easy to increase the number and variety of butterflies in your yard. Come learn about the plants that caterpillars like to munch on and what attracts butterflies to your yard.

A Trashy Tale

AUGUST

Family Fun for Everyone!

Carpenter and Bray Roads



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Cockadoodle Doo Chicken Show

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
Hens on Tour starring real live chickens, Bettlou Bantam, Rhonda Rhode Island Red and Friends. It's an evening of fascinating fowl facts and fabulous fun! For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Citizen Science: Bee Active in your Parks! Community Apiary (Part II)

For-Mar
Now that we know how important pollinators are, let's see how many we have. Join the For-Mar naturalists in sampling For-Mar's property for different pollinator species. For families, recommended for children age 8 and older, all abilities.

Time: 6:30-8pm Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Yoga in Nature

For-Mar
Looking for a good stretch and relaxation? Maybe you just want time away from everyday stress. Learn breathing techniques and posture control with certified Kripalu yoga instructor, Judy Freiheig. You will leave refreshed and excited for the next class. Class will be held indoors in cases of bad weather. Wear layered, loose, comfortable clothing, bring your yoga mat or blanket.

For ages 9 and up, of all abilities.
Time: 6-7pm. Cost: \$7 per person.
Pre-registration required by 8/7/13.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Kids Fishing Club

Buell Lake County Park, Fishing Dock
A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of doing just about anything else! Bring your rod and we'll supply the bait. We'll have a short lesson on things like tackle, casting, or fishing rules and then we'll fish!

For kids ages, 4-18, all abilities.
Time: 9-11am. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Vanishing Acts: Invasive Plant Walk

For-Mar
Invasive plants can be found nearly everywhere, if you know what to look for. Take a walk with us and learn how to identify some of our areas' worst offenders and see their impact on our ecosystem.

For adults, ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 10-11am. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration required by 8/9/13.

SATURDAY AUGUST 10

Ask an Expert Series:

use again and again.
For ages 9 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-2:30pm. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration required by 8/9/13.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Ultimate Dash Training Beginner/Intermediate

Crossroads Village, Mason Tavern
Time: 5-7pm. Please refer to page 2 for program details and cost.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Fairy Houses and Gnome Homes

Linden County Park, Clover Beach Pavilion
Fairies and gnomes need houses and homes. Come dressed in your fairy or gnome best for a story. Then we'll build houses and homes to attract little visitors!

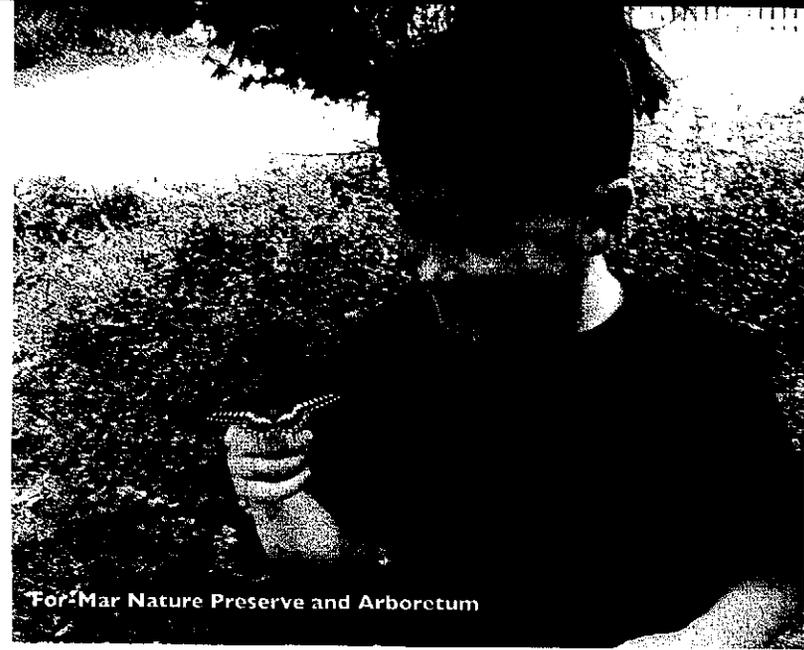
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Cooking Matters for Families (Week 5)

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
Cooking Matters for Families is a 6-week series that will empower families with the skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy and affordable meals. With the help of our culinary and nutrition experts, Cooking Matters course participants learn how to select nutritious and low-cost ingredients and prepare them in ways that provide the best nourishment possible to their families. Families will also be provided a grocery bag full of supplies to take home so they can recreate the delicious meal. Cooking Matters for Families is partially funded with Federal funds from USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

For families, all ages and abilities.



For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Sideshow Science!

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion
Newton's Laws of Motion, inertia, action and reaction, mass and acceleration, and much more! See sideshow Circus stunts and find out how they do that crazy stuff! Experience the exciting opening where a table cloth is pulled out, leaving the dishes behind (we hope!) to the "daring and deadly spinning dog dishes of death," (ok, they're plastic and couldn't hurt anyone, but it sure sounds cool!), gasp at the juggling glasses filled with water and quiver at the electric chair. You'll be amazed, entranced, and excited! For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Bat Zone: LIVE Bats at For-Mar

For-Mar
What's winged, a mammal, and visiting For-Mar? Bats!!! Bat Zone is bringing its LIVE Bat program to For-Mar today so you can find out just how important bats are to our environment. We'll even talk about how you can encourage bats into your own backyard. For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 1-2:30pm. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration required by 8/15/13.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Adventures of a Birder: Exotic Birding Trips

For-Mar



AUGUST

Family Fun for Everyone!



Walleye Pike Boat Launch

Bike Riding for Teens

You'll learn the fundamentals of riding a bike safely. Starting from Bluebell Beach, we'll visit nearby points of interest while learning bicycle safety practices.

For teens, ages 13-18.
Time: 3-4pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.

Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 3rd Annual Catfish for a Cause Fishing Tournament

Walleye Pike Boat Launch
Ninety-two fishermen helped improve the walleye fishery in the Holloway Reservoir by entering the 2nd Annual Catfish for a Cause Fishing Tournament and 108 lbs. of channel catfish no longer call the Holloway Reservoir home! Join the fun this year!

For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: Registration begins at 6am and fishing starts at 7am. Weigh-in is at noon. Cost: There's no tournament entry fee, but purchase of a permit is required to enter the facility.

Pre-registration not required.

Please refer to page 2 for vehicle fees.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 Taxidermy Basics: Mammals

For-Mar
For-Mar naturalist, April Payne will be teaching the basics of how to create mammal mounts and study skins. She will take participants through the step-by-step process of how the taxidermy of mammals is done.

For ages 10 and up, all abilities.

Time: 1-3pm. Cost: \$3 per person.

Pre-registration required by 8/23/13.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Flushing County Park's newest amenity, the ENERGI® Prime workout pad where we'll introduce you to how it works. ENERGI® Prime combines functional fitness and body-weight training to deliver a synergistic workout that connects all five of the body's major anatomical systems and exercises nearly all of its 206 bones and 600 muscles.

For ages 13 and older.

Time: 7-8pm. Cost: FREE!

Pre-registration not required.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Honeybee KIDS: Honeybee Family

For-Mar

Join us at the observation hive for a fun and interactive kid friendly honeybee program. For-Mar Bee Keeper Jim Withers will be on hand to answer questions.

For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: Noon-1pm. Cost: FREE!

Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 For-Mar on the Road: Now Let's Celebrate!

For-Mar

Wow, what a fabulous summer! We're saying thanks and wrapping up our summer fun with a party! Join us as we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall with outdoor crafts, games and cupcakes all around!

For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: 6:30-8pm. Cost: FREE!

Pre-registration required by 8/21/13.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 Hacky Sack Workshop

preference. Eat whole or peel the outer layer and eat that so you can re-toast. Pretty easy, right? Did you know that the 1927 Girl Scout Handbook was the first publication to share a recipe for roasted marshmallows combined with chocolate bars and graham crackers, what we know as s'mores? Bring a chair or blanket; it's time to celebrate the gooey, sticky, yumminess of marshmallows!

For families, all ages and abilities.

Time: 7-9pm. Cost: FREE!

Pre-registration not required.



Richfield County Park

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 Cooking Matters for Families (Week 6)

Davison Roadside Park Pavilion

Cooking Matters for Families is a 6-week series that will empower families with the skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy and affordable meals. With the help of our culinary and nutrition experts, Cooking Matters course participants learn how to select nutritious and low-cost ingredients and prepare them in ways that provide the best nourishment possible to their families. Families will be provided a grocery bag full of supplies to take home so they can re-create the delicious meal.

Cooking Matters for Families is partially

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 Citizen Science: Amazing Monarch Migrations, Monarch Watch (Part III)

Richfield County Park, Pavilion 1

Be a part of the nationwide effort to capture and tag amazing migrating monarchs! Monarch Watch is an ongoing citizen science project that has been tracking monarch butterflies across the country for the last ten years. Come learn how to capture, rear, tag and release caterpillars and butterflies. Help us determine what butterfly species call our parks home and create a graphic display of the data we collect.

For families, recommended for children age 8 and older. all abilities

Join your favorite spooky friends throughout

October as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Halloween Ghosts & Goodies in the Village. Special anniversary activities will be held on October 5th and 6th. Take a walk through the enchanted forest and find your way through the straw maze. Enjoy a magic show and ride the famous Huckleberry Ghost Train Express! There's plenty of silly Halloween fun complete with trick-or-treating and doughnuts and candy for everyone!

Weekdays 5 to 9 pm
October: 11, 18, 25 & 28-31

Weekends Noon to 9 pm
October: 5-6, 12-13, 19-20 & 26-27

Village Tickets \$10.00

Village/Train or Village/Belle \$13.00

Village, Train & Belle .. \$16.00

Children 12 months and under are free.

Group rates are not available.

Note: The Genesee Belle will operate only on weekends.

For details and reservations go to geneseecountyparks.org or call 800.648.PARK, ext. 6.

stomp, squash and throw them to show them who's the boss... better watch out, though, carrots could be next! Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

For ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 7-9pm. Cost: FREE!! There will be refreshments available for purchase. Pre-registration not required.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Unique Trees of For-Mar**

For-Mar
Maples, oaks, and ashes...oh not again! Are you tired of the same ole same ole? Well, let's take a look at a few less common landscape trees that will grow in our area. Ever hear of a Korean Mountain ash? I didn't think so. (P.S. Bring your walking shoes. You'll need them!)
For adults, ages 16 and older, all abilities.
Time: 10-11am. Cost: \$5 per person. Pre-registration required by 9/5/13.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Back to School Birds**

For-Mar, DeWaters Building, off Potter Rd.
Visit the Foote Bird Museum to find out where birds go in the fall. Are they heading to school?
For individuals with cognitive disabilities.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required by 9/5/13.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Growing Gardeners:
Happy Healthy Herbs**

For-Mar
Join us for a lesson on herbs: how to grow them and how to use them. Learn

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Knee High Naturalist:
Evening Series**
For-Mar
Here's your evening chance to join For-Mar's most popular preschool program! Kids will learn about nature through storytelling, arts and crafts, live animals and lots of hands-on play. Come be part of the fun!

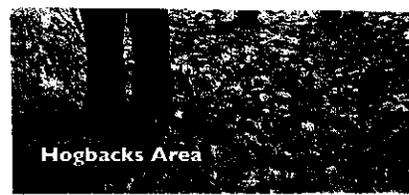
For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 6-7:30pm. Cost: \$3 per child for 1 class or \$5 per child for the series. Pre-registration required by 9/9/13.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Wild Adventures:
Evening Series**

For-Mar
Everyone wants to be a Wild Adventurer! Here's an evening opportunity to become one in this nature based education class. Students will learn all about the great outdoors through hands-on experiments and activities.
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 6-7:30pm. Cost: \$3 per child for 1 class or \$5 per child for the series. Pre-registration required by 9/9/13.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Knee-High Naturalist:
Beetle Mania**

For-Mar
There are lots of different kinds of beetles. Come dressed to hike and we'll go out in search of beetles and other insects.
Ages children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child. Pre-registration required by 9/10/13.



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Stepping back into
For-Mar's History**

For-Mar
Did you know that For-Mar was a family dairy farm before it became a Nature Preserve and Arboretum? Step back in time for a visit to the old Merkley family dairy farm for a glimpse of the past! Visitors will have the opportunity to try their hand at everything from butter making to hay baling and learning to milk a cow. This event is sure to teach everyone a new "old" skill.
For families, all ages and abilities.
Time: 10am-2pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required, but organized groups are asked to call ahead.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
DIY Green Craft Day: Bulbs
Indoors? The kind that bloom
and make you light up!**

For-Mar
During this Pinterest inspired program you will walk away with new recipe ideas and a handmade craft. This month's program includes bulbs planted in unique containers, great for gifts or your own home.
For ages 9 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-2:30pm. Cost: \$5 per person. Pre-registration required by 9/13/13.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Knee-High Naturalist:
Who Pooped in the Park?**

For-Mar
Look at scat and other animal signs to discover who lives at For-Mar.
For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child. Pre-registration required by 9/16/13.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Wild Adventures:
The Water Cycle**

For-Mar
Explore the water cycle with activities and experiments led by For-Mar's naturalist.
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child. Pre-registration required by 9/16/13.

Pre-registration required by 9/17/13.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Wild Adventures:
Evening Series**

For-Mar
Everyone wants to be a Wild Adventurer! Here's an evening opportunity to become one in this nature based education class. Students will learn all about the great outdoors through hands-on experiments and activities.
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 6-7:30pm. Cost: \$3 per child. Pre-registration required by 9/17/13.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Knee-High Naturalist:
Who Pooped in the Park?**

For-Mar
Look at scat and other animal signs to discover who lives at For-Mar.
For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child. Pre-registration required by 9/17/13.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Transform Your Yard Into A
National Wildlife Federation
Certified Wildlife Habitat**

For-Mar
For-Mar did it, you can too! The National Wildlife Foundation (NWF) sponsors a program to certify your yard as designated wildlife habitat—complete with an official sign! Come learn the simple step-by-step process to becoming certified, with a focus on creating quality urban wildlife habitat in Southeast Michigan. Whether you rent a tiny apartment with a balcony, own a suburban home, or a 100-acre farm, you can establish an attractive sanctuary for wild creatures. By providing food, water, cover and places to raise young—your NWF certified yard will aid wildlife by restoring habitat in commercial and residential landscapes.
For families, suggested for ages 10 and older, all abilities.
Time: 6-7pm. Cost: FREE!
Pre-registration not required.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Whooo's Out at Night?**

For-Mar
Learn about the different critters that come out at night and how they have adapted to survive. Come prepared to hike the For-Mar trails in the dark and call for owls. Bring your own flashlight and we will provide the night vision protector.
For everyone, all ages and abilities.
Time: 7-9pm. Cost: \$3 per person. Pre-registration required by 9/18/13.



For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum





Richfield County Park

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Growing Gardeners:
Flowers Forever**

For-Mar
What kind of plant comes back year after year? Perennials do! We'll work in our perennial garden and you can help us plant seeds for new plants and also help divide some of our existing plants. You'll even pot up one of your own to help get your perennial garden started!
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 9/19/13.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22
Adventures of a Wildlife
Biologist: Michigan Lizards**

For-Mar
Wildlife Biologists Teresa Yoder-Nowak and Ernest Szuch from UM-Flint will be

at For-Mar to share their adventures in researching and studying Michigan Lizards, the six-lined racerunners.
For ages 8 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-2pm. Cost: \$3 per person.
Pre-registration not required.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Knee-High Naturalist:
Harvesting Honey**

For-Mar
Beekeeper Jim Wither will be visiting For-Mar for a live honey extraction demonstration and tasting.
For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 child.
Pre-registration required by 9/23/13.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Wild Adventures: Have
Harvesting Honey**

For-Mar
Beekeeper Jim Wither will be visiting For-Mar for a live honey extraction demonstration and tasting.
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Bluebell Bike Rides
Learn to Ride a Bike Clinic**

Bluebell Beach, Pavilion 1
The Learn to Ride Clinic is a bicycle program for youth who want to learn the correct way to ride a bicycle. Lessons include how to wear a helmet properly, how to ride a two-wheel bike and how to ride in a single-file line.
For youth, ages 7-12.

Time: 2-3pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

Bike Riding for Teens
Bike Riding at Blue Bell is a recreational activity designed just for teens! You'll learn the fundamentals of riding a bike safely. Starting from Bluebell Beach, we'll visit nearby points of interest while

learning bicycle safety practices.
For teens, ages 13-18.
Time: 3-4pm. Cost: FREE! Bikes and helmets are provided.
Pre-registration not required, but limited to the first 10 participants.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
Knee-High Naturalist:
Leaves; Autumn's Painters**

For-Mar
Explore fall's colorful changes with a story, games and a craft.
For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 9/30/13.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
Wild Adventures: Have
Seeds, Will Travel**

For-Mar
Join us as we learn about the exciting life of a seed and its journey to becoming a plant!
For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.

"famous wildlife" (i.e. Mickey Mouse, Barney, etc.) so we can learn the differences between real and pretend animals.

For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/7/13.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
Wild Adventures: Sights
and Sounds of the Season**

For-Mar
Fall is a beautiful time to be at For-Mar. Join us as we explore the trails while learning more about our senses and the senses of animals.

Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/7/2013.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
Knee-High Naturalist:
Famous Wildlife**

For-Mar
Children are asked to bring their favorite "famous wildlife" (i.e. Mickey Mouse, Barney, etc.) so we can learn the differences between real and pretend animals.

For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/8/13.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Growing Gardeners: Flowers, A
Program for Girl Scout Juniors**

For-Mar
Flowers are so beautiful we bring them from the outside into our homes to add cheer to a room, but there is more to flowers than just good looks. Without them, plants could not make seeds, and bees would have nothing to drink. Girl Scout Juniors can earn their flower

badge and make a bouquet to give to their favorite person!
For Girl Scout Juniors, all abilities.
Time: 10am-noon. Cost: \$5 per scout, includes the badge.
Pre-registration required by 10/10/13.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
DIY Green Craft Day:
From Yarn to Hat**

For-Mar
You'll walk away with new ideas for recipes and handmade crafts when you attend this Pinterest inspired program! Today's DIY craft day will teach you the basics needed to create your own trendy hats.
For ages 9 and older, all abilities.
Time: 1-2:30pm. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration required by 10/11/13.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Knee-High Naturalist:
Animals Helping People**

For-Mar
Animals give us food, clothing, and assist us with tasks. Discover how animals help

us for a lesson on vermicomposting indoors. Learn how to make your own indoor composting bin so you can turn your vegetable scraps into compost for your plants.

For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/17/13.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
Knee-High Naturalist: A
Camel is a Mammal!**

For-Mar
Learn about furry animals with backbones. Make a skeleton to take home.

For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/21/13.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
Wild Adventures:
Dead or Alive?**

For-Mar
Alive, non-living, or dead? What's the difference between these and why are all three important to the environment?

For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/21/13.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
Knee-High Naturalist: A
Camel is a Mammal!**

For-Mar
Learn about furry animals with backbones. Make a skeleton to take home.

For children, ages 3-6, all abilities.
Time: 10-11:30am. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/22/13.

hydroponics in its simplest form, is growing plants by supplying all necessary nutrients in the plants' water supply rather than through the soil. Join us for a lesson on how this works and build your own hydroponics system to take home!

For youth, ages 7-12, all abilities.
Time: 10:30am-noon. Cost: \$3 per child.
Pre-registration required by 10/24/13.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
2nd Annual For-Mar
Haunted Trail**

For-Mar
Oooooo... be prepared to be scared at For-Mar's Second Annual haunted hayride and trail. This year will be scarier than ever! Hayrides run at 8pm, 8:30pm, 9pm and 9:30pm.

For ages 10 and older, all abilities.
Time: 8-10pm. Cost: \$5 per person.
Pre-registration suggested due to limited space, but walk-ins are welcome. Maximum of 20 people per ride, more trips will be added to accommodate.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
Dash In the Dark
5K Run/Walk**

Richfield County Park, Playground Pavilion
Don't be scared! Join us for a Dash in the Dark around Richfield County Park. This 5K run/walk is for everyone; beginners to the most advanced runner/walkers. Wear your Halloween costume and dress in your glow in the dark best. Best-dressed wins a prize! Create a team, come solo, run for fun, or compete to win! All kinds of things can happen in the dark. Flashlights to be provided, but that may not stop the unexpected from happening. Do you dare to be part of the first-ever Dash in the Dark?





Welcome!

Well, here it is already, 1/3 of the way through 2013, and if you are anything like us, you've been very, very busy these past few months!



So far this year we've held our ninth annual KGCB Beautification Conference in March, completely rebuilt and launched our Website – kgcb.net, ventured into the social media stratosphere, and are now sending out our first newsletter. Whew – and we've only just begun to share the good news and work of Keep Genesee County Beautiful as

well as that of our invaluable and much appreciated volunteers!

We hope you'll find this periodic newsletter helpful. If you would like to receive more frequent updates, please sign-up for our e-Newsletter on our website at kgcb.net under the Newsletter tab. If you have suggestions for content in future editions, just give us a call at 810.767.9696.

What's in a name?

You may have noticed we have not yet come up with a catchy name for our "blooming bulletin." OK, so while that's not too shabby, we are hopeful you may have a better idea for a snappy newsletter title. In fact, we are so optimistic that we have decided to hold a "Name that

Newsletter" contest. So, get your thinking cap on and come up with your best title.

Think you've got the winning entry? Great! Simply fill out the entry form below, clip it out, drop it in an envelope, and mail before the June 30, 2013 deadline.

If your entry is chosen, you'll receive a \$50 gift card to the Flint Farmer's Market - good luck!



NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

NEWSLETTER TITLE:

Mail entry to:
Name That Newsletter Contest
c/o Keep Genesee County Beautiful
1509 E. Court Street
Flint, MI 48503

Beautification Conference “growing” larger, more successful each year

The ninth annual KGCB Beautification Conference & Awards Ceremony, held in March at the Harding Mott University Center on the campus of UM-Flint, was a huge success. Well over 300 Genesee County residents attended this year's event. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in various workshops ranging from how best to divide, propagate and collect seeds to getting a grip on plastic pollution.



This year's conference attendees received hands-on training, information, and lots of “giveaways” during the event.

The conference also included an information fair featuring 20 local organizations and businesses involved in clean up, beautification, and recycling activities and projects, as well as an awards ceremony honoring those involved in exceptional beautification projects throughout Genesee County during 2012.

“The beautification conference is the kick off to our programming every year and fulfillment of our mission to educate residents via workshops based on relevant community needs. We encourage participants by showcasing and awarding the best examples of community beautification. After they leave the

conference, we hope they become actively engaged in making visual improvements where they live, work and play,” said Karen West, Lead Consultant & Director at KGCB.

The following are the 2012 Keep Genesee County Beautiful Beautification Awards winners:

- Vienna Township Business Development Authority - *Business & Institution Award*
- Otisville Area Historical Association - *Business & Institution Award*
- Joanie Snyder - *Community Hero Award*
- Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission, For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum - *Innovation Award*
- Mann Hall Neighborhood Association - *Neighborhood Organization Award*
- Flora Roberts - *Urban Garden Award*
- Harvesting Earth Educational Farm - *Urban Garden Award*
- Fenton Area Public Schools World of Wonder Early Learning Programs - *Youth Garden Award*
- Dr. David Bowser, Lead Pastor at West Flint Church of the Nazarene - *Tall Oak Award*

Planning, planting for a better tomorrow

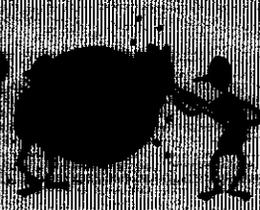
Join us at For-Mar Nature Preserve from 12-3pm for a FREE Arbor Day Open House. There will be activities and giveaways for you, your family, and the first-ever public viewing of the *Genesee County Trees Under Threat* display. The display focuses on the threats to our trees on a global and local level. Also, the Genesee County Arboretum has a variety of evergreen, deciduous, and multi-trunked, flowering trees/shrubs along with the larger 5'-6' trees for immediate impact. Seed dates are Friday, April 26th and Saturday April 27th. For more information call 810.230.8766 ext.3

Cleanup Corner

Earth Matters – Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint have partnered together to bring the Earth Matters Earth Day celebration to the Flint area, Saturday, April 13th. For more information, please visit: mcc.edu/earthday/earthday_schedule.php

Flint Watershed Cleanup – Clean Up Flint River Watershed Coalition, April 27th. Cleanup sites include: Genesee County; Flushing Riverview Park; Pierce Park; Holloway Dam Canal Access; Katherine Price Unity Park; Kearsley Park; Mott Park Neighborhood and Golf Course; Bendle School/Thread Lake; Burton; Vietnam Veterans Park; River Bank Park; Flint; McKinley Park; Flint; UM-Flint Campus; Farmers Market; and Flint River Trail. Call 810.767.6490 for more information.

Spring Trail Clean Up – Friends of the Flint River Trail. The cleanup is held the last Saturday in April. Volunteers meet at Veterans Park on James P. Cole Blvd. (just south of Hamilton) at 10:00 am. Lunch is provided following the cleanup at about 1:00 PM. Trail bags are provided but please bring your own work gloves and water.



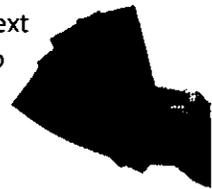
Grants Program and City of Flint Master Plan. Call 810.767.8304 or 810.766.7426 x 3027 for more information.

- **Neighborhoods Small Grants Program Mini-Grant** – Mini-grants between \$500-\$1,000 for neighborhood-level projects are now available. Call 810.767.8304 for more information.
- **Neighborhoods Small Grants Program Next Level Grant** – Grants starting from \$1,000 for neighborhood-level projects. Call 810.767.8304 for more information.



Resources available for neighborhood projects

Looking for funding sources for your next neighborhood project? Look no further, the following agencies/organizations have grants and stipends available to help you beautify your community.



- **YOUR Neighborhood Inventory** - \$500 stipends for completing inventories of physical characteristics in Flint neighborhoods. Offered by a partnership between the Neighborhoods Small

KGCB receives social media “makeover”

Keep Genesee County Beautiful strives to continually cultivate and add beauty throughout Genesee County. This year, we opted to take that approach with our social media presence by launching a new and improved Website that better meets the needs of our visitors. We have also created pages on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest. Check us out! Visit us online at kgcb.net. We welcome your comments/feedback.





1509 East Court Street
Flint, MI 48503

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SUE KUBIC
GENESEE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
4608 BEECHER RD
FLINT MI 48532-2617



Joining forces to Reduce/Reuse/Recycle in Flint



KGCB and Republic Services of Flint are joining forces in the fight to bring affordable, waste reduction and recycling services to you for your home recycling needs. Republic Services provides comprehensive recycling services for homes across the nation, and soon, thanks to this partnership, this much-needed service will be available in the Flint area. Please visit the *Waste Reduction and Recycling* page under the *Programs* tab on our website for more information as it becomes available.



**BE PART OF THE
SHIAWASSEE RIVER FLOATILLA!
Saturday, August 10, 2013
12noon – 4:30pm**

The Village of Holly and the City's of Fenton and Linden are jointly working together to promote the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail as a destination. Come on out and be part of the largest floatilla in southeastern Michigan!

We will be videotaping this event at 2pm on Lake Ponemah near Spoonz Lakeside Tavern. Maps will be provided on site. Volunteers will be in the lake to direct participants to the rallying point. HoverShotsAPV.com will be on the water with specialized Aerial Video and Photography equipment. This footage may be use for future promotional videos for our area! We need as many people to participate as possible so we have a great video shoot!!

Drop off location: Linden Mill Building
201 N. Main Street
Linden, MI 48451

Shuttle Service is available to park your vehicle at Hyatt Elementary School, 325 Stan Eaton Drive, Linden, MI.

Put in time: 12noon – 1:30pm

Video-taping: 2pm – 3pm

Take-out time: 3pm – 4:30pm

For those who need to rent a canoe or kayak

Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental:

Web site: <http://www.heavnercanoe.com/>

Phone: 248-685-2379

They will provide equipment on site.

A \$5 donation is requested to help support the activities of the Keepers of the Shiawassee group.

For more information, please call: 810-735-6303 or via email at: dlossing@gmail.com

RAIN DATE: August 17th, 2013, same times apply.

New Event- Ladies Day on the Lake- July 13th – Winner Announced

There were 7 boats with approximately 35 ladies who attended our first annual Ladies Day event at the sandbar. The event was simple- just show up at the sandbar with as many as ladies that could fit on your boat. The lady with the most ladies on her boat was Tonya Hernandez with 10. 2nd Place went to Katie Falkenberg with 9 ladies. Tonya took home the prize of a \$100 Serendipity Day Spa Gift Card and a nice bottle of champagne! Look for this event to happen again next year!

Save the Date! 3rd Annual PST Skip Day

Friday, August 30th...will be the day of our 3rd Annual PST Skip Day! The event will be located at the Sand Bar starting at 1pm. This is family friendly event will be held the Friday before Labor Day Weekend. So what is a PST Skip Day? Well, it is a day where you are supposed to be at work but you are out on the lake! See you out there!

Flushing Life

The key to your community



Heading to Harvest Fest

Kayak or Canoe on the Flint

'I watched an eagle soar above me and heard nothing but the wind in the trees, a chorus of bird song, insects chirping and the rippling water.' —Lauri Elbing



Kayaking along the Flint River brings an ever-changing landscape, and opportunities to watch wildlife, such as this blue heron.

Photo courtesy of Andi Willman

by *Andi Willman*
Community contributor

Summer time in Michigan always seems to fly by very quickly. Participating in warm weather sports and activities can heighten our enjoyment of this short season in our beautiful state. One outdoor pastime that has gained in popularity across the age groups is kayaking, and our family has truly jumped in with both feet!

Many years ago while spending time in the Caribbean, we became reacquainted with paddling sports. My husband and I grew up in the Scout programs and had both done a lot of canoeing as kids so didn't hesitate to get back on the water. Only recently did we discover that Michigan has so many idyllic places to kayak. This was reinforced when the Flushing library hosted a lecture and slide show by Michigan author Doc Fletcher who has penned several books about paddling in our state.

River kayaking takes one on journeys of ever-changing scenery and provides

many photo opportunities for camera enthusiasts. The Flint River's slower pace is well-suited to less-experienced paddlers and the frequent access sites are handy for shorter float trips. Paddlers must plan ahead and place a shuttle vehicle at the destination ramp downstream, but there are paddling groups in the area that provide this "livery service" for a reasonable fee during their scheduled float trips.

We recently joined the Flint River Watershed Coalition's Lazy Day Paddle, floating from Flushing to Montrose's Barber Memorial Park on a Saturday

morning. Our relaxing journey was so delightful that we plan to register for upcoming trips which are held the first and third Saturdays of each month.

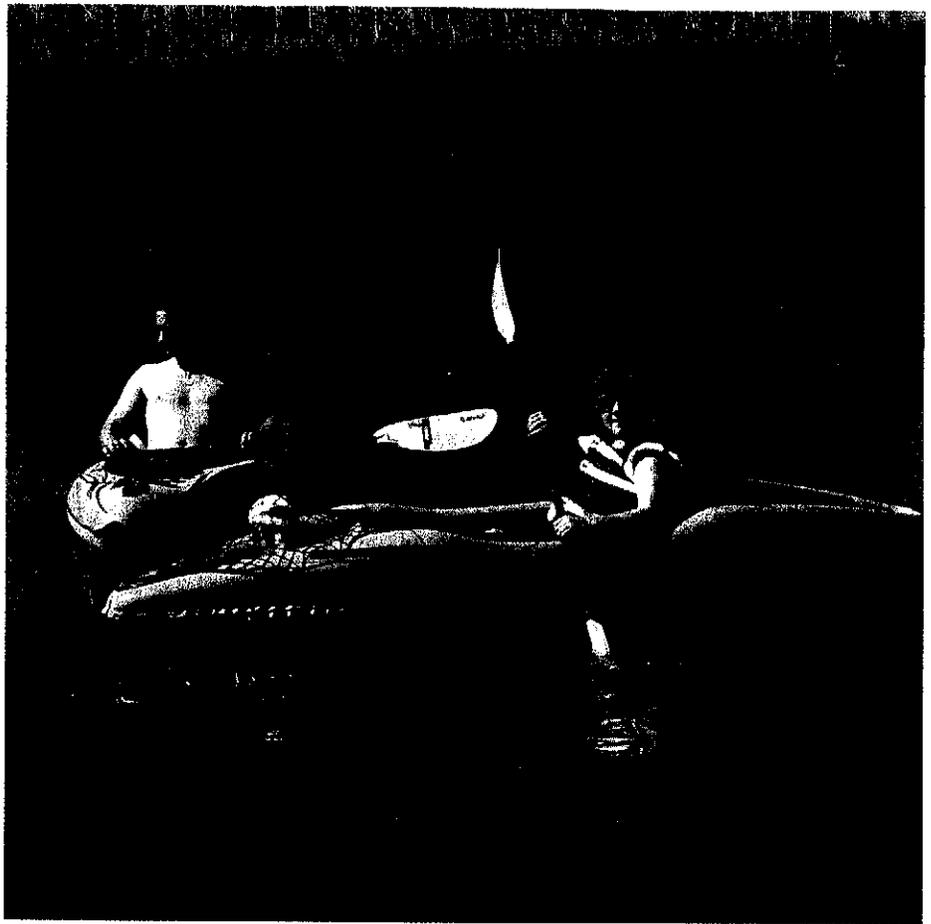
Flushing native Lauri Elbing, who is with The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, paddled with us and said "I watched an eagle soar above me and heard nothing but the wind in the trees, a chorus of bird song, insects chirping and the rippling water; I tried so hard to enjoy that moment and keep my mind in the present, but couldn't help reflecting on how much our river had transitioned in my lifetime. I'm so proud of and grateful to the leaders and citizens of the Flint area." She adds that she has kayaked a lot of rivers in Michigan, "but my favorites are definitely the Flint River and Detroit River because of all the beauty and wildlife to be experienced, but also to revel in the progress to restore the health of these spectacular urban rivers."

If you'd like to get a sample of kayaking without the planning and com-

mitment of a river trip, check out one of the many area lakes. Our preferences run to the “no wake” lakes because they are peaceful and the water is calm. Bodies of water like Mott Lake, which is part of the Flint River system, or Buell Lake naturally attract an assortment of wildlife and they’re very interesting to observe and photograph. My 11-year-old granddaughter, Sadie was an immediate fan and says, “Kayaking lakes is so cool because they’re all different and we see lots of wildlife. It’s really easy---- all you have to do is paddle and the lake leads you.”

We decided to buy our own kayaks last summer, knowing that this would encourage us to spend more time on the water. Kayaks are readily available in this area and there are weekly specials. Typical prices are \$139 to more than \$2000. I went the non-traditional route and investigated inflatable kayaks for several reasons. Not only did I want to be able to easily transport my boat by myself in my small car, but I also lacked storage space. I found the perfect solution with my Advanced Elements “Lagoon 1” which is a sporty little 19 pound kayak that I can inflate and tuck under one arm to carry to the water, as well as deflate, roll up, and pop into my trunk when I’m finished. All this for around \$350, delivered to my door. Shortly thereafter, we found an Intex Challenger for less than \$80.

I brag that I can put 2 kayaks, paddles, pumps, life jackets, beach chairs, and towels all in my trunk, load my family into the car (including our 12 year old Shih Tzu, Suki) and be on the water in 45 minutes. With our summer flying by, there’s just not a moment to waste.



B.J. Coleman and his daughter Sadie Fisher enjoy the variety of calm, clear lakes in our area.
Photo courtesy of Andi Willman

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Length in miles of the Flint River as it proceeds from the Shiawassee River to the Saginaw River. There are 28 access sites between Lapeer and Birch Run.

The Department of Natural Resource states that Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes, and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. Request a Canoeing Access Map from The Flint River Watershed Coalition at flintriver.org, or on Facebook. The Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail guide details 13 access sites, paddle durations, and site amenities; it is available at shiawassee.org. thanks to Friends of the Shiawassee River, Fenton Area Paddlers, and Headwaters Trails.

KAYAKING IS FUN IN STATE PARKS

Our nearby State Parks, like Holly Recreation Area, Seven Lakes, and Sleepy Hollow have wonderful lakes and most offer kayak and canoe rentals. Currently, the Michigan Recreation Passport which is required for vehicles entering state parks, recreation areas, forests, and campgrounds, costs \$11 and is available at these sites. Larry Renner of Flushing says, “Purchasing the Recreation Passport is not only an investment in our state parks, but also a reminder to keep kayaking different lakes. I’m always in a good mood when I come off the water.” —*Andi Willman*

Tell us what you

THINK@ hibumagazine.com/survey



Never fear - we aren't in Florida. It's only an alligator-like log.
Photo courtesy of Andi Willman

READ
REACT
RESPOND

July 2013

Three R's

A Publication of the Flushing Community Schools Board of Education

Important Dates

Board of Education Meetings Administration Building

July 16 - 5:00 PM
August 13 - 7:00 PM
August 27 - 7:00 PM
September 10 - 7:00 PM

Summer Reading & Math Celebration ECC

August 14 @ 11:00 AM

Transportation Variances Due August 16

High School Freshman Orientation Auditorium

August 26 @ 7:00 PM

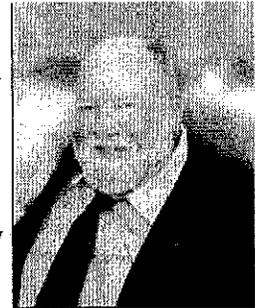
First Day of School! September 3



2013 Alumni Hall of Fame Honoree

Jim Dehlin – 1968 Flushing Graduate

Jim Dehlin, a 1968 Flushing graduate, was an outstanding athlete in both basketball and football for the Raiders. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, trained at Fort Benning, and became a second lieutenant. Jim was sent to Vietnam where he was wounded while leading a patrol. He spent a year in rehabilitation at the VA Hospital in Valley Forge, PA. Jim had a desire to fly airplanes, and he learned to pilot his own aircraft after training at a special pilot's school in Richmond, VA.



He returned to Michigan with his wife, Carol, and they took up residence in Higgins Lake. Jim began attending Kirtland Community College, which offered an Associate Degree in Aviation Mechanics. He was offered a job instructing in the program at Kirtland, and while doing so, Jim earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Ferris State University in Technical Education and then received his Master's. His professional accolades include Kirtland Community College Alumnus of the Year, President of the Aviation Technology Education Council, and Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year. Jim spent 17 years at Northern Michigan University, in Marquette, where he started the Aviation Technology Program. Upon his retirement, he was Associate Professor and Director of the Aviation Maintenance Program. Jim and Carol returned to Higgins Lake in 2008, building his dream log home so they could be closer to their children, Jesse and Kristin, as well as their daughter-in-law Lori and grandson Nicholas.

Jim became the first "Living Legend" of the Stormy Kromer Award in 2012, which is bestowed annually to a true American hero. Jim's son Jesse said it best, "He sought out roles in life where he could make a positive impact on people's lives, from small impacts as the head coach of little league teams, to larger impacts as a university professor where he continued to inspire young people to achieve their goals in life. He is proof that with the proper outlook on life, any obstacle can be overcome, anything can be achieved. Every day he inspires people, because if a guy with no legs can do it, so can you!"

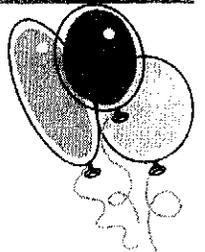
High School

The EAG (Environmental Action Group) of Flushing High School held their annual *Flushing Float Canoe Trip* on June 1ST. Nearly two dozen students, teachers, and former students traveled 12 miles along the Flint River from Riverview Park to Barber Park in Montrose. FHS science instructors Quin Bartlett and Paul Taylor led the group on this three hour adventure. "People from our area travel all over Michigan in search of great canoeing and kayaking. I think some forget about the beautiful resources that we have right in our backyards."



Summer Reading & Math Celebration

On **August 14TH** from **11:00AM-12:00PM**, you may bring your child to the Early Childhood Center, for some recognition and refreshments. Your child must bring their completed Summer Reading Calendar and/or Math worksheets to receive a small reward. Please RSVP by calling 810-591-1183 if you are able to attend. We will make sure we have enough treats for everyone!



Students who turn in their completed reading calendar with daily reading *and* have completed every math activity will receive a special "**Raider Super Star**" t-shirt. The t-shirts will be available at the August 14TH recognition activity.



New phone app guides paddlers from Holly to Owosso on Shiawassee River

[Dana DeFever | ddefever@mlive.com](#) By [Dana DeFever | ddefever@mlive.com](#)

on May 20, 2013 at 7:00 AM, updated May 20, 2013 at 7:12 AM

HOLLY, MI – There's a new app that will make a trip kayaking along the Shiawassee River a little easier.

The iShiawassee app identifies areas along the Shiawassee River, including launches, parks, bridges, culverts and points where paddlers would have portage from Holly to Owosso. There is a map and GPS capabilities, along with tips from app creator Willi Gutmann's kayaking experiences.

"I paddled it so often, I know which turn and which hazard is where," said Gutmann, 48, of Warren. "Most recreational paddlers never take a map or compass when paddling."

Gutmann and his college friend Charles Rice worked on the app casually for a year. Apple approved the app last month and it will be available for \$1 May 21 on Apple iTunes.

Gutmann said the app is appropriate for both first-time Shiawassee River kayakers and paddlers who have made the trip down the river numerous times. He admits that sometimes when he's out on the river with friends and having a good time, he'll lose track of where he's at.

"Nobody knew about the Shiawassee River 10 years ago. I'm the guy that put it on Wikipedia," Gutmann said.

Gutmann fell in love with the Shiawassee River about 10 years ago through his friend Doug Lanyk.

"I love paddling the river. It has so many twists and turns. It's fun," Gutmann said.

Word about the app already is spreading through the area paddling community.

Sue Julian, president of Headwaters Trails, a nonprofit group that works with local municipalities to create new recreational opportunities along the Shiawassee River, said she's excited about the app's potential.

"We think this is going to be very useful for paddlers who have not been out on the river before," Julian said.

The river is readily available to a large population in southeast Michigan, she said. The app, she said, will serve as a great way to get the word out about the river and help people plan what they want to do while on the river.

"There are people who use the river in different ways. Some of them are looking for new adventures, some for lazy summertime paddle, others for a wildlife experience and some for a fishing spot," she said.

The app is not affiliated with Headwater Trails.

The app has the potential to help brand and turn the river and area into a destination place, said Linden Mayor David Lossing. With the wide use of smartphones, it's an easy way to communicate and market the river to people outside of the area.

"I can't wait to download the app and put it on my smartphone," said Lossing, who also paddles and is a strong promoter of the Shiawassee River.

Gutmann called iShiawassee a "tourism app" – comparing it to brochures that tourists may pick up when they're visiting a new city or region.

Gutmann said he wanted to make the app available before Memorial Day, so people could get it downloaded before they set out for the holiday weekend of paddling.

For more information about the iShiawassee app or Gutmann, visit his website at: <http://www.michigan-rivers.com/index.php>.

Dana DeFever can be reached at 810-429-3919 or ddefever@mlive.com. You can also follow her on Twitter [@DanaDeFever](#) or subscribe to her on Facebook.

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