

Watershed Community Survey, Huron River Watershed Council

Q32: Are there any environmental concerns that you have that you feel are very important?

- Cleaning up abandoned housing sites.
- Global Warming, Recycling/Reuse, Buying Local, Local Farm Support
- Dumping trash/waste in the storm drains, using lawns to beautify gardens when there are so many better ways to do the same (native plants, vegetable gardens, etc grown organically), climate change, human-animal conflicts
- keep the Great Lakes Clean
- Great lake water levels and corresponding quality.
- Maintaining quality of lake water and individual well water.
- no
- toxic metals leeching out from old pipes and in the water we drink, bathe in, wash dishes and clothes in; also biological particles (big ones) in our water supply (we installed a filter and were shocked by the substantial particles that gathered immediately)
- Stream and lake bank erosion Algae blooms in Ford and Belleville Lakes Stormwater management
- The fact that plans for new SEWER LINES have been shelved in the (Oakland County) Lakes area "due to the economy". It seems sewer installation is: 1) desperately needed for the environment, and 2) work/jobs (which may be supplemented by an economic stimulus plan).
- would like to plant more trees, but not sure which are good for this area
- When you say "Fertilizes" I say yes because I spread my compost twice a year. I am developing a digested for my Dogs and Chicken manure, so that will not have to go in the trash much longer. When I wash my cars and motorcycles I use biodegradable cleaners, and rub more rather than dissolve.
- save argo dam
- phosphates in the water
- Our lake gets treated TOO often for zebra mussels and keeping the weeds down.
- water cleanliness and fish quality
- Taking care of the quantity and quality of our water.
- I am wanting to purchase a barrel for composting but the cost is too high. More people would compost their garbage, grass clippings and leaves if the barrels were affordable.
- Why the mobile home park on Rushton and Nine Mile Rd. Has a different standard for waste water treatment than the city of South Lyon, Mi.
- Removal of unneeded dams.
- High iron in water
- no
- In heavy rains the Huron River is more polluted. How do we know when the Huron River is having a high pollution day? Could we be notified?
- Over use of plastic water bottles. Would be nice to reduce use of plastic water bottles that are often used once and then recycled.
- invasive species
- Storm water is a major concern; Also, in question 31 above both my husband and I wash the car, mow the lawn, maintain vehicles, wash the car, and pick up after our dog and probably about equally.
- NAP seems to be engaged in more environmental damage than good. This sanctioned destruction of habitat needs a less whifty explanation than "returning to a native state" circa when and in what context.

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- Allow rowers to continue using Huron River, especially Argo pond. If you mess with Argo Pond, you lost all of my support.
- We should fine/punish litterers and polluters more severely.
- Too much salt is dumped (sometimes an inch deep!) in public places (sidewalks and parking areas) during wintry weather, including at the public schools, retail stores, and even at metro parks. I know this flushes straight into the river, as well as killing plants nearby that would otherwise take up excess water and clean it.
- We live on a unpaved road. It seems that water run off could be managed more environmental friendly. There are no ditches for drainage. Gravel is put on the road but when there is a rain storm or the road is paved it is thrown onto our lawns. We live on Charing Cross. What is done or can be done about this?
- Too many to list! In general, the state of the earth's health totally!
- Hydraulic fracturing
- The quality of our drinking water
- Most apartment complexes don't have any recycling bins or recycling program. That's A LOT of unrecycled recyclables. Could someone please come up with a strategy to address that? It's not only home-owners that need to recycle!
- agriculture
- Maintaining quality of well water.
- How safe is it to swim in the Huron River? :/
- People pick up dog waste, put it in plastic bags and drop it back down on the ground so that someone else has to pick it up.
- Yes
- Yes, I am very concerned about the possible environmental impact that could be the result of the proposed changes in the Northfield Twp. zoning ordinance for the hamlet area of Whitmore Lake. If the homes that are currently lakeside residences are permitted to have business on the first floor, and lakeside parking, I am very concerned about potential impact on Whitmore Lake of the auto chemicals and salt from cars that will be parked close to the lake. This is going to come before the Board of Trustees soon (today is 12/15/2011) and I wish that someone with knowledge of this could talk to the Board of Trustees about this.
- More bike lanes. More nature preserves and hikes. The contaminated Lower Town undeveloped lot that is leaking into the Huron River. The gas tanks left under the shack on the corner of N. Main and Summit leaking into the river. The entire River St Project in Ypsilanti.
- Eradicating invasive species and objection to the use of the term "environment/al."
- Water quality, recycling, energy use, lowering carbon footprint, invasive species
- Areas lacking in my area: Monitoring/testing of local lakes and waterways. Educating the public about safe and responsible water practices. Enforcing local ordinances. I am also concerned about protecting wetlands and managing invasive species.
- Get Huron river clean enough to swim in so we kayakers aren't afraid to fall out of our boats for fear of water fowl waste.
- communities mandatory septic checks and cleaning and better ways to not have standing water
- Rid our state of businesses where hogs & cattle raised standing in their own waste which is then washed to a farm drain or stream.
- Water quality and water diversion eg to the southwest from the Great Lakes
- How do I get rid of poison ivy without using nasty chemicals? I struggle with this. On a larger scale, I'm very concerned about fracking and climate change.

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- global warming
- They are all imp't...interconnected.
- Sedimentation
- I very much appreciate the work of the HRWC in keeping me informed by email of efforts and events.
- I've called multiple people (Drain Commissioner, DNR, etc.) about the landscaping and hazardous waste that is repeatedly dumped into ditches off of Merritt Rd., just east of Whittaker in Ypsilanti Township. I guess no-one cares because it is still there. I can only pick up so many tires and gallons of oil myself? I don't know what to do with the landscaping waste???
- The amount of waste that our society produces - waste in packaging, throwing away food, junk mail, waste of electricity, etc.. I feel it's depleting our natural resources.
- In SE and southern MI - Habitat loss or the assumed habitat benefits of agricultural lands in preservation programs, compared with restored or preserved landscapes most beneficial to wildlife
- The fertilizer run off from Suburbia.
- road salts may be polluting the watershed, and killing grass and young trees near walkways and roads.
- invasive species
- Having worked with watershed groups in the past, it seems like this survey has hit the major issues. The need for riparian buffer zones and stream bank restorations is also a big need, and something the public doesn't seem to know much about.
- Proper use of weed killer and fertilizer.
- reduced government regulations, oversight, staffing, and focus. Attitude that environmental protection should be sacrificed for jobs/economic reasons. Reduced public demand for environmental protections (apathy!).
- Burning of leaves and trash which increases air pollution.
- Invasive species, both animal and plant in our lakes and streams. Uses of our Great Lakes.
- Roadway runoff into lakes
- Cutting down mature trees rather than trying to help them survive.
- Zero population growth.
- Failed and phony wetland creation projects that the DEQ approves and does not supervise; corporations and developers that are still getting away with all the wrong practices; lack of enforcement of current laws and the threat of loosening environmental protections.
- Waste from Agribusiness. The proliferation of poorly regulated agribusiness in Michigan.
- Keeping the water safe is my primary environmental concern.
- Global climate change Refusal of US to pursue solar energy Protection for the Great Lakes-- water quality and shorelines
- Contamination of water by minute amounts of prescription drug byproducts, which affect consumers of water though this cannot be tested for. Addition of fluoride to water rather than compulsory applications to those people it will be good for, if any.
- Traces of prescription and OTC medications that are in our water. Over time these have health consequences.
- no
- environmental care often, but not always, requires money. I know some incentives, like low interest loans and tax breaks have been offered in areas (ie Colorado Springs) suffering from drought to encourage native and water-conserving landscaping for residential areas. I would

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love to have some way to improve my home, put in native grasses that do not require mowing nor watering, but the cost and time involved is just totally unreasonable for my single-mum-run family. However, it would be great to receive information about environmentally friendly native plants and product from non-businesses. Advertising businesses that sell the products is okay and completely acceptable and welcomed.

- yes, there are many.
- keeping the ground water uncontaminated
- Water quality
- climate change
- No
- Too much plastic is thrown away on the ground, including plastic water bottles.
- Free the Huron River from unnecessary dams!
- MANY, but the one that is so easy and so neglected is leaf burning. Leaves are a tremendous resource, on one hand, and a very noxious problem (particulate material) on the other, not the least being to asthmatic people. I think it is mostly a matter of education and awareness. If a person does not want to collect them to use as garden mulch, they can be so easily mulched into the lawn simply by using a mulching mower. And many people seem unaware that it causes severe problems for other people. The wind blows it away from them, and that's the end of it. They just stand upwind from their smouldering mess and continue merrily and obliviously on. (...end of soapbox...)
- HAVING SAFE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
- i feel that homeowners should be somehow "assessed" if they create impermeable surfaces. so e.g. if someone builds an addition or paves a driveway, they should be assessed a fee for creating more run off.
- quality of drinking water
- Protecting the water in the Great Lakes basin is of concern to me.
- Water quality tests for industries that dump into our water supply can and have been taken within 3' UPSTREAM from the discharge site, which negates their accuracy.
- Think you have covered them
- Should have a waste burning ban throughout Washtenaw county.
- Amount of salt used during winter - to me, that seems like the long-term effect has not been studied or publicized. Light pollution, especially towards migrating birds. Reduction of native plants for butterflies and wildlife. Invasive species.
- I am very concerned about the loss of farmland and habitat for birds and animals in our community.
- Chem Lawn and it's ilk. Can't I prevent my neighbors from using them? I know that poison doesn't just sit there nicely on their side of the property line!
- All of them.
- Preservation of open space.
- Decreased funding to protect and monitor air, water, soils. Govt failure to take drastic action because of big business taking precedence over environmental issues ie Asian carp in Great Lakes.
- longer-term environmental issues: water shortages, climate change
- Awareness of environmental concerns in general
- water, air quality, global warming

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- impervious surfaces of new construction. 'green' roofing
- The dioxine pollution in Ann Arbors water supply.
- treating ballast discharge water
- water quality
- Quality of the water in the lake in my front yard. Education about reduce, re-use, recycle.
- Global warming
- I feel the public is ignorant of how dangerously low the water supply is and more stringent water standards need to be implemented because I don't think the public is willing to sacrifice their water habits without some type of mandate.
- Noise and light pollution
- Household energy conservation to help avert climate change.
- We need to know more about watersheds - I'm in the Allen Creek watershed, yet most of my neighbors are clueless - they ask - where is the water?
- Not putting medicines into the water system. Using less 'perfumed' wash products. More native plant use.
- Lack of Enforceable. Regulations and will to enforce.
- Move people away from traditional lawns with laws and incentives to encourage that for example the strip of lawn between the sidewalk and the street should not be planted with grasses which encourage run off they should have native plantings either grasses or flowers. There are many public lands which could be moved away from lawns and could have other type of plantings.
- Non-rechargeable batteries: How are these to be disposed?
- rain garden and rain barrels.
- GLOBAL WARMING!
- that everyone follows reasonable rules
- I live in the City (AA) and would like to install a well for watering my lawn in the summer but have received confusing information from the county and city regarding this. Could you let people know about any rules that apply?
- Mercury and radon in coal smoke from electric power generation
- air quality. Planes, cars spew pollution.
- All of them. :)
- Yes, I am concerned about the residue of pharmaceuticals and personal care products ending up in the water. I know the AA water treatment system as is cannot filter these, but that such systems exist. Have read of them being installed in major cities in Europe--not high tech, necessarily, but simply another system to filter these metabolites. I am also concerned that so many homeowners in AA blithely use glyphosate (RoundUp) as though it were harmless. Certain areas are saturated in it, and this turns up in the runoff after heavy rains, going right into the sewer system/river. Horrendous. These products and also lawn services that use them should be BANNED, as they have been in many cities and whole provinces (Quebec) in Canada. I would love to see AA follow this example. Further, AA water system could save money by HALTING the addition of poisonous fluoride to the water. There is abundant proof that this water additive is harmful--China will sell us all the fluoride we'll take but they themselves DO NOT USE IT IN MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES. This is a well-recognized poison, and even the dental profession is coming around to recognizing this. Please consider dropping this poison--avoiding it is one of the reasons I buy bottled water to drink.
- none

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- Can we do anything here to stop the Keystone pipeline?
- City of Ann Arbor uses sewer and stormwater fees as a slush fund, regardless of their intended uses. This immoral thievery robs funding for the environment.
- I Have raingardens, that my grandmother taught me about, your employees won't even 'consider' them as they're not exactly what is recommended. My grandma knew more than this employee! The City needs to hire people who know how to Think, not just read rules and say NO!!
- I don't feel like there's enough protection for the Great Lakes; fresh water is our most precious resource.
- yes I am concerned about the large amount of roadside trash--papers and bottles
- Mostly to teach kids at school, to start them at an early age.
- overpopulation seems to be root cause of most issues
- Just recycle as much as you can.
- invasive plants
- Illicit discharge
- uhm... I am very concerned for the environment. We have a gap that needs to be bridged to avoid destroying it!
- people not picking their dog pup and throwing waste in backyard.
- clean water
- Air quality, radon, asbestos.
- population growth, air, land and water pollution
- my neighbors use lawn care services that spread toxic pesticides and fertilizers in an effort to maintain a totally unnatural thing: their lawn
- Preserving our groundwater quality
- Continue to improve clean water programs. HRWC is great, but get the city of Ann Arbor to do more and make it more convenient.
- Yes, strengthening environmental laws instead of courts ruling in favor of the polluters.
- Rain barrels are MUCH too expensive. Would be very interested in buying two if you could buy bulk and sell them to residents for less than \$50/ea.
- Homeowners not keeping sewers clear at/near their property.
- Manage Canada Geese population to reduce waste (e. coli) input to rivers, streams and lakes.
- Not at this time.
- Government allowing big business and industry to encroach on our greatest natural resources.
- I wish the Huron River in A2 wasn't so murky and full of algae in the summer. I wish the rowers weren't on the river with bullhorns and motor oars during every minute of daylight. They hog the river as if they own it. I would love to see the water quality improve.
- I am highly concerned with the lack of enforcement or focus on sediment and erosion control. It varies dramatically depending on what county. There needs to be a greater field presence from the overseeing agencies across the board. AND there needs to be much more effective BMPs on construction sites, even when they are present.
- Decrease car use; make public transportation more popular; protecting our Great Lakes and watersheds.
- We live near a modular home community - the sewage system they use is not appropriate - it allows unclean water to enter the Huron River watershed.
- Pall Gelman plume approaching our drinking water, and lack of enforcement of reasonable safe

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standards for ppm.

- pesticide in water
- all above
- comment- i live in a condo, so lawn/grounds maintenance is performed by others. i don't know what kind of fertilizer is used, or what is done with leaves and grass clippings.
- I'm concerned about Mallet's Creek Watershed and the entire ecosystem, pure water is very important. I do what I can. Thanks for the calendar!
- climate change, extinction crisis, invasive species
- What's the status of the asian carp? Feel like I haven't heard anything new about the situation in awhile
- fixing/improving erosion on tributaries to Huron River, such as Fleming Creek.
- pollution of lakes and streams air quality lack of control of geese
- relax the red tape and lets drill for oil!!!!
- fertilizer and agricultural run off
- No
- I am wondering about the settling basin for City of Ann Arbor Water Plant -- the basin is just south of M14 and just west of Wines and Forsythe Schools. I wonder if wetland could be restored or built there. Would like to work on this project.
- Barton Dam, crumbling bridges over waters, hazardous waste from residents not getting to/the proper disposal, people not planting better choices in their beds for insects and birds to eat.
- All
- Education on hazardous material disposal.
- Flooding/drainage in the Arbor Oaks/Stonybrook subdivision in Ann Arbor.
- filtering storm water before it gets to the watershed channels (streams, rivers, lakes)
- Water consumption
- very worried about the quality of the great lakes, about noise pollution growing in our neighborhood, about loss of big trees in our neighborhood not being replaced
- Discharge of dioxin from Gelman/Pall into water
- One of the activities that should be listed in addition to canoeing, boating, swimming etc. is HUNTING. This is often done near WETLANDS, RIVERS, LAKES! though Ann Arbor is not a hot bed of hunters, Washtenaw Co has LOADS of hunters and they are in nature probably almost more than anyone.(BTW - i am not a hunter but know many)
- Removal of invasive plants (crowds out native ones)
- Being a wise user of water
- I would like to make sure that our drinking water is safe.
- I hope that we will get the information about caring for our lakes and streams out to as many people as possible. I believe that people will change their habits if they know what to do.
- Air quality - wish the police could ticket those vehicles that have terrible/inefficient exhaust systems.
- Absolutely. I think making AA completely bike friendly would be awesome!
- environment is in decline
- All of them :).
- water quality
- Hazardous waste.
- no

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- Pollution
- Pal-Gelman waste.
- how to clean up and dispose of the new energy efficient lightbulbs.
- Yes, why are you "collecting" bugs? Leave the darn bugs be! Count them if you wish, but stop disrupting their lives. You do more harm than good.
- I am not only concerned about the quality of water but am concerned about the availability of water for populations suffering from drought.
- reducing consumption, non gmo foods.
- I'd like to see permeable medians on State Street near Briarwood. I'd like to see more planting/replacement of street trees in Ann Arbor.
- Oil and gunk floating on river, or at least trapped in eddies where I put-in my canoe.
- global warming
- air pollution, particularly from U of M source.
- city should inform lawn care service companies NOT to blow grass clippings/leaves into the street
- using environmentally friendly substances in winter to de-ice roads
- water pollution with hormone mimicking agents and pharmaceuticals
- I would be happy to use a rain barrel, but the cost is prohibitive.
- overuse of pesticides/herbicides
- I would really like to see mandatory recycling throughout washtenaw county.
- Willow Run hazardous waste site at Tyler Rd
- Threat of Asian Carp
- Stormwater! and water quality in general
- Protecting the Huron River and Great Lakes
- The plant growth in the river is distressing, making it difficult in some places to get boats in the river, fish or sail. Our river is so beautiful and needs our protection!
- Dirty energy; unchecked ex-urban development; factory farms...
- too many to mention
- None at this time.
- Not at this time.
- Agricultural runoff/Golf courses
- Yes, our drinking water !!!!! Yes, our land and air we breath !!! We, all have to do our part no matter how little it seems it goes a long way. Think of what we are leaving our children with.
- Maintenance of wet land areas. Prevent draining wetlands even those less than 2 1/2 acres.
- We are not doing enough for Land preservation and grass lands & Wet Lands
- By "picking up litter", I assume we should sweep the gutter occasionally. I'm going to do this now.
- What goes into the street gutters What is flushed down toilets run-off from parking lots-raingardens should be required
- pollution of water, air, & food supply, landfills, exhaustion of limited natural resources, global warming, cell phone radiation... (I guess there are a lot.)
- First do the least expensive things, then gradually do those of low to moderate cost. Save money so more can be accomplished with a limited budget
- The rise of ambient or background chemical hazards to health---too many chemicals used for too many things, often unnecessarily.

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- air pollution, and global warming.
- Global warming should stop because it is endangering animals such as the polar bears.
- Illegal dumping of toxic materials into our environment such as landfills, lakes and streams where nobody knows about. The underworld may be behind it.
- sewer back ups in the basement
- I am constantly very upset about the amount of trash litter in and around the student neighborhood around the University of Michigan campus. The students throw trash all over their lawns and it stays there for long, long periods. For weeks, I walked by the corner of Thompson and William streets where trash cans were overturned, garbage strewn on sidewalk, 3 old dirty mattresses lay on the sidewalk, broken glass all over sidewalk, and it stayed there for many weeks. Doesn't the Mayor or other city officials see this mess when they drive, walk, bike around Ann Arbor? How can eye-sore trash heaps sit out in the open for long periods without clean-up? It's totally amazing that Ann Arbor doesn't have a serious rat problem. Right now, if you go to the left side of the Michigan Union, and look at the back of the fraternity house there, and see the heaps of trash laying outside the trash can. I tell you, I can't believe the rats aren't living there. Supposedly the City has a community standards office that fines \$100 to clean up trash, why don't they work harder at following through on these trashed houses and lawns? That's my biggest environmental concern in Ann Arbor - the trash on lawns, sidewalks around UM campus in students housing neighborhoods. It's a serious problem, a real eye-sore for Ann Arbor, and health threat for rat invasion.
- I wish the city would ban lawn fertilizer and pesticide use.
- yes, I think NAP should stop using rodeo in bird hills, Kuebler Langford and Barton nature area
- noise pollution
- no
- runoff from agriculture feels out of my control and yet is very important. How can an individual get farms to use less fertilizers, aside from buying organic and encouraging that market?
- Everybody having access to sufficient potable water. Reducing people's reliance on bottled water.
- Just making a lower carbon footprint...finding out how
- NO
- continue to educate our children on these issues
- That our state and federal government don't do enough about legislation and monitoring of pollution/climate change.
- yes--golf courses, along streams, contribute more chemical runoff than households. Your campaign is directed in the wrong place.
- Garbage truck often leaks fluids from waste compartment onto road. These fluids appear to be of a petroleum based substance because it stains the asphalt pavement dark and remains for months. Recently happened on Pine Brae St. Should garbage trucks have waste compartments sealed so that fluids cannot leak during transport?
- Gelman 'plume.' Downtown Ann Arbor exhaust, esp. since city sits in a bowl. Citizen ignorance. Huron River looks bad.
- How to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals.
- We deliver solar power education regularly, and are curious about the assumptions behind the 24.5 H₂O gal/day/household reported in the Good Guide. Thanks.