

You can be a hero!



Huron River Watershed

2014 community calendar



Welcome to your 2014 Huron River Watershed Community Calendar.

This watershed is full of heroes. Here we present just a few, plus a special **HERO HANDBOOK** in back where YOU are invited to get YOUR hero on.

It's easy to be an H₂O Hero. With simple steps taken right in your own home or back yard, you can help protect the Huron River and its tributary streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater.

Washing your car on the lawn instead of the driveway, picking up pet waste, mulching fall leaves, using a rain barrel, choosing phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer—all of these help to prevent water pollution.

Today, most of the pollution entering our rivers, streams, and lakes arrives with the rainwater that runs off hard surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops.

The polluting culprits include: dirt, oil and toxic auto fluids, pesticides and fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems.

We depend on storm sewers, drainage ditches and culverts to keep our streets from flooding during storms. Yet, these systems also direct polluted and untreated rainwater straight into our local waterways, including the Huron River.

Each month of this Watershed Community Calendar features a simple step toward creating a healthier watershed, showing you how everyday actions you take can make a hero's contribution.

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January/February/April/August

The communities that partnered to produce the 2014 Huron River Watershed Community Calendar want to show you how to protect water quality. Some of these communities are required by federal law to educate residents regarding their impact on rivers, streams, and lakes, and some are not. But each recognizes that in working together we can secure our watershed as a permanent source of clean drinking water, natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities.

In creating this calendar, we made priorities of containing costs and engaging vendors that are local to the watershed. Acclaimed local photographers provided the featured photos. Christianson Design of Ann Arbor provided graphic design services, and the calendar was printed by Goetzcraft Printers, a partner in Washtenaw County's Waste Knot Program. The Huron River Watershed Council was pleased to share our expertise on watershed pollution prevention issues and to manage the overall production.

The Huron River watershed is all the land, creeks, and streams that drain into the Huron River. It includes lakes, wetlands, groundwater and your neighborhood.

INGHAM

LIVINGSTON

OAKLAND

STOCKBRIDGE

PINCKNEY

BRIGHTON

MILFORD

ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE

Huron River

WOLVERINE LAKE

SOUTH LYON

Portage Creek

DEXTER

Huron River

Davis Creek

The Huron River Watershed is located in south-eastern Michigan

JACKSON

CHELSEA

Honey Creek

Allen Creek

ANN ARBOR

Millers Creek

YPSILANTI

WAYNE

HRWC

The Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) coordinates programs and volunteer efforts that include pollution prevention, hands-on river monitoring, wetland and floodplain protection, public outreach and education, recreation, and natural resources planning. Individuals, local businesses, and more than 40 communities support our work through membership.

To learn more about HRWC's programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.hrwc.org or call any member of our professional staff at 734-769-5123.

WASHTENAW

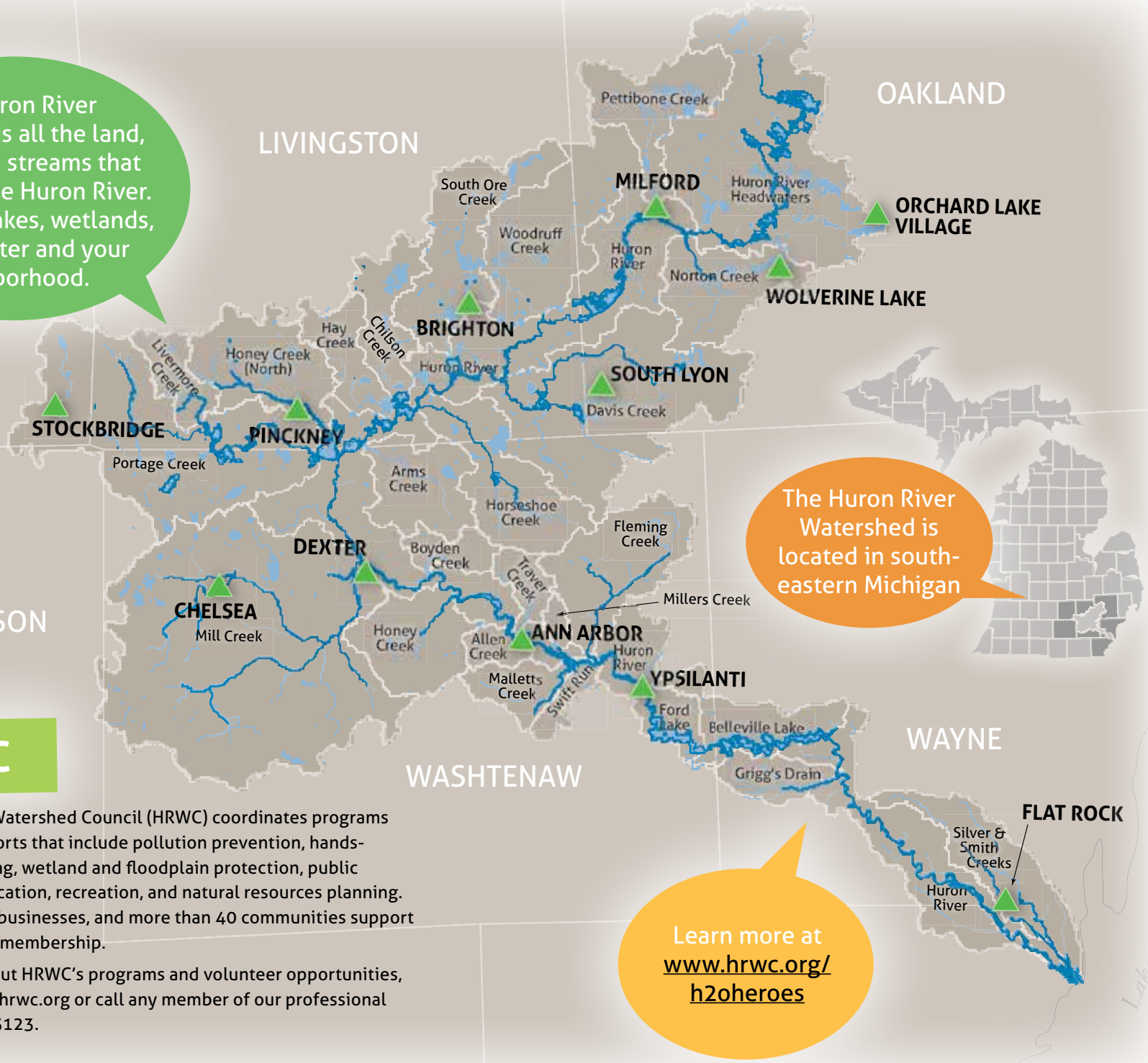
Learn more at www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes

FLAT ROCK

Silver & Smith Creeks

Huron River

Lake St. Clair



January 2014

Huron River, Dexter-Ann Arbor KEITH MATZ



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	New Year's Day 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 20	21	22	23	24	Huron River Watershed Council, Stonefly Search 25
26	27	28	29	30	Chinese New Year 31	1



Sophie M. says,
 "I turn off the water when I brush my teeth and save 2-4 gallons every time. It helps our river and I save water, energy and my mom and dad's money."

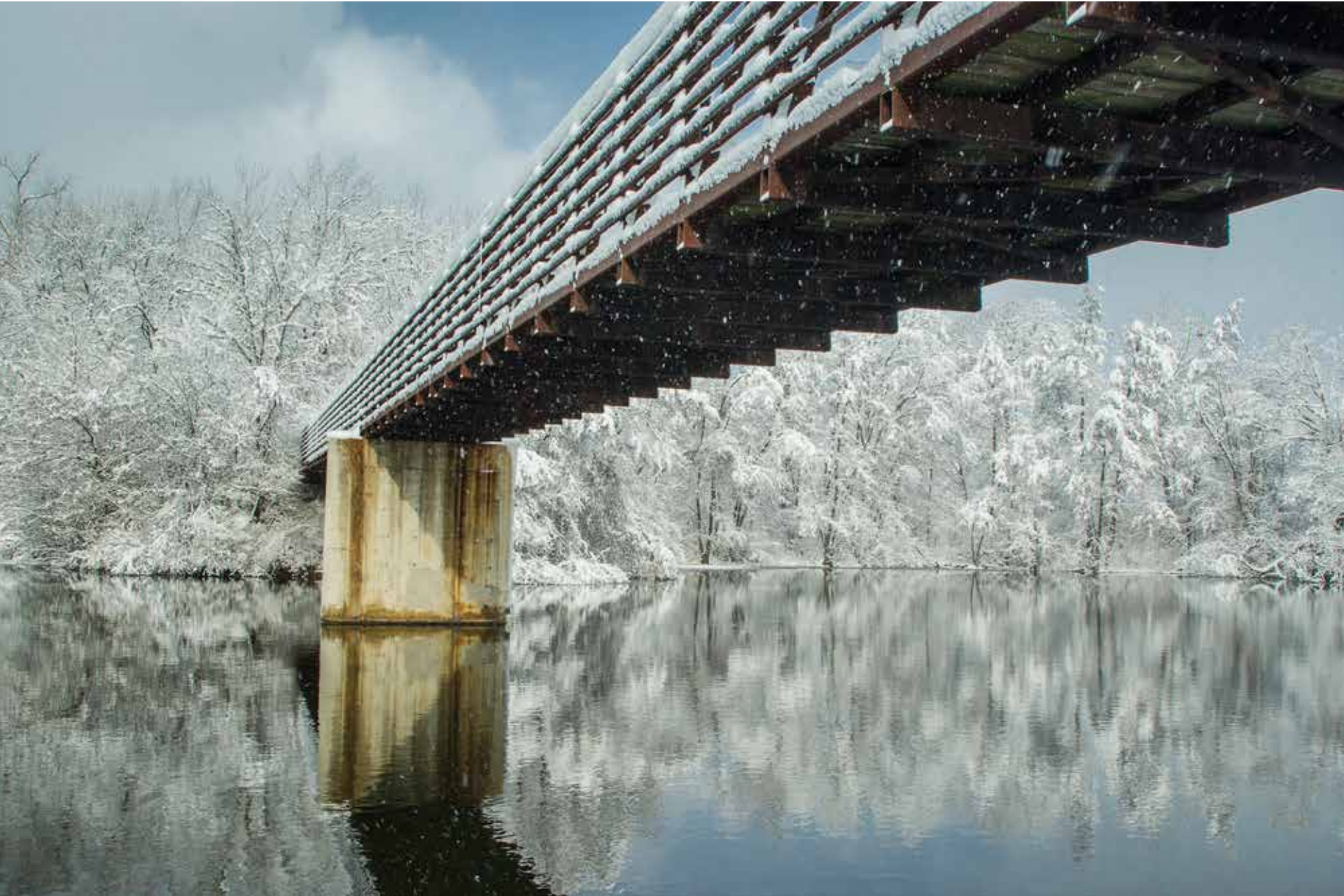
h₂O heroes

tap into savings

January 2014

February 2014

Huron River Footbridge, Ann Arbor KEITH MATZ



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	Lincoln's Birthday 12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15
16	Washington's Birthday President's Day 17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1



Dick C. says,
 "When I see something
 that is not good for water
 quality, like stuff being dumped
 into curbside storm drains and
 ditches, I make a phone call to
 people who know how to
 handle it."

h₂o heroes

make the call

February 2014

March 2014

Pinckney State Recreation Area TED NELSON



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	Ash Wednesday 5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings Time Begins 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	Vernal Equinox 20	21	World Water Day 22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	April Fool's Day 1	2	3	4	5

Amy M. says, "I help my dog Jo Jo protect water quality by picking up her poop and putting it in the trash. This also keeps the sidewalks clean and my neighbors happy."



h2o heroes

scoop poop

March 2014

April 2014

Native Redbuds, Riverside Park, Ann Arbor KEITH MATZ



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	April Fool's Day 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Palm Sunday 13	Passover Begins 14	Tax Day 15	16	17	Good Friday 18	19
Easter Sunday 20	21	Earth Day Passover Ends 22	23	24	25	Huron River Watershed Council, River Roundup 26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



Karim M. says,
 "Michigan law requires
 no-phosphorus lawn fertilizer,
 and your nearby river or lake
 will appreciate it. I use a
 mulching mower to fertilize
 my lawn with grass
 clippings."

h₂O heroes

**use phosphorus-free
 fertilizer**

**April
 2014**

May 2014

Kensington Sunrise TED NELSON



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	May is American Wetlands Month 1	2	3
4	Cinco de Mayo 5	6	7	8	9	10
Mother's Day 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	Memorial Day 26	27	28	29	30	31



Wendy L. says, "Black-eyed Susans are my favorite Michigan native plant. Their deep roots filter polluted runoff and help keep water clean."

h₂O heroes

plant Michiganders 2014

May

June 2014

American Lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, Kensington Metropark TED NELSON



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	World Environment Day 5	6	7
World Oceans Day 8	9	10	11	12	13	Flag Day 14
Father's Day 15	16	17	18	19	20	Summer Solstice 21
22	23	24	25	26	27	Ramadan begins 28
29	30	1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5



Noémi B. says, "One way I do my part is by using the least amount of household toxics possible and taking any leftovers to my county collection site for safe disposal. That way I know they stay out of our water."

h₂O heroes

know toxics

June
2014

July 2014

Sunset, Baseline Lake, Dexter MARC AKEMANN



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Ramadan ends 27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Jason S. says,
 "When I can't get to the car wash, I wash my car on the lawn instead of my driveway to keep the suds out of the storm drains and my nearby creek."



h₂O heroes

clean on the green

July 2014

August 2014

Huron River, Barton Nature Area, Ann Arbor KEITH MATZ



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ramadan ends 27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Labor Day 1				5	6

Jenny K. says,
 "In August, my dad stops watering our lawn altogether and lets the grass go dormant. It always greens up in the cooler fall weather and we save lots of water."



h₂O heroes

sprinkle less

August 2014

September 2014

Huron River, Belleville MARC AKEMANN



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	Labor Day 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Patriot Day 11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	Autumnal Equinox 23	24	Rosh Hashanah 25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Chatura V. says,
 "Storm drains carry pollution right to our rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources—**UNFILTERED**. I help with HRWC's Adopt-A-Stormdrain program to teach homeowners how to care for curbside storm drains."



h₂o heroes

watch runoff

September 2014

October 2014

Proud Lake State Recreation Area TED NELSON



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	Yom Kippur 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	Columbus Day 13	14	15	16	17	Huron River Watershed Council, River Roundup 18
19	20	21	22	23	United Nations Day 24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31	1

Jana S. says,
 "I signed up for Washtenaw County's RiverSafe Homes program and learned to feed my lawn with fall leaves by using a mulching mower. Mulching fall leaves also helps keep the storm drains along my curb clear."



h₂O heroes

mulch more

October 2014

November 2014

Sunset, Goose Lake, Pinckney MARC AKEMANN



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31	1
Daylight Savings Time Ends 2	3	Election Day 4	5	6	7	8
9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving 27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Jhena V. says, "I learned that my county has a 'take back' program for unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. I can drop them off at a participating pharmacy for safe disposal."



h₂O heroes

don't flush it

November

2014

December 2014

Rapids, Delhi Metropark MARC AKEMANN



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	Hanukkah Begins 16	17	18	19	20
Winter Solstice 21	22	23	Christmas Eve Hanukkah Ends 24	Christmas Day 25	Kwanzaa Begins 26	27
28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31	New Year's Day 1 Kwanzaa Ends	2	3

Dave W. says,
 "During the winter, my well-used snow shovel and a little environmentally friendly deicer on our walks and driveway help to reduce the salt concentration in our streams."



h₂O heroes

salt less

December 2014

HERO HANDBOOK

Get your hero on!

These are the steps to become an H₂O Hero. When you're all done, pick a superhero name that relates to what you will do for clean water. Submit it to the Huron River Watershed Council's Facebook page and we'll enter you to win one of 50 H₂O Hero t-shirts!

www.facebook.com/huronriver

1

STEP 1: CLAIM YOUR SUPER POWER

Now that you've had time to consider hero attributes, examine your current habits. Whether you're a longtime protector of our water resources or just starting out, here are some great ways to help:

Runoff Reduction

You capture runoff, preventing it from flushing into storm drains. You use deep-rooted Michigan native plants, plant a rain garden or use a rain barrel. Your downspouts are directed away from paved surfaces and onto your garden or lawn. Your patio is made of porous pavement.



Pollution Prevention

You clean paved surfaces with a broom instead of a hose, choose phosphorus-free fertilizer, and mulch grass clippings and fall leaves back into your lawn. You take household toxics and medications to disposal sites.

Water Saving / Energy Saving

You are water efficient, saving both money and energy while reducing your greenhouse gas emissions. Your showerheads, faucet aerators and toilets are certified by EPA's WaterSense program. You use smart irrigation technology to limit water use outdoors. See: www.epa.gov/watersense.



2

STEP 2: PICK A SIDEKICK

Not every hero has a sidekick, but if there's someone in your life who would love to be a hero too, go ahead and recruit one. Suggestions:

- Your dog*
- Your child or spouse
- Your neighbor or friend
- Your co-worker

* Your canine sidekick will need your help to achieve hero status. Bacteria in pet feces compromise water quality, reduce recreational opportunities, and contaminate drinking water supplies. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash to protect water quality!



3

STEP 3:

PUT BAD GUYS WHERE THEY BELONG

Which bad guys will you go after?

Dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint, and other potential toxics responsibly. Check with your county for disposal guidelines and drop-off locations. Never pour them down storm drains, into sinks, or onto the ground.

Do not flush unused or expired medicines down the toilet or sink. Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to filter out drugs and personal care products. Dispose of them through a "take back" program or by wrapping containers in duct tape and several layers of plastic bags before putting them in your trash. In Washtenaw County, visit www.dontflushdrugs.com for details.



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STEP 4:

WORK FOR THE COMMON GOOD

What will you do that helps water?

Make the call

Some people illegally dump stuff into curbside storm drains and ditches. This diverts community resources and pollutes our water.

Report dumping at
800-292-4706

Adopt a storm drain

Take care of your neighborhood storm drains personally or organize a group effort to help clear debris from them and label drains with "No Dumping - Drains to River" markers.

Go to www.hrwc.org/adoptastormdrain

Volunteer

HRWC runs group stream monitoring and river cleanup events throughout the year. During River Roundup, small teams of volunteers collect and count river bugs that indicate the stream's health.

Opportunities at: www.hrwc.org/volunteer



5

STEP 5:

CHOOSE YOUR COLOR

We recommend green, but we know that heroes come in all shades. Here's how to be "green" even if your costume is red or blue.

Grow A Healthy Lawn

Maintain your lawn at 3" or higher—tall grass stimulates root growth and shades out weeds. Use only phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer if needed. Phosphorus promotes harmful algae growth that kills fish and beneficial plants in our waterways. Michigan law restricts phosphorous application on residential and commercial lawns.

Plant Native Plants

Direct rainwater to deep-rooted native plants that filter runoff and channel it into the ground. A natural low spot in your yard could be the perfect place for a rain garden.

See: www.ewashtenaw.org/raingardens

Mulch Fall Leaves

Using your mower to mulch fall leaves keeps them out of the street and nearby storm drains. Or, compost leaves for next spring. By using your lawn's natural compost as fertilizer, you'll save money and energy and help protect our water. If your community's guidelines for curbside pickup direct you to put your leaves into the street, wait until just before collection day to do so.



6

STEP 6:

SELECT HERO GEAR

Where would Batman be without the Batmobile, or Wonder Woman without her invisible plane or golden lasso? Ideas for gear that protects water quality:

- Superhero Mask
- H₂O Hero T-shirt
- Mulching Lawn Mower
- Broom
- Rain Barrel
- Pooper Scooper
- WaterSense Labeled Showerhead
- High Efficiency Toilet
- Cape
- Cuffs
- Stretchy Pants
- Earth Friendly Deicer
- Michigan Native Plants and a Shovel



7

FINAL STEP!

COME UP WITH YOUR HERO NAME

A hero needs a clever, catchy name. When you've got it, "Like" HRWC's Facebook page and tell us what your hero name is. We'll enter you to win one of 50 H₂O Hero t-shirts!

www.facebook.com/huronriver

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

To report a hazardous spill, call your local fire department **9-1-1**
To report illegal dumping or other environmental pollution concerns, call the MDEQ Pollution Emergency Alert System **800-292-4706**

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

www.livgov.com

Department of Public Works
517-546-7150

Drain Commissioner
517-546-0040

Home Toxics Reduction/
Solid Waste Program
517-545-9609

MSU Extension Horticulture Hotline
517-546-3950

Recycle Livingston
www.recyclelivingston.org
517-548-4439

Road Commission
www.livingstonroads.org
517-546-4250

WASHTENAW COUNTY

www.ewashtenaw.org

Environmental Health Department
734-222-3800

Water Resources Commissioner
734-222-6860

Home Toxics Reduction Program
734-222-3950

MSU Extension Garden Hotline
734-997-1819

Road Commission, www.wcroads.org
734-761-1500

CITY OF ANN ARBOR

www.a2gov.org

Recycle Ann Arbor
734-662-6288

Solid Waste Information
734-994-2807

Water Utilities Customer
Service Center
734-994-2666

CITY OF BRIGHTON

www.brightoncity.org

Department of Public Services
810-225-8001

CITY OF YPSILANTI

www.cityofypsilanti.com

Department of Public Services
734-483-1421

VILLAGE OF BARTON HILLS

www.vil-bartonhills.org

Jan Esch, Deputy Clerk
734-222-5209

VILLAGE OF DEXTER

www.villageofdexter.org

Department of Public Works
734-426-8530

Utilities Department
734-426-4572

Wellhead Protection Coordinator
734-426-8303 ext. 15

Village Offices
734-426-8303

VILLAGE OF PINCKNEY

www.villageofpinckney.org

734-878-6206

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.aaps.k12.mi.us

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

www.emich.edu

GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP

www.greenoaktwp.com

810-231-1333

MARION TOWNSHIP

www.mariontownship.com

517-546-1588

PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Information
734-822-3101

Utilities
734-822-3105
734-822-4911 (after-hour emergencies)

Parks and Recreation
734-822-2120

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI

www.ytown.org

734-544-4000

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

www.hrwc.org

734-769-5123





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