

Discover. Connect. Protect.

The Huron River Watershed
Community Calendar

2024



Celebrate the Watershed

The Huron River watershed is nothing short of remarkable. It plays a vital role in our daily lives. In many ways, it makes our lives possible. Thanks to the river, creeks, wetlands and lakes, we can enjoy healthy ecosystems. Safe drinking water. Thriving towns and cities. Diverse wildlife. And inviting places to swim, fish, paddle, socialize, exercise or simply enjoy nature.

This year's calendar celebrates the beauty and benefits of the watershed with stunning photos from five local nature photographers. We are grateful for their work and for the community partners who make the calendar possible!

The impact of polluted runoff...

Our everyday actions have a direct impact on water quality. Even activities many miles from a river or lake can pollute it. For instance, excess fertilizer used on lawns miles away from Lake Erie will wash into storm drains with rainfall and then flow from local creeks into the Huron River. From there the fertilizer then heads to Lake Erie, where it can cause harmful algae blooms.



You can make a difference.

Follow the monthly tips to help prevent water pollution. Do your part to prevent dirt, fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, salt, home toxics and more from getting into our waterways. Volunteer. Adopt a storm drain. Head outside for a river cleanup. You can create a healthier Huron River for the future!



The Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan coalition of watershed residents, businesses, and local governments. HRWC coordinates programs and volunteer efforts aimed at protecting and restoring the river for healthy and vibrant communities. Learn more at hrwc.org.

Community Partners

These communities work together to reduce pollution in the Huron River watershed. Educating residents about the impact of their day-to-day actions on rivers, streams and lakes is one of their shared goals.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

milivcounty.gov
Department of Public Works

517-546-0040

Drain Commissioner
517-546-0040

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

MSU Extension
Horticulture Hotline
517-546-3950

Recycle Livingston
recyclelivingston.org
517-548-4439

CITY OF ANN ARBOR

a2gov.org

734-794-6000

CITY OF BELLEVILLE

bellevilleonthelake.com

734-697-9323

CITY OF BRIGHTON

brightoncity.org

Department of Public Services
810-225-8001

CITY OF CHELSEA

city-chelsea.org

734-475-1771

WASHTENAW COUNTY

washtenaw.org

Environmental Health
Division
734-222-3800

Water Resources
Commissioner
734-222-6860

Home Toxics Center
734-222-3950

MSU Extension Garden
Hotline
canr.msu.edu/home_gardening
888-678-3464

CITY OF DEXTER

dextermi.gov

Utilities Department
734-426-4572

City Offices
734-426-8303

CITY OF WIXOM

wixomgov.org

248-624-0141

CITY OF YPSILANTI

cityofypsilanti.com

Department of Public Services
734-483-1421

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

hrwc.org

734-769-5123



Learn about the watershed at hrc.org/maps

The Huron River Watershed

The Huron River watershed is made up of all the land, creeks and streams that drain into the Huron River. That includes lakes, wetlands, groundwater—and your neighborhood. The Huron River watershed is part of the much larger Lake Erie watershed. Shown in the map above are the watershed boundaries of both the Huron River and the smaller creeks that feed into the river.

VILLAGE OF BARTON HILLS
bartonhillsvillage.org
 734-222-5209

VILLAGE OF MILFORD
villageofmilford.org
 248-684-1515

VILLAGE OF PINCKNEY
villageofpinckney.org
 734-878-6206

ANN ARBOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP
aatwp.org
 734-663-6678

BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP
brightontwp.com
 810-229-0550

GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP
greenoaktwp.com
 810-231-1333

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP
hamburg.mi.us
 810-231-1000

PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
pittsfield-mi.gov
 Information
 734-822-3130

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

PUTNAM TOWNSHIP
putnamtwp.us
 734-878-3131

SCIO TOWNSHIP
sciotownship.org
 734-369-9400

SUPERIOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP
superiortownship.org
 734-482-6099

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
ypsitownship.org
 734-544-4000

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
a2schools.org

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
emich.edu
 Physical Plant
 734-487-1000

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ehs.umich.edu
 Environment, Health & Safety
 734-647-1143

VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
annarbor.va.gov
 Safety Service
 734-845-5421

ROAD COMMISSIONS
 Livingston County
livingstonroads.org
 517-546-4250

Washtenaw County
wcroads.org
 734-761-1500

To report illegal dumping or other environmental pollution concerns, call the **EGLE Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706.**

For hazardous chemical or flammable spills, call **9-1-1 immediately.**



HURON RIVER AT BARTON NATURE AREA IN ANN ARBOR, KEITH MATZ

JANUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Mahayana New Year	26	27 Huron River Watershed Council Stonefly Search, hrwc.org/volunteer
28	29	30	31			

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Volunteer!

Huron River Watershed Council volunteers gather essential data for restoration and protection efforts by collecting river bugs, testing water quality, mapping streams and assessing natural areas. As a volunteer, you can also clean up trash, weed a rain garden, work a special event, or label neighborhood storm drains. Sign up at hrwc.org/volunteer.

The Huron River Watershed Council's volunteer macroinvertebrate monitoring program searches for insects that live in the river and streams of the watershed. The numbers and types found reveal the stream's health.

Over 30 years of data show whether a particular site is improving, declining or holding steady and guides stream management decisions by HRWC and community partners.

For maps, data and information go to hrwc.org/maps.



FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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		



HURON RIVER RAPIDS AT DELHI METROPARK, KEITH MATZ

FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 February is Black History Month	2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Chinese New Year
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15 Parinirvana Day	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Pick up after your pets

Left on sidewalks or lawns, pet waste washes directly into storm drains and enters our local waterways in the form of raw, unfiltered sewage. Do your part as a pet owner by scooping, bagging and trashing. It makes for better water quality as well as cleaner sidewalks and happier neighbors. Learn more at hrwc.org/petwaste.

The Huron River Watershed Council's volunteer Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program produces reliable, useful water quality data and analysis to deepen understanding of nutrient and pollutant dynamics in regional waterways. Results guide local and state action like Michigan's law that restricts the use of phosphorus fertilizer on residential lawns.



MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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



WILDWING LAKE HERON ROOKERY AT KENSINGTON METROPARK, KEITH MATZ

MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 March is National Women's History Month	4	5	6	7	1 8 Maha Shivarati International Women's Day	2 9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 Ramadan Begins	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Vernal Equinox	20	21	22 World Water Day	23
24 Holi Begins Palm Sunday	25 Holi Ends	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday International Transgender Day of Visibility						

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Treasure your trees

Every tree plays an important role in reducing air pollution and controlling destructive runoff. You can calculate how much stormwater your tree will intercept—and how much carbon dioxide it will store each year—at hrwc.org/planttrees.

Three rain gardens at Green Oak Township Hall catch and soak in close to 50% of the on-site stormwater runoff. Their deep-rooted native plants hold the soil in place and create channels that allow water to soak in. Plant leaves and stems catch falling rain, letting it evaporate. The City of Brighton is also using rain gardens to protect the Huron River and its creeks from polluted runoff, reduce erosion and flooding, and to create habitat for pollinators.



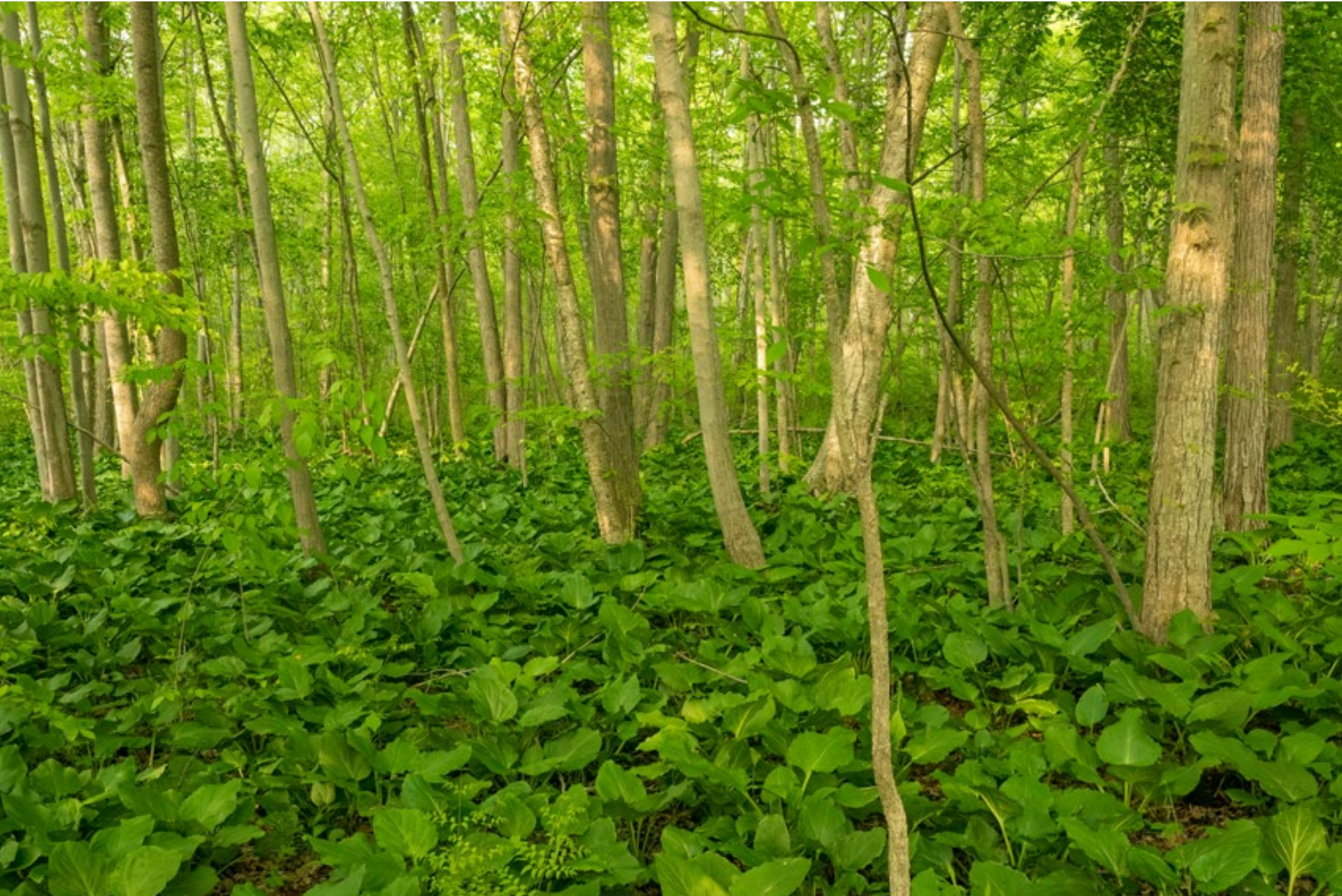
APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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				



EASTERN SKUNK CABBAGE AT WATERLOO STATE RECREATION AREA, JOHN LLOYD

APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April is Arab-American Heritage Month, and National Volunteer Month April Fool's Day	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Last day of Ramadan	10 Eid al-Fitr	11	12	13
14 Good Deeds Day	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Passover begins Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27 National Prescription Drug Takeback Day, see dea.gov/takebackday HRWC River Roundup, hrwc.org/volunteer
28	29	30 Passover ends				

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Use the power of plants

If you garden, include plants that are native to Michigan such as black-eyed Susans. Deep-rooted native plants are not only beautiful but also trap and filter polluted runoff from roadsides and rooftops. And they generally require fewer or no pesticides and less water than non-natives or turf grass lawns. Learn more at hrwc.org/landscaping.

Save the date, Saturday, June 1, 2024 for the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace coordinated by the Washtenaw County Conservation District! In 2023 this farmers market style event hosted 31 nurseries, nonprofits, government programs and local businesses providing native plant products, services and expertise to more than 2,000 Southeast Michigan residents. Learn more at nativeplantexpo.com.



MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	



GREAT BLUE HERON FISHING AT KENSINGTON METROPARK, PAULA GRAVLIN

MAY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 May is American Wetlands Month, and National Asian American and South Pacific Islander Month	2	3	4
5 Yom Hashoah begins Cinco de Mayo	6 Yom Hashoah ends	7	8	9	10	11 World Bird Migration Day
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Rain gardens reduce runoff

Rain gardens allow up to 30 percent more water to soak into the ground than conventional turf grass lawns. In addition, downspouts and diverters can direct runoff from hard surfaces like rooftops and sidewalks straight into a rain garden, thus preventing polluted water from reaching nearby storm drains that lead to local waterways.

Learn more at washtenaw.org/raingardens.

In 2005 the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office created the first program in the region to help residents build rain gardens. Since then, more than 1,000 rain gardens have been installed. Each one captures and treats 90–95% of roof and driveway runoff with only the most intense storms sending overflow to the stormwater system. The program's success has sparked initiatives to expand rain gardens across Southeast Michigan.



JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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



SOUTH ORE CREEK IN HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, DANIEL A. BROWN

JUNE 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 June is Pride Month (LGBTQIAA+)	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6	7	1 Great Lakes Fresh Water Week Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, nativeplantexpo.com 8 World Oceans Day
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day Eid al-Adha begins	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Put poisons in their place

When possible, avoid using toxic household cleaners and chemicals. Also, remember that cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint and other home toxics should never be poured down a sink, into a storm drain or onto the ground. To keep them out of our water supply, dispose of them at a county collection site. Learn more at hrwc.org/hometoxics.

The Huron River Water Trail is a 104-mile (167 km) inland paddling trail that connects people to the river and its history.

For interactive maps and recommended trips; camping and paddling safety information; a list of outfitters that rent kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddle boards; and a whole lot more head to huronriverwatertrail.org.



Huron River
WATER TRAIL



JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			



GREAT BLUE HERON IN FLIGHT AT KENSINGTON METROPARK, JOHN LLOYD

JULY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 Al-Hijri New Year begins	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Clean on the green

Commercial car washes should always be your first choice, since they're required by law to treat their wastewater. Washing your car at home? Park it on the grass. Your lawn will soak up the dirty water, break down the soap, and prevent runoff into the storm drain—and nearby waterways. Learn more at hrwc.org/carwash.

Head to the water with either your own, a borrowed, or a rented canoe or kayak for a DIY River Cleanup! Or stay on land to pick up trash along the river or a creek. Even cleaning up streets, parks and neighborhoods helps prevent stormwater runoff from carrying litter to our waterways through the storm drains. Learn more at hrwc.org/cleanup.



AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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



HURON RIVER AT ISLAND LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA, DANIEL A. BROWN

AUGUST 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Raksha Bandhan	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Krishna Janmashtami	27	28	29	30	31

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Speak up, speak out

If you see illegal dumping into curbside storm drains and ditches, don't hesitate. Get on the phone. By making that call, you'll be doing your part to protect water quality for our entire community. **Call 1-800-292-4706 to report illegal dumping.** For hazardous chemical or flammable spills, call 9-1-1 immediately.

From writing comment letters to running for elected office, watershed residents make a difference in their communities by advocating for river-friendly policies and practices. Since 2018 more than 100 people have participated in the Huron River Watershed Council's Change Makers program. Sign up to learn river ecology basics and how to influence local government to protect water quality at hrwc.org/changemakers.



SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					



GREAT WHITE EGRET AT OAKWOODS METROPARK, DANIEL A. BROWN

SEPTEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 September is Hispanic Heritage Month	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Patriot Day	12	13	14
15	16 SepticSmart Week, epa.gov/septic	17	18 World Water Monitoring Day	19	20	21
22 Autumnal Equinox	23	24	25	26	27	28 National Public Lands Day
29	30					

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Make the storm drain connection

Storm drains are underground pipes that carry unfiltered rainwater, melting snow and pollution directly into our rivers, lakes and drinking water. Learn how to care for your curbside storm drain and keep it free-flowing by participating in HRWC's Adopt-A-Storm-Drain program at hrwc.org/adoptastormdrain.



The Huron River Watershed Map print poster shows watershed boundaries, creeksheds, lakes and ponds, the Natural River District, State Parks, Metroparks and local parks, dams on the main stem of the river, and more. Get it for the cost of shipping at hrwc.org/mapposter.



OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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		



HURON RIVER AT CEDAR BEND NATURE AREA IN ANN ARBOR, DEE DORSEY

OCTOBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Rosh Hashanah begins Navrati begins	4 Rosh Hashanah ends	5
6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 Yom Kippur begins Navrati ends National Coming Out Day	12 Yom Kippur ends Huron River Watershed Council River Roundup, hrwc.org/volunteer
13	14 Indigenous Peoples' Day	15	16	17 Sukkot begins	18	19
20	21	22	23 Sukkot ends	24 United Nations Day	25	26 Make a Difference Day National Prescription Drug Takeback Day, see dea.gov/takebackday
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Mulch away

There's much to be said for mulch. Leaves and grass that make their way into waterways add excess nutrients *and* use up valuable oxygen as they decompose. However, with the help of a mulching mower, leaves and grass clippings become a natural fertilizer and stay on your lawn, where they belong. Learn more at hrwc.org/lawncare.

Downstream from Belleville Lake, the communities of Belleville, Flat Rock, Rockwood and

Sumpter Township are in the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds. Its 21 members work collaboratively to protect and sustainably manage water resources in the lower Huron, Ecorse Creek and other Downriver waterways that drain to the Detroit River.

www.allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com



NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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



PICKEREL LAKE AT PINCKNEY STATE RECREATION AREA, DEE DORSEY

NOVEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 November is National Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native Heritage Month Diwali	2
3 Daylight Savings Time ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 America Recycles Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Family Volunteer Day	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 Native American Heritage Day	30

.....
DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Catch the Plastic

Keep microplastics out of our rivers and streams. Shed by synthetic clothes and textiles during laundering, these tiny fibers are not filtered out by the wastewater treatment process. Washing machine filters and special laundry devices can help. And if you buy a new washing machine, choose a front loader. Learn more at hrwc.org/microplastics.

The Chain of Lakes region of the watershed covers the area from Kent Lake to Portage Lake and contains 29 lakes, 22 ponds and many of the Huron River's biggest tributaries. The communities and agencies of the Livingston Watershed Advisory Group work cooperatively to protect and improve these water resources through activities such as water quality monitoring and public education and outreach.



DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				



BARTON POND IN ANN ARBOR, JOHN LLOYD

DECEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Hanukkah begins Kwanzaa begins	27	28
29	30	31 Hanukkah ends New Year's Eve				

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Hold the salt

The best way to keep salt out of our streams during cold weather months is by shoveling snow and ice, early and often. If you occasionally need a de-icer for sidewalks and driveways, choose a product labeled "environmentally or eco-friendly." Learn more at hrwc.org/uselesssalt.



Since 1995, nearly 20 municipal, education, healthcare, and agency partners from across Washtenaw County have worked together to reduce pollution entering the Huron River system. Thanks to the efforts of this group, called the Middle Huron Partners, phosphorus levels in the Huron at Ford Lake have been reduced by 30–40% and the size and duration of algae blooms have declined.



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	



117 North First Street
Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.hrwc.org
Phone: 734-769-5123

The Huron River Watershed 2024 Community Calendar

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROTECT.

CREDITS

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Mary Christianson,
Christianson Design

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
Daniel A. Brown
Dee Dorsey
Paula Gravlin
John Lloyd
Keith Matz

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Pam Labadie
Huron River Watershed Council