



Huron
River
Watershed
Council



Explore the Huron River System on Foot!

By Patricia Chargot

... An all-ages
... print and go
... walking tour
... using GIS



Photo: P. Chargot

Our sincere gratitude to reporter and HRWC volunteer **PATRICIA CHARGOT** for sharing her passion for the Huron River and its many creeks. This family friendly tour takes explorers on a deep dive into HRWC's watershed map and data to learn about our home river. Suggestions for where to visit in person, art activities and parks where we've planted geocaches complete the experience.

Just print out the instructions below and stick them in your backpack. You'll also need your cell phone to access our advanced mapping technology.



—Huron River Watershed Council, HRWC.org

By now, you've studied the 125-mile Huron River outdoors and at school. You've dipped buckets into the river to study cute little aquatic creatures. You may even have helped measure depth, clarity, water flow, temperature, or nutrient levels.

You care about our local water resources and try to conserve them. You've attended Huron River Day and worked hard at river cleanups. You've paddled the Huron in a canoe or kayak and spun through Argo Cascades in an inner tube.

But what you know about the river is a drop in the bucket! The Huron River System is a giant jigsaw puzzle with hundreds of pieces, and most of those pieces are hidden from view. You have to look for them. So, check out our interactive GIS maps and set off with your family to explore the river system's endless twists, turns, quirks and surprises on foot. We've planted geocache sites for you to find, too – in three parks to start, with more to be added as this activity expands.

**"People have
to love the Earth
before they save it."**

Bill Jacobs

ecologist and founder of the
St. Kateri Conservation Center,
Long Island, New York



FIND A GEOCACHE AND FIND A CREEK! ➡ (Go to the end of this essay for details on our geocaches and also safety tips. Please read the safety tips before setting out to explore the river system on foot.)

Your best Huron adventures are just around the bend.



START WITH A CREEK NEAR YOU

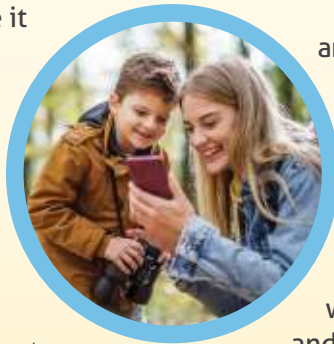
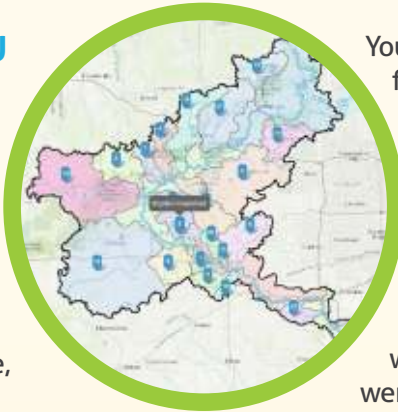
Twenty-four major creeks flow into the main Huron, which carries all that water down, down, down to Lake Erie, which flows into Lake Ontario and on to the St. Lawrence Seaway, in Canada. Then it empties into the Atlantic Ocean. How many Huron creeks can you name? Which is closest to your house? Have you seen its source, the very spot where it burbles up from underground? Do you know where it joins the main river? That's what our GIS maps are for, and it's easy to learn to use them.

WHAT ARE GIS MAPS?

GIS is short for Geographic Information Systems, a computer tool that uses GPS satellite and other geographic data in new, exciting ways. GIS is one of the fastest-growing job markets in the environmental sciences; some colleges, including the University of Michigan and the University of California, even offer GIS graduate level courses! HRWC is among the first watershed councils in the United States to create intelligent maps for its web site. You can zoom in on the entire Huron River System!

WHY GIS EXPLORING IS SO MUCH FUN

Remember that first tug to know your neighborhood—to walk or ride your bike around the block? And farther and farther just to see what's there? Creek walking is a lot like that: It will expand your world. And GIS maps are fun to play with; you can make a game out of exploring the entire river system, one stretch at a time. You'll feel smarter as you begin to visualize the ever changing, wending ways of the Huron and its creeks. You'll "see" them in your mind's eye in the same way you "see" well-known landmarks, such as Michigan Stadium or the Ypsilanti Water Tower.



You will know exactly where the creeks flow, which sometimes is underground, and you will know their names: Allen, Arms, Boyden, Chilson, Davis, Fleming, Hay, Honey, Horseshoe, Malletts, Mill, Millers, Norton, Pettibone, Portage, Silver, Smith, South Ore, Swift Run, Traver, Woodruff and Mann. Each creek is a window on the past. Our waterways were the nation's "first highways," after all—the routes used by Native Americans and European settlers to travel from place to place by canoe. Water routes crisscrossed the land. Now paved streets and roads crisscross the river system!

WHY ARE GIS MAPS SPECIAL?

HRWC created its GIS maps by blending geographic data about the entire river system with data about the locations of major roads and streets that bisect the system. Hundreds of miles of waterways flow through the watershed's five counties: Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe. Overlay them with hundreds of miles of roads and you've got GIS maps.

HOW TO USE THE MAPS

Start by finding your own street within the Huron watershed. Then zoom in until you see where the closest creek is located. It could be right across the street, in a place where you've never walked. Surprise! It could be a slash in the soggy grass. Hello, little creek!

Go to the HRWC landing page at [HRWC.org](https://www.hrwc.org).

Scroll under "Our Watershed" and click on "Maps." Study the colorful overview of the Huron watershed, with the names of major cities. Each of the 22 blue numbers represents a creek. (There are two different creeks named Honey shown by Nos. 8 and 9, and Nos. 17 and 21 each show two creeks, for a total of 24 major creeks.) Zoom in and you will see the names of smaller cities.

Find the city closest to you and note the numbers near it. For example, Chelsea has only one number because it has just one creek, Mill Creek. Metro Ann Arbor has five: Fleming, Traver, Millers, Allen, and Malletts Creeks.

NOW WHAT?

On the left side of the page, you will see eight rows of photos, with the names and numbers for all the creeksheds. Click on the one you think may be closest to your home. Read the "Printable Report" on the creekshed's main features, such as its history, elevation and number of dams. Then back up to the page you just left and click on "Go Deeper: Maps, Data, and More Information." You will see a new map at the right, with two thick, black squiggly lines. They show the boundaries of the creekshed. The thick, dark blue line is the main river. The bright blue lines are the creek and its branches. Some creeks have so many branches they look like trees! Fleming Creek is one.



ALMOST THERE

Zoom in on the creekshed and study the freeways, streets and roads. Find your neighborhood and note where the creek—or a branch of it, a sub-creek—flows nearest to you. But you might not live in that creekshed at all! You might live just outside its borders, in an adjacent creekshed. Go back to the overview map of the Huron watershed, Zoom in, and click on that creekshed's number. Find where the creek flows near your home. Bingo!



WHAT IS A CREEKSHED?

A creekshed is a creek's watershed, so it's much smaller than the main river's watershed. And creeks can split into branches as they flow downhill, so

each branch has its own smaller creekshed. But even they may not be the smallest watersheds. Creeks can have one or more sub-creeks—small streams that spill into them. Each stream has its own stream-shed! Think of the Huron's creeksheds and streamsheds as small tubs within the Huron River Watershed's gargantuan tub. Water drains into each tub from surrounding land, creating the largest watershed in Southeast Michigan!

ARE THERE LARGER WATERSHEDS?

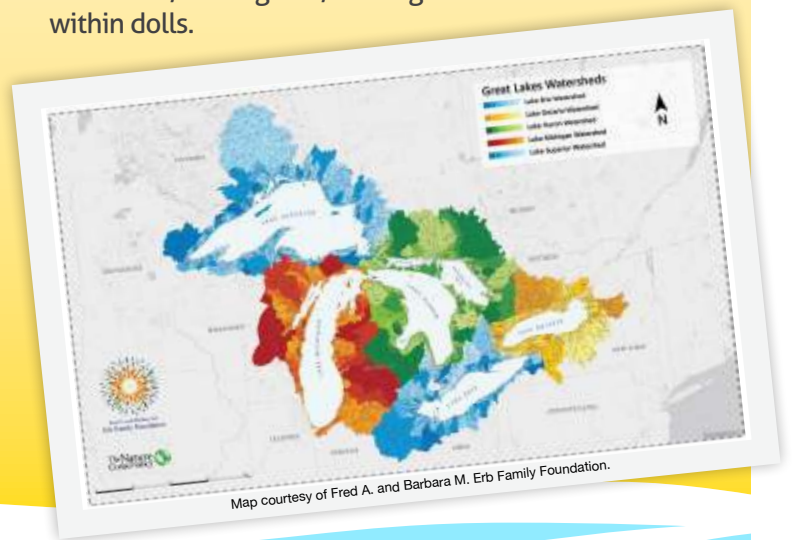
Yes, yes and yes! Start with the Continental Divide, at the crest of the Rocky Mountains. All the water west of the crest drains into the Pacific Ocean. All the water east of it drains into the Atlantic Ocean. All that land, with its rivers, creeks and streams, lies within one of those two super-sized watersheds. Michigan is also part of the Great Lakes Watershed, which contains 79 major watersheds. One is the Huron River Watershed, which lies within the Lake Erie Watershed. Picture a large watershed as a matryoshka (MAH-tree-OSH-kuh), or Russian, nesting doll, holding dolls within dolls within dolls.

How many major creeksheds and sub-creeksheds are there in Michigan?



Can you name the region's other two major rivers?

(Answers on page 7)



Map courtesy of Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

OUR FAV DEFINITION

Ron Fadoir is an environmental planner for the Oakland County Water Resources Commission. He also is a volunteer for HRWC and many other water conservation groups. He's walked or waded thousands of miles of Southeast Michigan's river systems, and no longer thinks of a river as just the water in a riverbed. "When it rains and water runs off your roof, onto your driveway, and is running right down your street: That's part of the river system. It may go into pipes. It may go into a creek or stream. So you and the river are connected. I don't see a river system as a main channel of flowing water. I see all the land surrounding a river system as part of the river."

ON TO THE SOURCE

To see the origin of the Huron River, visit Indian Springs Metropark, in White Lake, near Pontiac. It's about a 50-minute drive from Ann Arbor and is well worth the trip. And the Huron's source is an ideal place to start exploring the entire river system. (But you don't have to—you can start anywhere, just start.)

The headwaters are often overlooked. But they are awe-inspiring, burbling up from an underground spring at the bottom of an immense swamp. You can't hike the circumference of the swamp, but you can look out on it from the trail. To get there, walk a short distance past the park office building. *Stay on the trail because there are Massasauga (mah-suh-SAW-guh) rattlesnakes.* The state's only rattlesnake is a shy creature that spends most of its time in wetlands hunting mice. But it has been known to slither onto trails after a cold night in the woods to bask in the sun's rays. So keep your eyes on the trail!



FUN FACT

Another term for the origin, or source, of a river or stream is "fountainhead." Visualize the Huron River as a fountain shooting sky high from the swamp in Indian Springs Metropark and running all the way to Lake Erie. It's a powerful image: all that water, zigzagging downward like a raindrop on a windshield as if it had a mind of its own. As if it knew where it was going.

DOWN TO THE MOUTH

To see where the Huron River empties into Lake Erie, go to Metroparks.com. Scroll under "Explore Parks" to "Lake Erie Metropark," in Brownstown Township, in Wayne County's southeast corner. Find and click on the link to the map for Lake Erie Metropark. There is no trail to the river's mouth, at the park's southern end. But you can see the river flowing into the lake. Lake Erie Metropark also is a great place to see the meet-up of two famous, historically important bodies of water: Lake Erie and the Detroit River. The best place to see Erie's meet-up with the Huron is from West Jefferson Avenue; the river runs under the avenue. Or visit the Pointe Mouillee State Game area, adjacent to the metropark.

A DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE

Go to the HRWC landing page at HRWC.org and scroll under "Our Watershed" to "Maps"

Instead of clicking on a creekshed, choose "Main Branch Sections." There are five: Upper Huron River; Huron River: Chain of Lakes Region; Huron River: Dexter Vicinity; Huron River: Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Vicinity; and Lower Huron River. Click on the Lower Huron, a stretch of the river system that runs between Belleville Lake and Lake Erie. Then click on "Go Deeper: Maps, Data, and More Information." The Lower Huron is a fascinating place. It can seem like a different world to those who have never been there. The Lower Huron is in the Lake Erie Floodplain, which looks like a

Midwest version of the Florida Keys—low, flat and marshy. Phragmites (*Frag-MY-teez*), a wetland reed that can grow 15 feet tall, are everywhere. It's like driving across the Great Plains and seeing only wheat, corn and soybean fields. All you see are phragmites. They clog the sides of the roads leading to Lake Erie so endlessly they give new meaning to the term, "invasive species."



MUDDY AND MILKY

The Lower Huron River and its creeks often look like a latte or pea soup. That's because sediment in the river and its creeks washes down from their sources to this place, to the end of the system. So the water is really sediment-y, or murky. You can sink fast into

the muck so don't even consider wading into the water, even if it's only a foot deep. Check out Silver Creek, in Flat Rock, where it flows behind the Flat Rock Historical Museum, a cluster of 19th Century buildings. The old Smith hotel was built as a stagecoach stop, a place to tie up your horse for a meal and spend the night in the era before cars. There's also an old house, a stable, and a general store. Together they look like they belong in Greenfield Village. The store is said to have had the firsts public telephone between Detroit and Lansing! The museum is at 25486 Gibraltar Rd., Flat Rock, MI 48134. Go to the museum's Facebook page to see a photo and for more information: [Facebook.com/flatrockmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/flatrockmuseum). The Huron River looks different in Flat Rock, too. It's close to Silver Creek, but this is not where they meet. Search the driving route on your cell phone or laptop to see how to get to the Huron, near Gibraltar and Telegraph Rds.

MEET-UPS Getting to know even one creek can be overwhelming. A fun way to get your bearings is to find the place where two branches of a creek flow together, becoming a single creek. Not all the creeks in the Huron River System have branches that easily can be found or explored. But some do.

MILLERS CREEK

Millers is one of the smallest creek-sheds, draining only 2.4 square miles of land. Parts of the creek were buried years ago to make way for development, but there are lovely stretches, too, often where you least expect to find them, such as right behind Huron High School. We won't tell you where Millers' east and west branches originate north of Plymouth Rd. or where they meet up south of it, but finding out is an excellent adventure—two, even three adventures. The meet-up is a revelation, a little untouched refuge of aliveness. The two branches swirl around a big boulder, which is almost close enough to touch. It's one of the area's best-kept secrets.



MEET-UP WITH THE MAIN RIVER

Finding the exact spot where a creek flows into the river is always a fun adventure. Two of the prettiest are the mouths of Fleming Creek, in Ann Arbor, and Mill Creek, in downtown Dexter. The meet-ups are miles apart and seeing both will give you an idea of just how much the river changes as it snakes through 77 communities.



FLEMING CREEK AT THE HURON

To get to Fleming's mouth, park at Parker Mill County Park, on Geddes Road. Follow the paved trail to the Hoyt G. Post Trail, a ¾-mile loop. The trail zigzags through a sun dappled woods to the river's mouth, 1.3 miles from Fleming's source

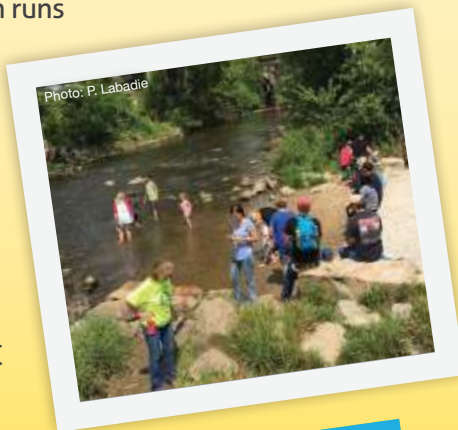


in Salem Township. There are at least a half-dozen viewing decks. Fleming is one of the clearest, cleanest creeks in Southeast Michigan, and the Post Trail is one of Ann Arbor's most enchanting. No, we haven't yet tried to find Fleming's source, so we can't say what it looks like—or if it's even aboveground. But think about this: Salem's Wikipedia entry says the township "is host to" one of the largest landfills in Michigan. There is no mention of beautiful Fleming!

MILL CREEK AT THE HURON



To get to Mill Creek's mouth, park in downtown Dexter; just before you get to the bridge, look for steps down to the creek; follow the boardwalk north to the meet-up; a paved hike-bike trail will take you into Hudson Mills Metropark. Turn around and walk "up creek" to see where Mills widens into a pond and disappears into lush countryside. Follow the newest stretch of boardwalk south. A century-old dam was torn out here in 2008, releasing the creek's natural flow and sparking the development of Mill Creek Park North and Mill Creek Park South, on either side of Main Street. There are rapids, wildlife, sculptures, fishing piers, boat launches, and scenic overlooks. But there's so much more of Mill Creek! Go to the creek's GIS map, zoom in, and follow the creek upstream. There are many natural stretches. For a different Mill Creek experience, visit Waterloo State Recreation Area, and check out Mill Creek's north fork, which runs through Mill Lake. Go to the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center for directions. Where do the north and south forks meet? Check the HRWC GIS map.



FUN FACT Waterloo State Recreation Area is the largest state park in the Lower Peninsula.

THE LEGEND OF GREAT BEAR LAKE

Describing a river as if it were alive, as a network of arteries, veins and capillaries may be stretching it. But Canada's Sahtuto'ine people wouldn't think so. To the Sahtuto'ine, who live along Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories, the lake is a living being with a "water-heart." According to legend, a Sahtuto'ine fisherman found the heart after he lost a hook. He morphed into a fish and swam down into the lake to find it. This is what he found, as recounted by *The New York Times*: "There, at the bottom, he saw a gigantic beating heart. All the species of fish—trout, whitefish, pickerel, herring, suckers—faced the heart, surrounding and protecting it." Imagine the Huron River with a water-heart at the bottom of Lake Erie, protected by many of the same species but also by Michigan perch, smelt, bass, and sturgeon. Draw a picture of the heart, guarded by its protectors.



GOING DEEPER STILL

Go back to "Maps" on the HRWC web site, HRWC.org/maps.



Click on any creek—say, Allen. Then click on "Maps, Data, and More Information" and read the full creekshed profile. Every creek has its own story. You'll find information on its history and chemistry, such as its levels of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria. Poor little Allen! It gets an "F" for high *E. coli*. The creekshed includes downtown Ann Arbor, U-M Central Campus and Michigan Stadium. But you can't see it on the map because the entire creek was forced underground and into pipes in the 1920s. It's "not truly a creek, but rather a branching stormwater drain system." Aquatic life stays away, but once in a while a fish is spotted swimming into the pipes from the Huron River! The Allen's Creek Watershed Group of volunteers hopes to someday bring "significant stretches" of the ghost creek back above ground.



Heart art from Dorothy Ruben, teacher, Ehtseo Ayha School, Deline, NT. Deline is in Great Bear Lake and Dorothy is Edzē Dzenē means Valentine.

Tu dzē means Water Heart.

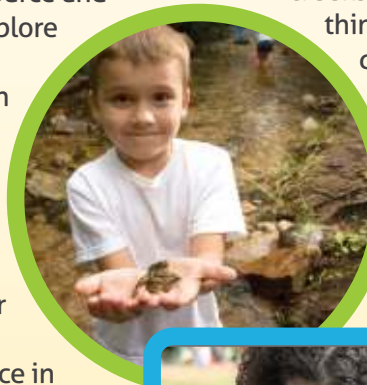
BONUS MEET-UP

Buried a century ago, even Allen Creek has to join the river somewhere, and it does. To see where the complex system of underground pipes empties into the Huron, go to the Argo Park Canoe Livery and walk past the canoe rental. When you get to the spot where Argo Pond meets the Huron at an orange bridge, look across the river. You will see twin concrete culverts that look almost menacing, like the empty eye sockets of a skeleton! That's the ghost creek.



EVERY OUTING IS A PIECE OF THE JIGSAW

Every outing is a piece of the Huron River System puzzle. Once you see the river's source and mouth with your own eyes and explore a few stretches of creeks you will begin to visualize the system. With each adventure, you'll connect another dot, and over time you will see the system in your head. You'll bring the Huron to life and even rewire your brain as your sense of feeling connected to your environment deepens. You'll feel wonder and acquire new confidence in your navigational abilities. Not doing this would be like living in Ann Arbor and not being able to visualize the corner of State and Liberty streets!



HOW THE ADVENTURE ENDS

It doesn't. You will never run out of new adventures because there are 270 miles of creeks to explore. All you need are the GIS maps on the HRWC web site. Read the creek profiles, study the creekshed maps, and decide where you want to go next. It's like hiking the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine—most people do it in stretches, sometimes over decades. Do a few new creek walks each year and not just in warm weather. Cold weather has its advantages: no ticks or mosquitos! And water flow changes dramatically from season to season. A creek can be so dry in winter you can

barely find it. All that might remain is the creek-bed, a weed-clogged depression. Or it could be frozen. That same creek might be near to overflowing in spring and summer. Instead of a dry creek-bed, you'll find fast-flowing water sparkling like diamonds! The Huron River is your friend, even if you don't know it. It's out there waiting for you to bring it to life. With apologies to Dr. Seuss for changing one word in his famous quote, "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your river is waiting, So . . . get on your way."

YOU, TOO, ARE THE RIVER

You are a rivulet, the tiniest of streams! You are a creekshed unto yourself! If you don't believe that, think about all the water you ingest including drinking water, other liquids, and the water in fruit and vegetables. Think about all that water "irrigating" your brain, your skin and other organs and slowly draining through your kidneys and bladder into a toilet. Flushing the toilet forces your "personal wastewater" through a network of pipes inside and outside your house into a municipal sewer system. From there, it's transported to a sewerage treatment plant, where pollutants, such as poop and dirty water from washing dishes and doing laundry, are removed before the water is released into the Huron River. A municipal water treatment plant draws water from the river, purifies it, and sends it to your house. Go here for more on what happens when you drink water. Then drink a glass and feel it start to flow through your personal river system: www.aquasana.com/info/living/waters-journey-through-the-body.

ANSWERS:

- There are 63 major creeksheds and 267 sub-creeks in Michigan.
- Southeast Michigan's two other major rivers are the Clinton River and the Rouge River.

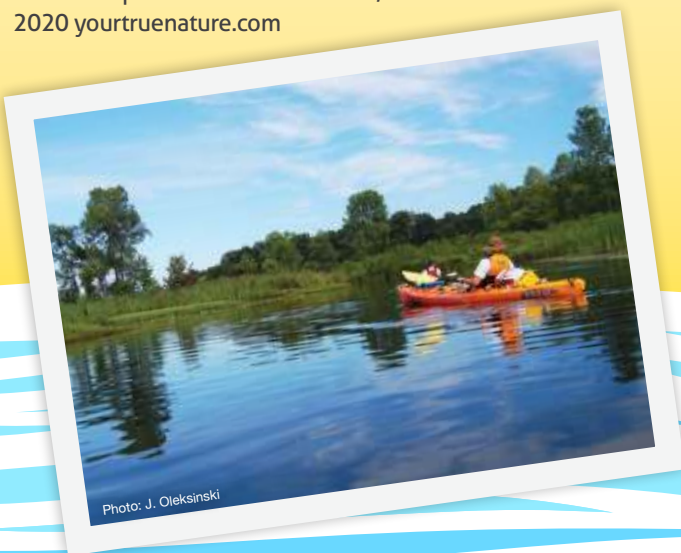
THE RIVER IS AN ARTWORK

Writers and artists have been inspired by water for as long as humans have been drawing, painting, writing, and creating music. It inspired us to dream up this river exploration activity, and it will inspire you, too. To get you started, we obtained permission to run our favorite poem about water from Ilan Shamir, a storyteller, writer and drummer. Go here to YourTrueNature.com to learn more about Ilan and his daughter, Laurel. The father-daughter team has been working together to express their love of the Earth since she was 11.

Advice from a RIVER®

*Dear friend,
Go with the flow
Be thoughtful of those downstream
Slow down and meander
Follow the path of least resistance
for rapid success
Immerse yourself in nature,
Trickling streams,
roaring waterfalls,
sparkles of light dancing on water
Delight in life's adventures around every bend
Let difficulties stream away
Live simply and gracefully in Your own True Nature
moving, flowing, allowing,
serene and on course
It takes time to carve the beauty of the canyon
Rough waters become smooth
Go around the obstacles
Stay current
The beauty is in the journey!*

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GEOCACHING ADVENTURES

GEE-o-cash-ing is loads of fun, and our caches hold two treasures: the discovery of a new piece of the river puzzle, and a prize to keep. Bring a small trade item and leave it in place of the one you find. And please, no plastic or other non-biodegradables! Instead, leave a backpack pin or non-plastic kitchen magnet. Or write a message that will bring smiles, or copy a poem or other short piece of writing, such as a Dr. Seuss quote. Leave an acorn painted with a happy face, or a pinecone wearing a tiny paper hat; or some other natural object, such as a pet rock. Make a boat from a walnut shell, with a toothpick mast and a paper sail. In Fall, iron a few leaves between waxed paper, and write a letter on each leaf to spell a word: "H-E-L-L-O." Keep in mind that the hidden canisters are usually six inches square and two inches high. Also, moisture can get inside, so make sure the canister is closed properly and upright. The volunteers who plant the canisters and check on them usually leave two plastic bags: one for the log book, the other to protect the trinkets. You sign the logbook and can leave a message, too, if up like. You should also find a pencil, but bring one just in case. And make sure you reseal the bags well! Have fun, be creative, and respect the Earth. We've planted geocaches in three parks: one bisected by the main Huron, the other two by different creeks. Keep watching this page for new sites upriver and down.

- 1. Traver Park on Traver Creek, in Ann Arbor.** The nature area is off Traver Rd., between the Leslie Park Golf Course and some railroad tracks. Look for the park sign near the tracks. Park at the Ann Arbor District Library's Traverwood Branch, or on Traver Boulevard; it's a short walk to the park entrance.
- 2. Lower Huron Metropark, on the Huron River, in Belleville.** The park is on East Huron River Drive. Go to Metroparks.com for directions.
- 3. Parker Mills County Park, on Fleming Creek, in Ann Arbor.** The park is on Geddes Road, east of Dixboro Road. Follow the Hoyt G. Post Trail to the Huron River.

Thanks to Mark Klauza and Dan Cable, members of the Michigan Geocaching Organization (Mi-Geocaching.org), and Dan's wife, Phyllis, for planting our new geocache sites.

Learn more at Geocaching.com. The national site includes 2,233 geocaches in Ann Arbor alone and thousands more across Michigan. You have to sign up, but it's free.

SAFETY TIPS



- 1. Never go creek walking alone!** Always take a parent or other adult with you and enjoy the adventure together! You'll have lots to talk about at the dinner table.
- 2. Walk only in areas that are open to the public.** Never trespass on private land. Consult your GIS map, skirt the private area, and continue following the creek.
- 3. Take a face mask.** You may not encounter anyone on the trail, but if you do you may want to put on your mask to protect yourself and others.
- 4. Dress for the season and weather.** Wear walking shoes, with closed toes. Wear long socks and pull them up over your pant legs to keep out ticks and mosquitoes. Wear a hat with a brim for the same reason.
- 5. Never wade into a creek unless it's shallow, you can see the bottom, and you know the water is untainted by *E. coli* bacteria.** To learn about river contaminants, go to [HRWC.org](https://hrwc.org) and scroll down under "Our Watershed" to "Threats." If you do enter a creek, stay close to the bank and wear water shoes and rubber gloves. Take a towel and extra clothes or it will be a wet ride home. Always wash your clothes before re-wearing them. There are a few places where wading is allowed, including Mill Creek in downtown Dexter.
- 6. Pack drinking water and snacks.** Never drink from a river or stream, even if the water looks clean. It's not.
- 7. Never hike along a creek if rain is expected or after a heavy rain.** Steep creeksheds can be especially dangerous. For example, Millers is the Huron system's steepest creekshed. Below Hubbard Street, the terrain plummets dramatically. Carefully step over fallen tree trunks and branches. In the HRWC profile, Millers is described a "extremely flashy," so stay away before, during and after rainstorms! Under certain conditions it may be possible to get swept away there.
- 8. Never remove a wild creature from its habitat.** All wildlife deserves to stay in its home. If you took a wild animal home, it wouldn't be able to mate and produce offspring. Turtles, frogs, toads and other reptiles and amphibians already face a variety of serious threats. And in most cases, it's illegal to remove them. Take a photo and use it later to draw the creature.
- 9. Always stay on the trails.** Don't walk where you can't see under your feet. For example, Indian Springs Metropark, in Oakland County, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens, in Washtenaw, are both known habitats for the threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*mah-suh-SAW-guh*). The state's only rattlesnake is a shy creature that spends most of its time in wetlands hunting mice. But it has been known to slither onto trails after a cold night in the woods to bask in the sun's rays. So keep your eyes on the trail!

PATRICIA CHARGOT is a retired Detroit Free Press reporter. She was the senior writer for Yak's Corner, the Free Press's national news magazine for kids, and is the author of, "The Adventures of Balto: The Untold Story of Alaska's Famous Iditarod Sled Dog." More Huron River writings from Patricia at [HRWC.org/blog](https://hrwc.org/blog) include [Finding Millers Creek](#) and [Exploring the Home Waters](#).

With content by Patricia Chagot and coordination from the Huron River Watershed Council, the print and go version of the Huron River watershed tour was produced with support from the Middle Huron Partners and the Livingston Watershed Advisory Group, working together to reduce stormwater pollution in the Huron River watershed. © 2022 Patricia Chagot and Huron River Watershed Council