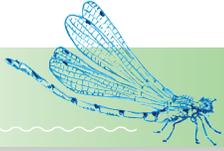




Huron River Report

Published by the Huron River Watershed Council

FALL 2022



feature story

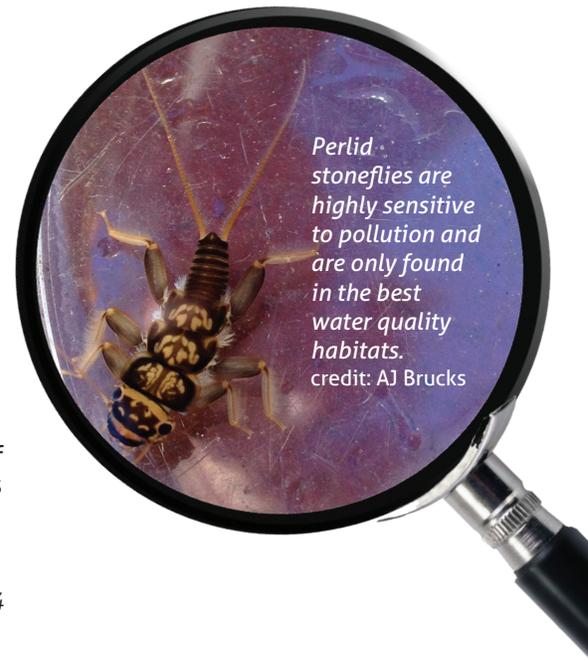
Thirty Years of Bugs and Citizen Science • Part 2: the data

HRWC is celebrating 30 years of River Roundups, our macroinvertebrate monitoring program! In 1992, a group of pioneering staff and volunteers first stuck their nets into flowing water and dumped debris into white pans, searching for benthic macroinvertebrates. This established a legacy of volunteer science that has since spread across Michigan, engaged thousands of people, and greatly expanded our knowledge of the Huron River watershed. You can read all about the history of HRWC macroinvertebrate monitoring in the Summer 2022 *Huron River Report*.

With 30 years of monitoring comes 30 years of data. River Roundups and Stonefly Searches are great educational events, but they serve a dual purpose in also providing

HRWC with knowledge about the ecological quality of the watershed's aquatic systems. Insects living in streams compose the benthic macroinvertebrate population, along with clams and other mollusks, crayfish, and other taxa. Typically, monitoring focuses on insects (in aquatic stages of development) as they are representative of a variety of feeding levels in the ecosystems' food webs, are sensitive to local environmental conditions, and are easy to collect. Since the macroinvertebrate population depends on the physical conditions of the stream as well as water quality, its composition indicates overall stream quality. Insect diversity indicates

continued on page 4



Innovation on the Farm

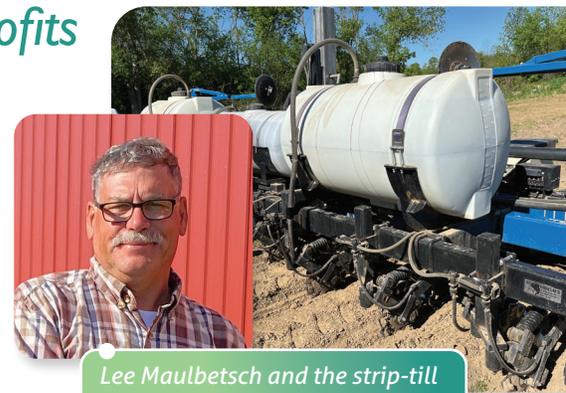
Reducing phosphorus runoff while increasing profits

Over the last two planting seasons, a single farmer within the watershed implemented several innovative conservation practices to save almost a ton of phosphorus from running off his fields, downstream to the Huron River, and eventually into Lake Erie. Lee Maulbetsch was encouraged to employ these practices on his farm through HRWC's Whole Farms for Clean Water pilot project, which recently wrapped up. "I am really

happy to have worked with the Whole Farms program," says Maulbetsch. "I have been thinking about how to better manage my lands over the long-term. It feels good to better protect the river, too!"

Maulbetsch converted from conventional broadcast fertilization practices by purchasing a strip-till fertilizer applicator that allows him to directly control the amount of

continued on page 5



Lee Maulbetsch and the strip-till applicator. credit: HRWC

INSIDE: UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS PFAS regulations and emerging updates
DTE Foundation Fellow Eric Robinson | Natural lands protections on the ballot | Thank you, summer interns!





Rebecca's Stream of Consciousness

Since 1993, HRWC has occupied offices in the NEW Center in Ann Arbor. This building was built and is managed to nurture small nonprofit organizations by sharing space, resources, and support from our friends at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work. For the past 30 years HRWC has "grown up" here, expanding staff from 4 people to 16 and increasing our budget from \$100,000 to \$2.7 million. We have matured into a stable, sustainable nonprofit organization, and the NEW community of nonprofits are a big part of our extended family. For this we are incredibly grateful.

be acknowledged permanently in the lobby of our new offices. Please visit HRWC.org/newhome or contact Wendy Palms at 734-769-5123 to help us realize this exciting future.



It has come time for us to make a leap. We have outgrown our space and have adopted an ambitious 5-year strategic plan that will require more room with additional facilities such as a laboratory for our monitoring programs and a gathering place for our community. By the time this reaches your mailbox, we will be moving! We have been hard at work creating a new Headquarters for the Huron, and we can't wait to share it with you at an open house this Fall.

Our move is important in our small slice of the world, but you know what is universally important? Elections! Elections are critical and election season is upon us. There are strong forces in this nation that are effectively impeding our ability to protect natural resources and provide people with clean air, soil, and water. There are actors working to slow progress on climate change, maintaining the status quo for industries that contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions. There are elected officials who are not likely to enact environmental safety standards on corporations that are, or have, polluted the air in our neighborhoods or the water we use for drinking. Yet, even at times when we may feel discouraged or powerless, we can, collectively, put people in office who will work to protect our future and our right to a clean and healthy environment.

Local elections are incredibly important, too. Local policies determine how, where and if development occurs, how much land along our rivers and streams remains natural, and if wetlands are protected. These decisions all impact the quality of our lakes and streams and the region's natural beauty and recreational opportunities. This is why local leadership on these issues is vital. This November, several Huron River communities have millage proposals on their ballots for land protection, including Scio, Northfield and Dexter townships. Ann Arbor has a first-in-the-nation climate action millage on the ballot.

Sound exciting? It is time to make a deep investment in our ability to work more effectively toward our mission, and we need your help to get there! We are well on our way to reaching the goal of \$250,000 for our capital campaign to create the Headquarters for the Huron. Any size donation will help. We also have several naming opportunities; any donor who contributes \$5,000 or more will

So, my second request of you is to please vote. Getting the right decision makers in place at the federal, state, and local level enables HRWC to protect and restore the Huron River for residents, visitors, plants, animals, and future generations.

— Rebecca Esselman
HRWC Executive Director
[@natureiswater](https://twitter.com/natureiswater)



Make a Gift for Ages to Come

Contact Wendy Palms about your planned gift to HRWC: wpalms@hrwc.org, (734) 769-5123





A Match Made in the Huron!

DTE Foundation Fellow Eric Robinson shares his experiences

For the last two years, I have been working with HRWC as the Watershed Planning Fellow. In August, I began my next position in environmental consulting. Working with HRWC has been a huge step for me in my career, although this wasn't my first rodeo with the heroes of the Huron.

My first introduction to HRWC was back in 2015 at a River RoundUp volunteer event I attended when I was a senior in high school. The experience was rewarding to say the least, and I continued to volunteer with the organization. Then, in my junior year at Eastern Michigan University, I accepted the role of an aquatic field intern. This internship gave me the opportunity to exercise some of my more practical, leadership skills. The results were rewarding as we collected a record amount of data that summer, and I built great relationships with staff.

After working for the City of Ann Arbor for a couple of years, I made my return to HRWC on a 2-year fellowship funded by the DTE Foundation. The position is designed for young, underrepresented environmental professionals who are just starting their careers. I applied, interviewed, and ultimately was offered the position in March 2020. However, due to the pandemic, I didn't actually start the position until September 2020. When I finally made my long-anticipated debut with HRWC staff as the Watershed



Training summer field interns in data collection. credit: HRWC

Planning Fellow, it came with a catch... I had to start entirely virtual.

My onboarding process, introductions to staff, and project work was 100% virtual. Although challenging, frustrating, and even awkward at times, we found a way to overcome adversity and get the most out of the two years to follow. After the first couple of months of onboarding, becoming familiar with everyone and their work, I was ready to accept more responsibility in the position.

I was given a feature role in launching HRWC's watershed-wide

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) program. I worked closely with Ric Lawson on this program, and we made great strides in my time here. We've built a framework for how to assist establishments with maintaining their green infrastructure. We have also participated in a regional collaborative which includes other watershed groups across Southeast Michigan with similar goals to improve GSI in their watersheds. This collaborative has given us the opportunity to refine and improve the amount, quality, and knowledge of GSI in our watershed.

I have also served as one of HRWC's coordinators for our summer field internship program. I have primarily managed the BANCS stream erosion program and GSI maintenance work, while filling in on several of our other field programs as needed. I was thankful to have had a great group of interns to work with both seasons and look forward to watching them continue to develop and contribute to the profession in years to come.

All in all, I have really enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to grow and contribute to HRWC over the past two years. I've built skills and relationships that will last long into the future.

—Eric Robinson



Conducting surveys of local anglers. credit: HRWC



Thirty Years of Bugs and Citizen Science Part 2 *continued from cover*

good stream quality and is measured by the number of different insect families. Eighty-seven benthic insect families are found in the Huron River watershed (although we never find them at the same place all at once!)

Data analysis

After the River Roundups and ID Days, HRWC staff examine the numbers and types of macroinvertebrates found. We consider total abundance and diversity metrics such as number of different insect families found at each site (“families” are groups of species that share similar characteristics and evolutionary history). We analyze whether these numbers change from year to year. This information tells us how healthy the stream is, and if it is improving, declining, or staying the same.

On average, moderately healthy streams in the Huron River watershed have around 11 aquatic insect families, 3-4 crustacean families (typically crayfish, scuds, and sowbugs), and several families of clams and mussels (HRWC does not identify clams and mussels, though we are looking into creating a citizen science mussel survey). The best streams in the watershed have up to 23 aquatic insect families; the most degraded have about 4 insect families. Volunteers usually collect between 75 and 150 specimens in an hour’s work in average-to-healthy streams but will struggle to find 30 specimens in an hour at the most degraded locations.

The most alarming, yet useful, finding is when we discover that a good site is in the process of declining; these are the sites to which we need to pay the most attention. We tell state biologists about these sites and ask them to check out the locations themselves. They are often the streams on which we plan extra monitoring or restoration projects. Another useful finding is when we see a degraded stream getting better; these are success stories not just for HRWC but also the larger watershed community.

Guiding practices and results

River Roundup data has guided much HRWC work and provides proof of success for multiple projects:

- After a 2016 data analysis of macroinvertebrate and land use data showed Norton Creek as a highly degraded stream, HRWC received a grant that funded more in-depth monitoring, which indicated that the creek suffered from low dissolved oxygen levels. HRWC worked with engineers to anchor tree and shrub branches to the banks to create a more natural, curvy stream flow that narrowed the stream channel to scour fine sediment and churn the water. We also installed rain gardens in Wixom to reduce polluted runoff entering the creek directly.
- Malletts Creek is an urban creek with a very poor macroinvertebrate community. After many projects, including bank stabilization on the lower sections and stormwater detention at Mary Beth Doyle Park, HRWC has measured statistically significant increases in both macroinvertebrate abundance and diversity. The creek used to hold about 5 insect families but now has closer to 9; the higher diversity reflects a broader range of suitable habitat (pools, riffles, undercut banks) and better water quality than this site displayed prior to restoration efforts.
- In 2008, the City of Dexter and HRWC removed the dam that blocked Mill Creek from the Huron River, sparking a renaissance of waterfront parkland for the City of Dexter. Removing the dam cooled the creek’s water temperature, started a long process of scouring the stream reach of sediment, and created more diverse habitat structure in which macroinvertebrates (and fish!) now live. Since dam removal, the number of highly sensitive insects—those that can only live in the highest quality areas—has nearly tripled from an average of 1.5 sensitive insect families to 4 sensitive insect families found per River Roundup event.
- Sometimes, the most important thing the River Roundup provides is not the data but getting eyes

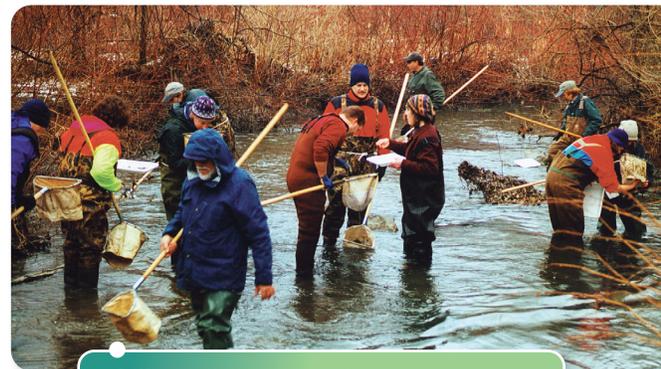
directly on the water where people don’t normally look. In the early 2000s, volunteers sampling on Letts Creek in Chelsea found a stream with drastically reduced insect abundance, fine sediment that billowed up with a greasy smell when the volunteers waded in it, and occasional oily sheens on the surface. HRWC was able to track the sheen upriver and discovered a local business that was allowing rainwater to fill up barrels of greasy machine parts and overflow to the creek. HRWC contacted the state authorities and the polluter was stopped.

The work continues!

Macroinvertebrate monitoring is a key program that allows HRWC to keep its finger on the pulse of the watershed. The data can be messy and variable, but after years of monitoring any particular place the data can demonstrate distinct, usable patterns that are crucial to our understanding of water quality throughout the watershed. Importantly, none of this work would be possible without the support of the HRWC community of volunteers and friends; you are committed individuals who all believe in our mission. Thank you so much. We can never say it enough!

The River Roundup is an ongoing effort, always in need of more people to join this community! So c’mon out with your friends and family. The next River Roundup is October 1, and you can register at HRWC.org/roundup.

—Paul Steen



Collectors practice their net techniques, circa 2001. credit: HRWC



Innovation on the Farm *continued from cover*

fertilizer applied to his fields, and directly place the nutrients into the soil near the seed as it is planted. This innovative technology allowed him to reduce the fertilization rate by 44% on his corn fields without compromising crop yield. The result was an 84% reduction in phosphorus runoff overall and a major savings in fertilizer input cost, in addition to the incentive payment Maulbetsch received from the Whole Farms program to encourage investment in and transition to the new application method.



Ric thanking Lee Maulbetsch for his efforts to reduce phosphorus in the watershed. credit: HRWC

An innovative pilot program

With funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, HRWC began marketing this “pay-for-performance” program to farmers throughout the agricultural areas of the watershed starting in 2018. The program recruits interested farmers to meet with a Whole Farms project agronomist from Solutions in the Land. Together, they review farm soil data, evaluate current practices, and develop a “Whole Farm Plan” that identifies a menu of opportunities to reduce phosphorus loss and improve soil health over the long term. The farmer then selects practices they are willing to try out.

All the information is fed into a specialized model that was developed for the program using Huron River watershed-specific information by researchers originally

from the University of Michigan’s Graham Institute. The model compares pre- and post-practice changes in phosphorus runoff rates and calculates a total amount of phosphorus saved across all farm fields. The farmer gets an incentive payment at a rate of \$20 per pound of phosphorus reduced when they use the recommended practices. HRWC also worked with several partner organizations to help find additional incentives to benefit participating farmers through the Farm Bill and other programs.

Additional benefits

In total, Mr. Maulbetsch applied the new fertilization technique to 14 fields, or 521 acres, that he planted with corn. He also committed to other conservation practices to reduce phosphorus runoff even further, such as including an additional crop rotation of winter wheat and planting a winter cover crop of rye. These winter crops help prevent erosion, which in turn prevents phosphorus that is bound to soil particles from eroding off fields and into local waterways. The total phosphorus reduction from these practices was just short of a ton, or 1,738 pounds.

For his efforts, Maulbetsch received an incentive payment of over \$30,000 and saved thousands more in reduced fertilizer costs. The practices that Maulbetsch implemented on his farm will also result in healthier soil that can be farmed productively for a longer term. As for the cost of the program, for comparison, large urban green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects typically cost more than twice the amount of the incentives provided to Mr. Maulbetsch. Further, GSI projects only remove a fraction of phosphorus from stormwater runoff (typically less than ten pounds of phosphorus a year) compared to the reductions estimated from a farm like Maulbetsch’s.



Lee and Evan Maulbetsch explaining how their new fertilizer injector is used to control the rate and placement of fertilizer near the corn seed. credit: HRWC

While this pilot project has come to the end of its funding term, HRWC hopes to build on this early success by continuing to work with partners like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to look for new opportunities to fund the program and promote the multiple-benefit success shown by Mr. Maulbetsch.

Please contact Ric Lawson at rlawson@hrwc.org if you are interested in learning more.

—Ric Lawson



The Whole Farms for Clean Water pilot project supports agricultural innovation as a means of reducing phosphorus in waterways. credit: HRWC

The Huron River Watershed

MISSION

The Huron River Watershed Council protects and restores the river for healthy and vibrant communities.

5-YEAR VISION

In 2027, the Huron River Watershed Council will have built on its existing strengths in watershed science and education by deepening connections with watershed communities, advocating for equitable policies, implementing programs that advance communities' visions for the Huron River, and protecting the river's ecological health through aggressively addressing the most pressing threats.

CORE VALUES

- Act with Integrity
- Foster Community and Collaboration
- Continuously Learn, Grow, and Innovate
- Inspire Environmental Leadership
- Advocate for Healthy Ecosystems and Communities
- Promote Equity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice

HRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Janis Bobrin
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Belinda Friis (Treasurer)
Dick Norton
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Matt Stuk
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Curt Wolf
Lisa Wozniak

* Community-designated
alternate representative

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Individuals, local businesses and more than 40 communities support HRWC's work through voluntary membership.

Visit HRWC.org for detailed maps, monitoring data and creekshed status updates.





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 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
 (734) 769-5123
HRWC.org



calendar
of events

HRWC Events and Workshops

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • 2022

Suds on the River!

Thursday, September 8, 6–9pm, Delhi Metropark
Kick off your fall with this favorite HRWC event. Enjoy specialty beers, delicious food, and great company. Celebrate with us as we raise a glass to our home river, the Huron.
Details and tickets: HRWC.org/suds

Ypsilanti Fall River Day

Sunday, September 25, 12–3pm, Frog Island Park, Ypsilanti
Paddle trips to Ford Lake and free family-friendly activities and exhibits. This event is hosted by the Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission and features HRWC, the Huron River Water Trail, and others.
Information: www.ypsiparks.org

River Roundup

Saturday, October 1, starts at 9am, lasts 3-4 hours
Join a small team of your friends, family, and other volunteers to collect bugs from streams across the watershed! Meet your team onsite at the first of two sampling locations.
Registration (required): HRWC.org/roundup

Board Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 5:30pm, HRWC Offices, 117 North First Street, Ann Arbor
Contact: jkangas@hrwc.org

EVENT DETAILS

The next Huron River Report will publish in March 2023.

Please check our calendar at HRWC.org and stay tuned to E-News for event announcements.



#huronriver



42nd Huron River Day Celebration!

On Sunday, May 15th, 2022, at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor, guests enjoyed entertainment, river exhibits, fishing and discounted paddle trips, renting a record 465 kayaks and canoes at the 42nd Huron River Day. The event is sponsored by the DTE Energy Foundation and a number of partners who come together to make it happen, including HRWC.





credit: G. Hieber

Volunteer Spotlight • Summer Interns

A heart felt “thank you” to the 2022 Summer Interns. This amazing group of young professionals shows great promise for our shared future. The group includes students from Eastern Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Oakland University, Smith College, University of Michigan, and University of Wisconsin.

During their summer with HRWC, they spent hundreds of hours monitoring stream erosion in the Ypsilanti and Belleville area to gather data for the Lower Middle Huron

Management Plan. They also surveyed the spread of the aquatic invasive plant European Frogbit in the Novi area. Other projects included research and data analysis, rain garden maintenance, youth snorkeling with the YMCA, youth education with our STEM education program, chemistry and flow monitoring, biological habitat assessments, and starting a new partnership with Ypsilanti’s Parkridge Community Center. Join us in giving them a big round of applause!

—Jason Frenzel



2022 Summer Interns

- Aaron Hutka
- Alia Kirsch
- Anna Horning
- Bryon Banman
- Cade Person
- Emily Johnson
- Gabrielle Samways
- Laura Edwards
- Lena Kennedy
- Lucy Baker
- Kyle Martin
- Mary Crockett
- Meghan Couture
- Melissa Dunsmore
- Nikita Hahn
- Ruowen Wang
- Sam Antonich
- Sharon An
- Sofia Giannosa
- Supra Kuchibhatla
- Susan Shell
- Wesley Garant

Leaving Your Legacy Planned giving benefits you and the Huron River

Take yourself back to a summer outing at the lake, a picnic on the beach or a riverbank, or a paddle through a peaceful stretch of the Huron. Water reflects our emotions, awakens the senses, and provides respite from the stresses of modern life.

As HRWC has worked to protect and restore the Huron River, we have created and sustained diverse funding sources to help us accomplish our mission. Now we need to ensure a strong financial future.

Threats to the watershed continue to arise—extreme weather events that cause devastating floods, pollutants that threaten drinking water, invasive species that change the character of our lakes and wetlands, and weakened environmental legislation all impact the health and vitality of our natural

and human-built communities. HRWC’s leadership and work remain critically important to sustain a resilient river that provides habitat for fish and wildlife, a cool place for people to play in the heat of the summer, and clean drinking water for all.

You can help to ensure that the river remains a place of sanctuary for generations to come by leveraging your philanthropic power with a planned gift to HRWC.

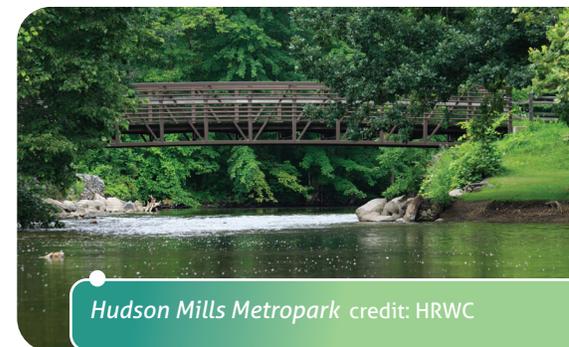
Planned gifts provide financial flexibility and tax benefits for you. As you consider your retirement and estate planning priorities, there are many ways to meet your financial goals and leave a legacy for the future.

If you are interested in exploring a planned gift, please talk with your financial advisor to identify the

features and tax benefits that best meet your needs, and then contact Wendy at wpalms@hrwc.org for further information about including HRWC in your plans.

Thank you for helping us make sure the healing waters of the Huron River are here forever.

—Wendy Palms



Hudson Mills Metropark credit: HRWC



Emerging News on PFAS

EPA advisory lowers recommended max levels for PFOS and PFOA

Our understanding of PFAS continues to evolve rapidly. Expanded monitoring and new research continues to show that these toxic “forever chemicals” are more harmful and more widespread than previously thought.

Alarming new EPA advisory levels

On June 15th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new health advisory levels for four PFAS chemicals. The maximum levels considered safe are more than 1000 times lower than Michigan’s current drinking water standards. Even if these chemicals are just barely detected by the most sensitive tests

available, the level would still be considered toxic.

For now, it’s unclear what this means for Michigan’s drinking water standards, cleanup standards or fish consumption advisories. What is clear is that there is no safe level of these PFAS chemicals in the environment; the only practical solution to avoiding toxic exposure is to avoid using PFAS in the first place. The EPA has now identified more than 12,000 PFAS chemicals, all of which may cause overlapping and cumulative harm to human health. Many of these chemicals were invented as replacements so companies could avoid using the small number of PFAS chemicals regulated by some states.

MDHHS 2022 Eat Safe Fish Guides at [Michigan.gov/eatsafefish](https://www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish) are still the best option for helping anglers avoid harmful exposure to chemicals that can build up in fish while still getting the benefit of the nutrition local fish provide.

Ecology Center fish sampling project

To complement the fish sampling conducted by the state, HRWC and Friends of the Rouge have been participating in a study led by the Ecology Center to collect fish from key areas in both the Huron River and Rouge River watersheds. Volunteer anglers collected specific species from specific locations, following extensive training and careful protocols to avoid contaminating fish samples with PFAS.

The Ecology Center study differs from how the state collects and processes fish. While the state tests fillets for PFAS, the Ecology Center and partners are interested in how PFAS accumulates in the various organs of fish, and what levels of PFAS can be directly sampled in different fish species under a range of conditions. This new information will give us and other watershed managers better insight into how PFAS moves through an ecosystem, from contaminated waters to aquatic life.

Growing momentum for broader PFAS regulation

HRWC will continue to work with state and federal officials to press for urgent action and communicate new information to watershed residents. Many environmental and public health groups across the country are calling for strict regulation of all PFAS chemicals. HRWC is lending its support to these efforts to make sure state and federal policies prioritize the health of people and wildlife over the profit margins of polluters.

—Daniel A. Brown

Changes to the Do Not Eat Fish advisory

In early May, before the EPA released new advisory levels, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) partially relaxed the Do Not Eat Fish advisory that has been in place along the Huron River due to PFAS since 2018. Current MDHHS guidance suggests some fish can be consumed if taken from the lowest section of the Huron between I-275 to Lake Erie. Most of the river, however, is still under a Do Not Eat advisory, and it remains unclear how the new EPA advisory levels will affect state guidance for consuming fish.

The policies regarding PFAS are changing rapidly as its impacts are better understood. As of this printing, the



Staff at the Ecology Center sampling fish in the watershed for PFAS contamination.
credit: Ecology Center



Protecting Forests and Wetlands

Land protections for clean water on the ballot

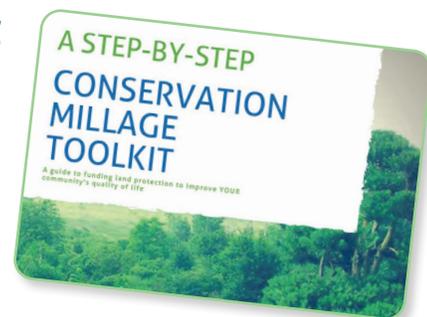
The Huron River is only as healthy as the lands that feed it. It is the remaining forests and wetlands in the watershed that filter pollution from stormwater runoff, keep streams running cool and constant, soak up flood waters, sequester carbon pollution, and provide endless hours of recreation and wildlife viewing.

Protected natural lands also ensure municipalities and residents have clean water to drink. The City of Ann Arbor draws most of its drinking water from the Huron River. Milford, White Lake, Waterford, Commerce, Lyon, South Lyon, Pinckney, the City of Dexter, Chelsea, and Barton Hills Village all employ municipal wells that rely on clean groundwater, as do about half the watershed's residents who have their own private wells. According to a 2005 analysis by the Natural Resources Forum, water treatment costs are directly linked to how much of a watershed remains forested. Watersheds with 60% or greater forest coverage had 50% lower water treatment costs than less-forested watersheds.

This November voters in Scio, Northfield, and Dexter townships will have a chance to accelerate watershed protection in their communities. Northfield and Dexter townships have proposals on the ballot for a new property tax millage to fund land protection. Scio Township is proposing a renewal of their current program, originally approved by voters in 2004 and

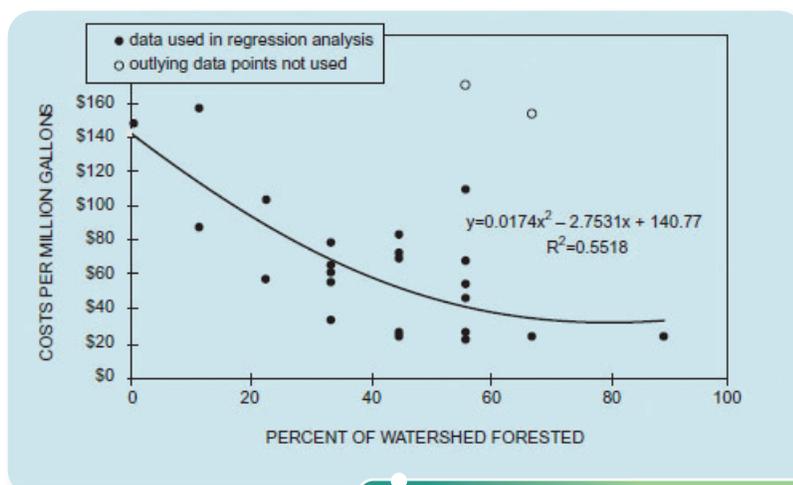
renewed in 2012. Northfield and Dexter townships would join existing programs in Ann Arbor, Webster, and Scio townships, the City of Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw County. Together, with support from HRWC, these programs have protected over 20,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and prairies in the watershed over the last 20 years.

Through its land protection efforts, Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program prevents 120,992 pounds of suspended solids (dirt and other particles that wash into waterways with runoff), 4,248 pounds of nitrogen, and 768 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Huron River annually.



If you live in Scio, Northfield, or Dexter townships, you can support watershed protection with your vote. If you would like to initiate a land protection program in your community, check out HRWC's Land Conservation Millage Toolkit at HRWC.org/resources/conservation-millage-toolkit.

—Kris Olsson



credit: *Protecting the Source: Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water*. The Trust for Public Land and American Waterworks Association, 1999

VOTE for Climate Action & Clean Water!

The general election is **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**. You can vote in person or by mail. Polls are open 7am to 8pm. All registered voters in Michigan can also now vote using what's called an absentee ballot that you send to your election office by mail. You don't need an excuse or a reason to request an absentee ballot. Learn more at Michigan's Voter Information Center, Michigan.gov/vote and Vote411.org, the League of Women Voters site for nonpartisan information by voter address.

Choose the policies and people that support robust climate action.

- Funding for Ann Arbor's ambitious A2Zero plan to cut carbon emissions and set an example for cities everywhere.
- Land preservation initiatives in Northfield Township, Dexter Township, and Scio Township.
- Candidates that prioritize public health and environmental protection including climate action at all levels of government—from the MI Healthy Climate Plan to local and county-wide plans to cut carbon emissions.

While HRWC does not endorse political candidates, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters is a non-partisan organization with a robust candidate endorsement process. Head to MichiganLCV.org for information about specific candidates.



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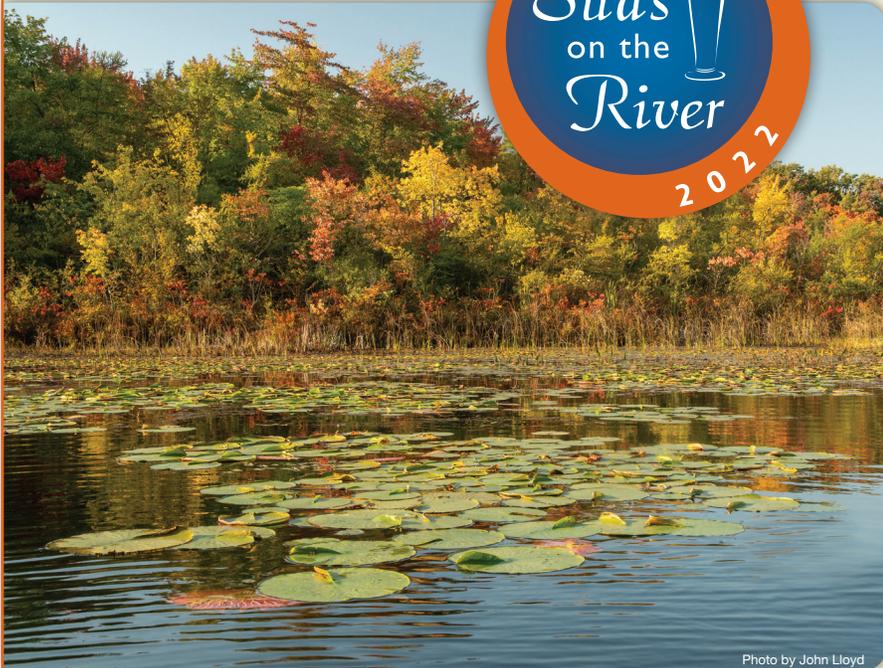
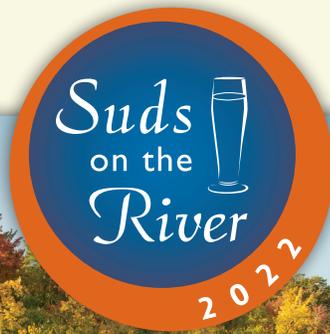


Photo by John Lloyd

Let's Get Together!

*Celebrate with us as we
raise a glass to
our home river, the Huron.*

**Thursday, September 8
6-9pm**

Enjoy locally brewed artisanal
beer and gourmet fare from your
favorite local chefs. Learn to
cast a fly rod, enjoy live acoustic
music, and catch up with fellow
friends of the river!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Visit [HRWC.org/suds](https://www.hrwc.org/suds)



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