



Huron River Report

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1100 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Fall 2009

Stream Buffer Protection pg 7
Film Festival Kicks Off pg 8
Summer Fun ReCap! pg 10

Native Plants Green Up the Huron

Seven planting projects provide stormwater benefits

This spring and summer HRWC volunteers, staff and partners made a serious commitment to improving the Huron River by capturing and infiltrating storm water runoff through the use of native plants. Seven new projects were installed in May and June at sites in Millers Creek and the lower Huron. Projects varied in size from a large community rain garden to a small native planting area around a village hall.

MILLERS CREEK RAINWATER PROJECTS

Millers Creek is a small, steep stream that flows into the Huron River at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. About 45% of the land that flows into Millers Creek is covered by impervious surfaces that prevent rain infiltration. Since this creekshed has very few retention areas, the rain immediately

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Colin and Isaac Weiss enjoy the day while planting native plugs at the Briarcliff rain garden. photo: HRWC

Restoring the Huron

HRWC advocates Argo Dam removal

In 2001, the Michigan DEQ found that part of Argo Dam, which impounds the Huron River as it enters the City of Ann Arbor, had deteriorated to the point where it could collapse. After years of meetings, letters and plans between MDEQ and City staff, MDEQ gave the City, which owns and operates the dam, a deadline of July 30, 2009 to announce a decision whether to fix or remove the dam. This summer the City asked for another 9-month extension to make that decision.

This imminent safety issue, along with short-term and long-term costs of the needed repairs, is one reason the City is

considering removing Argo Dam.

The second reason Argo's future is being debated is that a City committee has just completed a thorough two-year study of Ann Arbor's four dams (Argo, Barton, Geddes, and Superior), all of which are owned by the City. The committee recommended that the others be maintained, but it could not agree on Argo's future. The

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Argo Dam in Ann Arbor. photo: HRWC

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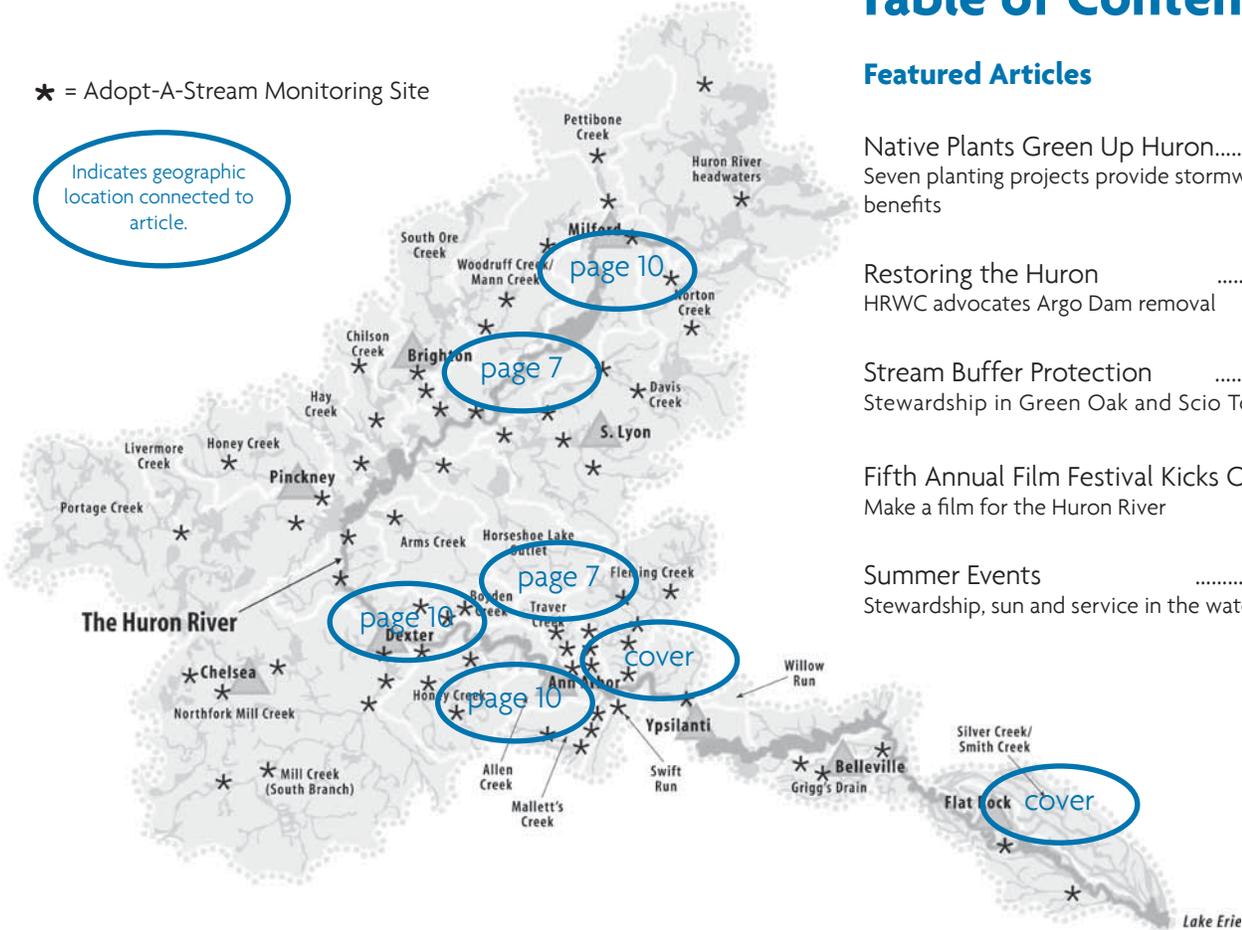
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Events

September 12, 2 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Leadership Training – Ann Arbor

Participation in prior RoundUP required
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

September 17, 6 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Suds on the River

Annual fundraiser featuring micro-brews of the watershed
Contact: msmith@hrwc.org

September 24, 5:30 P.M.

HRWC Executive Committee

NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

October 10, 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. or
10:30 A.M. – 5 P.M.

River RoundUp

Must register by Sept. 22nd!
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

October 18, Noon – 3 P.M. or
2 P.M. – 5 P.M.

ID Day

Identify bugs collected on Oct. 10th
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Must pre-register by Oct. 15
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

October 22, 5:30 P.M.

HRWC Board Meeting

NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

October 26-27

Fourth Annual MiCorps Conference

RAM Center, Higgins Lake, MI
Fees, times and registration info:
www.micorps.net/conference.html
or Laura Kaminski, laurak@glc.org

More events and updates on the web at: www.hrwc.org
HRWC offices are located at the NEW Center
1100 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor
Call (734) 769-5123 or visit the HRWC website for directions

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Native Plants Green Up the Huron

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enters the storm sewer and flows quickly into Millers Creek, turning a tiny stream into a raging torrent. Most of Millers Creek is highly eroded and does not support healthy biological communities.

Improving Millers Creek will require improving the water runoff quality and increasing the length of time it takes for the water to reach the creek. To this end, HRWC obtained a grant from the Michigan DEQ to target rainwater retention in the headwaters area of Millers Creek. Three neighborhoods in northeast Ann Arbor were selected: Orchard Hills, Maplewood and Bromley. HRWC's goal is to educate residents about the issues facing Millers Creek, implement residential rain capturing techniques to safely direct rainwater away from neighborhood stormdrains, and conduct flow and biological measurements in order to determine the impact of the project's efforts. In order to improve water retention, HRWC distributed rain barrels in the project area and, along with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission, helped several residents

build rain gardens on their property. Also, HRWC hired environmental consultant JFNew to design three major water retention projects that were implemented in the spring and early summer of 2009. HRWC, JFNew, landscape company Michigan Hardscapes, the City of Ann Arbor, and many volunteers worked together to complete these projects.

At Thurston Elementary School, the project team converted a grassy depression that was receiving storm runoff from the school's roof into a 1,400 square foot rain garden. Heavy clay soil filling the area was removed and replaced with porous rich soil and then planted with water-loving native plants. Now, when rain pours off the roof, it flows through the rain

garden, infiltrates through the soil, and is taken up by the plants.

Only rain from particularly strong storms enters the overflow drain, the storm sewer, and finally Millers Creek. Along with many neighborhood volunteers, three third-grade classes from the school helped to plant this garden. These young students can look at the garden growing by their school and feel proud because they know they helped create it!

At the intersection of Briarcliff and Prairie Streets, the project team replaced an unused paved road stub with a 5,000 square foot rain garden. This project is distinctive because it removed a piece of imper-

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTING

Native plants are easy to grow, require little maintenance and benefit the soil. They create attractive, low-maintenance garden borders around lawns and help stabilize soils and prevent erosion. Native plants also have deep, "thirsty" roots that help capture rainwater on site and filter out pollutants. These benefits are a significant improvement over typical lawns.

Native plants are easy to grow because they are suited to local weather and soil conditions. The resilience of native plants is due in large part to their massive root systems. Because the roots reach deep into the soil - in some cases, as far down as ten feet - the plants can access water even during dry times. Their extensive root systems can also improve soil. New root growth reduces soil compaction, and the die-off of old roots adds humus and nutrients to the soil, and provides great natural tunnels for water infiltration.

Native plants are beautiful. Using native plants, one can create a stunning garden that blooms all season long. Native plants offer a unique pallet of color, texture and shape, plus a wide variety of heights and sizes.

For more information on how you can use native plants to help the Huron, go to www.hrwc.org.



The Briarcliff rain garden is seen here fulfilling its function by trapping rainwater on site so it cannot enter the storm sewer and Millers Creek. photo: HRWC

vious surface that was contributing to the high flow problems of Millers Creek, and replaced it with a natural area that helps to alleviate the flow problem. More than twenty neighborhood residents dedicated a June Saturday to help HRWC plant approximately 2,000 native plants. Over time, this rain garden and the one built at Thurston Elementary will become beautiful gardens of flowering plants that also provide a useful hydrological function. The Briarcliff rain garden has a path running through it; it is a lovely place to walk and look at the native plants.

The third project centered on restoring a non-functioning retention pond at the Plymouth-Orchard Professional Building. The pond was intended to retain the rainwater flowing out of the Georgetown area by delaying the time the water would take

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Native Plants Green Up the Huron

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to enter Millers Creek. The project team restored the pond's retention function by modifying the concrete outlet structure so that the pond would hold stormwater and release it slowly to Millers Creek. In addition, the pond margin was planted with native plants to increase water and nutrient uptake. Several volunteers from the SmartWay team at the U.S. EPA National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor contributed their time and enthusiasm to the project.

GROW ZONES IN THE LOWER HURON

Using a grant from DEQ, the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW) purchased native plants and seed for installation across three watersheds in Wayne County

Thanks!

Margie Weiss and 20 volunteers for planting the Thurston and Briarcliff rain gardens, and the **45 volunteers** who planted over 800 native plants in Grow Zones at four sites in the Lower Huron.

including the lower Huron River. Four sites were selected in the lower Huron for "Grow Zone" projects to help stabilize soils and improve riparian buffer infiltration. Public sites were chosen in the Lower Huron Metropark (Woods Creek) in Van Buren Township, Huroc Park in Flat Rock, and Labo Park and the Village Hall in South Rockwood.



Woods Creek Friends volunteers Ron and Joshua Merritt "dig in" to Grow Zone planting in the Lower Huron Metropark. photo: HRWC

The sites were selected for their ability to treat rainwater runoff and to provide an educational opportunity. The site along Woods Creek will provide improved stream bank and river floodplain buffers. Those at Huroc and Labo Parks improve the Huron River buffer, and the Village Hall planting will provide good educational exposure and treat runoff from the Village Hall roof.

Over the course of four days, all four sites were planted with over 700 native plant plugs and 30 pounds of seeds. Fifty volunteers contributed their sweat and care to ensure that the plants had a good start by digging holes in often hard-packed soil and thoroughly watering the young plants. In total, over 25,000 square feet (0.58 acres) were converted from lawn to Grow Zones. Each of the three communities and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority prepared the sites in advance by treating the existing lawn and tilling the soil. They have also committed to maintaining the Grow Zones to ensure that they will continue to benefit the river for years to come.

— Ric Lawson and Paul Steen

Suds on the River
2009
Microbrews of the Huron River Watershed
Thursday, September 17
6 to 9 pm • Huron River Dr, Dexter
Huron River Watershed Council
For tickets call 734-769-5123 x19

Restoring the Huron

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main sticking point: rowers use Argo Pond, and they would have to find another location for their sport if Argo Dam goes.

HRWC's Executive Director Laura Rubin served on that committee and studied the issues in depth for two years. Figuring out what to do with Argo Dam is difficult. There's no perfect solution. But there is a best solution. HRWC strongly recommends that Argo Dam be removed. Here's why:

1) Argo Dam is bad for the Huron River. It slows the natural flow of current, warms the water, and reduces its oxygen content, which hurts fish, bugs, and the rest of the river ecosystem. The pond behind the dam is also filling in with sediment and invasive weeds, further degrading the river's quality, hindering animal life and entangling boats, paddles, fishing lines, and swimmers.

Removing Argo Dam will immediately and dramatically improve the Huron's health. Free-flowing water provides better habitat for fish and wildlife, restores native plants, and helps keep invasive species out. Cooler, faster flowing water is not as hospitable to invasive plants and animals. It will also reduce the impact of pollutants such as phosphorus, which presents a significant threat to the Huron.

2) Argo Dam is an expensive relic. No dam was ever meant to be permanent. Repair-

ing Argo Dam as the MDEQ demands will cost a whopping \$300,000-\$500,000. Beyond that, every year the City must pay to maintain the dam and take care of Argo Pond and pay insurance for the massive liability of a potential dam failure — the total annual cost to keep the dam: \$60,000. Beyond that, every decade or so, the City must replace the dam's chains, gates, and other major components at around \$250,000—a cost that will come due in two to three years.

That's a looming \$550,000 - \$750,000 hit on the City budget, over and above the \$60,000 in annual costs. Rowers, who benefit the most from keeping Argo Dam and Pond, pay none of these expenses. The taxpayers of Ann Arbor foot the bills, and the costs are not going away. If the City keeps Argo Dam, it will be paying these bills for decades. A dam is an artificial blockage that a river is constantly trying to remove. Without on-going, expensive maintenance on the dam and impoundment to keep this artificial environment intact, the river will eventually win.

Moreover, the expenses are about to get harder to pay. The cost of Argo Dam is about to be shifted to the City's Parks Department—the same department that is considering cutting the Senior Center and

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WHAT ABOUT ROWING?

HRWC believes that the benefits to the Huron's health, to the City's long-term financial condition, and other forms of recreation make Argo Dam removal the clear choice. We have also consistently gone on record to affirm that, before Argo comes out, the rowing teams must be able to find adequate new homes. We recommend that the City undertake a serious, objective study of the challenges involved.

In fact, every proposal and resolution related to Argo Dam contains a safety valve—in writing—for preserving rowing in Ann Arbor. Each one states clearly that Argo Dam should stay if rowing cannot be accommodated elsewhere.

The most critical statement is in the report by the HRIMP committee, which studied Argo and the City's other dams for two years: "creation of new rowing venue(s) must precede dam removal to maintain rowing continuity." Go to www.a2gov.org for the details.

That position—that rowing must be able to move to a new home—was officially endorsed by the "pro-river restoration [dam out]" members of the HRIMP committee. It was reaffirmed by the Environmental Commission, which also voted for dam removal. And it would be part of any resolution endorsed by City Council.

Nobody in Ann Arbor wants to stop rowing. Every local organization that has called for restoring the Huron River and removing Argo Dam has also endorsed that provision: Ann Arbor Area and Michigan Trout Unlimited, the Ecology Center, Huron River Fly Fishing Club, the Huron River Paddlers, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, and the U-M Kayak Club. HRWC, whose director served on the HRIMP committee and was involved in writing the provision, fully endorses it.

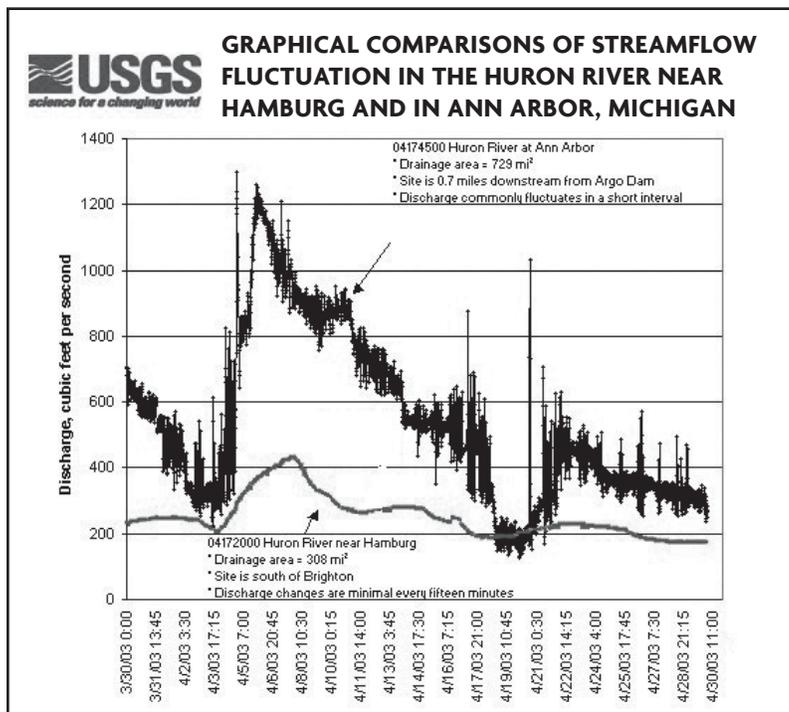
AN ALTERNATIVE TO FIXING THE TOE DRAINS?

Some people have said that filling in the mill race is a cheaper alternative to fixing the toe drains (the part of Argo Dam that is deteriorating). This is a viable option, but it's flawed for two reasons.

- 1) It's not agreeable to the City. Some toe drain repair would still be needed at the top of the embankment, and closing the mill race would disrupt paddling and portaging. The City calculated the cost of redesigning the portage and decided the larger cost for toe drain repair was cheaper and less disruptive to the canoe livery.
- 2) Many people are under the illusion that with this dam, you can just "fix it and forget it." The toe drains need fixing right now. But in a couple of years, all the dam's mechanical equipment is due for an overhaul. Also, Argo pond is filling in with weeds, which requires expensive intervention. The dam itself will reach the end of its "engineered life" in just over a decade.

Restoring the Huron

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This chart shows the variations in stream flow at sites in Ann Arbor at Wall Street (black) and Hamburg Township (blue). The increase in flow volume between Hamburg and Ann Arbor is due to surface water runoff and ground water discharge along the Huron River mainstem and numerous tributary streams. graphic: USGS

a public swimming pool to save money. How the City can afford an additional, major burden on its Parks budget is not clear.

3) Argo Dam does not provide the benefits that some dams do. It neither generates hydropower (a 2008 City study concluded that it would cost far too much to install electrical generation at Argo) nor provides flood control. On the contrary, Argo Dam actually causes unnatural surges of water downstream that damage the ecosystem and are dangerous to people (see sidebar).

4) Taking out Argo Dam will not be as difficult as some have suggested. Rowing is an important part of this community, and we want to be sure it continues to thrive. But Argo is not the ideal rowing venue that some have suggested, and Gallup and Barton Ponds and Belleville Lake can support rowing too.

Part of our mission at HRWC is to help people enjoy the Huron, and we are willing to work with the City to help the rowers develop outstanding facilities

at other, more appropriate locations. The Skyline High School rowing team is already requesting the City's help to start rowing at Barton Pond. In the long run, with fewer dams to maintain, the City can focus its resources on keeping the remaining ponds in better shape for all users.

5) Other potential problems have not materialized. For example, preliminary studies of Argo Pond have found no contamination of sediments.

High-end cost estimates for removing the dam run to one million dollars. However, those costs are one-time expenditures, and the City projects that over the long term, removing Argo Dam will cost less than keeping it.

What's more, there's financial aid for dam removal. The federal stimulus package and state parks funds include money for dam removal—but not for dam maintenance. If the City wants to keep Argo in, it's on its own.

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HOW BAD IS ARGO DAM FOR THE HURON RIVER?

One objection to removing Argo Dam is that it "will not improve the Huron River very much." It's true that it won't suddenly make the Huron pristine. But the benefits will be immediate and dramatic: free movement for fish, improved habitat, cooler and better-oxygenated water, and reduced invasive species.

Probably the most important improvement specific to Argo Dam is that it will reduce fluctuations in flow downstream. Argo Pond provides *no* flood storage. It is like a bathtub filled all the way to the top, and any amount of water that flows in, flows right out. An undammed river has natural floodplains that can hold excess water, and then release it gradually downstream. Argo Pond has drowned these floodplains—removing it would restore 20 acres of flood storage.

Worse yet, Argo Dam's gates are overly sensitive. A small water surge, caused by wind or even a motorboat wake, can cause the dam's gates to open and release a significant amount of water. Because of Argo Dam, the Huron River in Ann Arbor has the second-highest flow fluctuations in the state of Michigan, according to the US Geological Survey (see diagram at left). Michigan Department of Natural Resources scientist Paul Seelbach points out that drastic flow fluctuations are probably the worst thing that can happen to a river ecosystem. The surges wash away habitat, tear out river banks, and endanger public safety (this summer, 75 paddlers had to be rescued from the river when Ann Arbor dams released too much water). And the surges are then followed by dramatic drops in water level. Anglers have seen fish flopping on dry land where the river had been just a few minutes earlier.

In short, there's no question that Argo Dam damages the Huron River ecosystem in specific, significant ways.

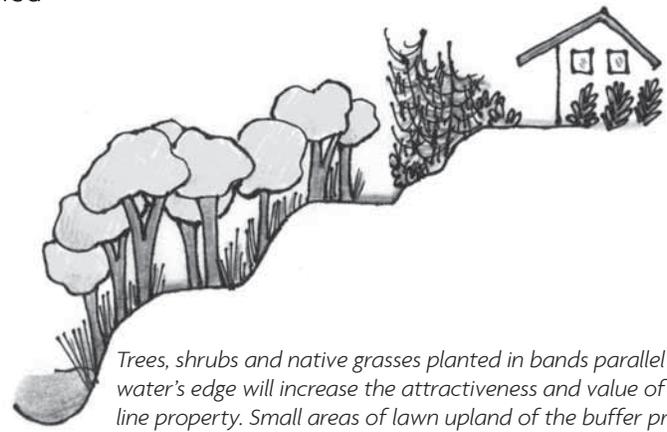
Stream Buffer Protection in Green Oak and Scio Townships

Stewardship efforts set an example for the watershed

HRWC is pleased to report that two townships in the watershed have made serious commitments to protect the most vulnerable part of the Huron River system by adopting stream buffer ordinances. Green Oak Charter Township in Livingston County and Scio Township in Washtenaw County have amended their zoning ordinances to protect existing riparian (the area along a stream or river bank) buffers from the bubbling headwaters to the mighty Huron River. The Natural Rivers district* runs through these townships, and the new buffer protections complement that designation.

A riparian buffer is the critical transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems along rivers and lakes that provides wildlife habitat, filters pollutants, and stabilizes streambanks. The federal Clean Water Act requires the protection of wetlands from degradation, but that protection generally does not encompass riparian areas even though they provide as many functions as wetlands. HRWC agrees

**The Natural River districts are areas along the Huron River and Davis, Arms and Mill Creeks identified by local governments, citizens and the MDNR and designated under the authority of the Michigan Natural Rivers Act for preservation as a natural corridor.*



Trees, shrubs and native grasses planted in bands parallel to the water's edge will increase the attractiveness and value of shoreline property. Small areas of lawn upland of the buffer provide places for recreation with minimal maintenance. graphic: HRWC

with the National Research Council that protection and restoration of riparian areas should be a national goal (*National Research Council. 2002. Riparian Areas: Functions and Strategies for Management*).

HRWC has worked with community partners like Green Oak and Scio Townships and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to raise the profile of the

watershed's riparian areas and seek their protection and restoration. In fact, HRWC's model ordinance for riparian buffers serves as the basis for the townships' ordinances. HRWC also provided technical assistance and education outreach to the townships and their community planners, Carlisle/Wortman & Associates, Inc.

The example set by these two local governments is one HRWC would like to see followed by their upstream and downstream neighbors.

— Elizabeth Riggs

Restoring the Huron

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6) Removing Argo Dam is a terrific quality-of-life opportunity. Think of Delhi Metropark, next to the old Delhi Bridge, where the Huron River is a dynamic, fast-moving current tumbling over light rapids, and you get some idea of the future of the river in Ann Arbor when Argo Dam is gone.

Better yet, when the water level drops after the dam is removed, a full 30 acres of land will emerge. The City already owns it. The result: a large river-front park on the northern gateway to the City. More green space within city limits. New running paths and fun paddling without the portage. Natural buffers to protect the river from pollution. A revitalized North Main corridor, a major entry point to the City.

It's time to make a decision that will impact Ann Arbor for a generation or more.

The reasons for removing Argo Dam are clear: a healthier river, cleaner water, tax money saved, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a gorgeous natural area in the heart of the City of Ann Arbor. It will not be easy or convenient for the rowers to move. But other local ponds can serve this special interest group well, and so the benefits to the City's residents and the environment should take precedence.

In coming months, the City will be studying the issues around both "dam in" and the "dam out" scenarios, and the question will come before Ann Arbor's City Council next spring, 2010. HRWC encourages the council to seize this opportunity and leave a cleaner, greener



Delhi Metropark - an example of what the river would look like after Argo dam is removed. photo: HRWC

legacy for the next generation by removing Argo Dam and letting the Huron River flow freely. Visit the HRWC website for more information: www.hrwc.org.

—HRWC Staff

Fifth Annual Millers Creek Film Festival Kicks Off

Make a film for the Huron River and compete for a \$500 prize in three categories



enter as an individual or a group, and all ages and experience levels are welcome.



Winners of each category will receive \$500, and their films will be shown at a gala public screening at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on March 19, 2010. HRWC will also use the films and PSAs in its public education and outreach efforts.

Tap into your creativity! Make a film while the weather is good and the water is warm. HRWC is seeking short films (under 5 minutes) and 30-second public service announcements for its Millers Creek Film Festival. Show the human connection to the Huron or incorporate at least one of six HRWC messages for protecting the

Huron River watershed -- no restrictions on topic. Any genre or style is welcome, but judges tend to favor films that are factually accurate *and* entertaining.

The three categories are: Short Films, Short Films School-Age (K-12), and Public Service Announcements. Filmmakers may

Entries are due to HRWC by Tuesday, February 2, 2010. To see past winners and for rules, entry forms, topic ideas and filmmaking resources go to www.hrwc.org/filmfestival or contact Pam Labadie at (734) 769-5123 x17, plabadie@hrwc.org.

— Pam Labadie

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Laura's "Stream" of Consciousness

An update on HRWC projects and activities

THE ERB FAMILY FOUNDATION

We have a new foundation in Southeast Michigan that's making a big splash. The Erb Family Foundation is a \$100 million foundation focused on nurturing environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metro Detroit and supporting initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Basin. In May they awarded HRWC a generous grant of \$75,000.

While the grant is for general operating support in the next year, we have identified three specific goals:

1. Reach and engage a broader audience to reduce non-point source pollution.
2. Make the river and streams cleaner by people adopting river friendly practices (such as proper disposal of household hazardous waste and use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer).
3. Adoption of stronger natural resource protection ordinances (such as buffer, wetland, and stormwater ordinances) by local, regional, and state units of government.

Given the hard economic times and lower stock market returns, a new foundation focused on improving water quality in Southeast Michigan is a blessing. Thank you to the Erb Foundation for their vision in supporting the protection of Michigan's beautiful water resources which are key to the State's economic recovery.

THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERN

Colin Hume is a graduate student in the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and the Environment, specializing in conservation biology and environmental planning.

Colin is originally from Seattle and attended Western Washington University where he received a B.S. in Biology. He worked for several years out west, primarily in Montana and California, doing wildlife



Colin in action, measuring Portage Creek. photo: HRWC

surveys for the U.S. Forest Service before returning to school. His work this summer focused primarily on the Bioserve Project where he helped us complete over 90 ecological assessments, learned how to identify hundreds of plants, and got thousands of mosquito bites – all for the cause. Thank you, Colin.

— Laura Rubin



Photo: Jeff Olejnik

Fulfilling Goals

Leave a legacy by including the Huron River Watershed Council in your will and estate plans. Please remember HRWC and our important watershed protection and restoration programs with a generous bequest in your will or trust. Help us meet the challenges of keeping our river running clean. If you have already included HRWC in your will, please let us know so we can thank you. With your support the watershed will be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Please contact us to discuss planned giving options.
Margaret Smith, Development Director.
(734) 769-5123 x 19 , msmith@hrwc.org

*Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference.*

Your membership supports HRWC programs. Send us this membership form with your check made out to "HRWC" or join on-line at www.hrwc.org and click on Join Now! Your contribution is tax-deductible.

MEMBER LEVELS

- \$35 **Mayfly**
- \$50 **Crayfish**
- \$100 **Dragonfly**
- \$250 **Soft Shell Turtle**
- \$500 **Salamander**
- \$1,000 **Smallmouth Bass**
- \$2,500 **Great Blue Heron**
- \$5,000 **Mink**

thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

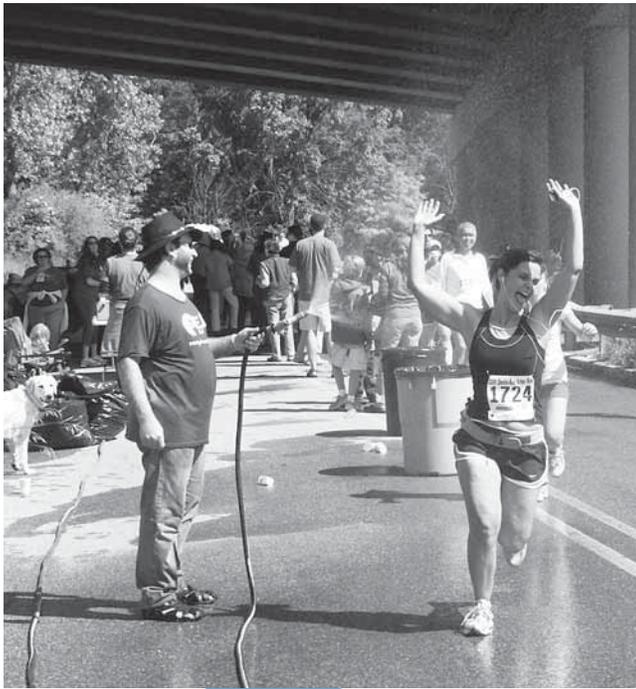
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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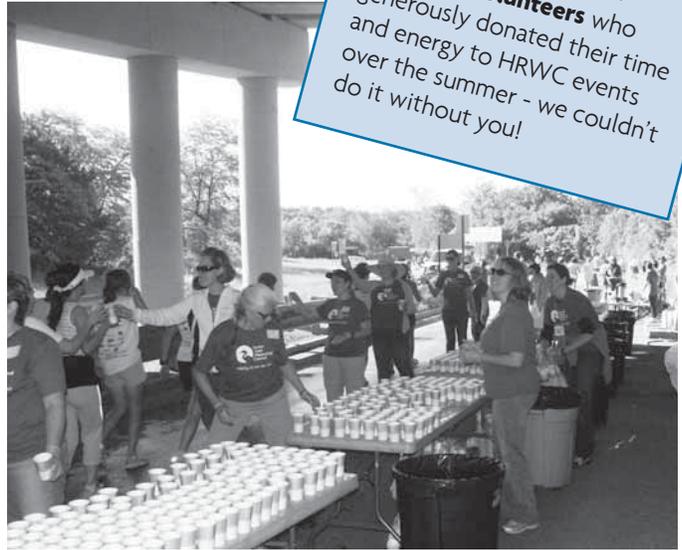
Summer Events

Stewardship, sun and service in the watershed!



HRWC volunteer Eric Bassey cooling off runners at the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run. photo: HRWC

Thanks!
To all the **volunteers** who generously donated their time and energy to HRWC events over the summer - we couldn't do it without you!



HRWC volunteers staff an aid station for the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run. photo: HRWC

Thanks!
Shirley Axon and **Eunice Burns** for their dedication and countless volunteer hours making Huron River Day happen.



HRWC holds a Rain Barrel Raffle at July's Huron River Day. photo: HRWC



An Ann Arbor resident identifies where she lives in the watershed at the Mayor's Green Fair. photo: HRWC

Thanks!
Bob Hospadaruk and **Michigan Geocaching**, **Mike Mouradian** and **Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited** for making Huron River Day a great experience for everyone.



Thanks!
Barry Lonik for hosting the Black Train concert.

Black Train performs folk music for HRWC at Rancho Tranquillo in June. photo: HRWC

Summer Events

Stewardship, sun and service in the watershed!



After the swim at Baseline Lake. photo: HRWC

Thanks!

UM Swim Club, the **many paddlers**, **Deputy Dezwan** of the Washtenaw County Sherriff's marine division, **Donna Snyder**, **Liz Elling**, **Sue Van Appledorn**, **Melinda Colquitt**, **Elsie Orb** and **Paul Cousins** for their help with the Huron River Swim of Baseline Lake.



Geocacher Bob Hospadaruk teaches GPS uses at HRWC workshop. photo: HRWC



It was a perfect day for a community swim. photo: HRWC

Thanks!

Tim Feldkamp and **MCRA members** who made the second annual Huron River Professional Canoe Challenge possible, and to **Janet Farrell** at City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.



Canoe racers at Gallup Park. photo: Lon Horwedel/The Ann Arbor News

The Huron River Watershed Council receives contributions via payroll deduction through EARTH SHARE of Michigan.



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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Protecting the Huron is a big job and we would be lost without the donations of time, talents, and resources from our dedicated volunteers. **We extend Special Thanks to:**

Mary Lynn Thomson and **Dave Wilson** for teaching Michigan Garden Club members about local water resources and natural areas, and for generously donating their fee.

Dennis Finseth, Nancy Stokes and **Dave Wilson** for teaching Willow Run High School students about the Willow Run tributary.

Michael Benham, Nancy Stokes and **Dave Wilson** for identifying sites for a potential road management project.

Gary Crawford, Jill Kelley, Catherine Riseng, Sharon Brooks, Tom Jenkins, Don Rottiers, Jana Smith, Mike Steele, Roberta Carr and **Greg Stevens** for their expertise, time and talents on BUG ID Day.

Dr. Steve Francoeur and **EMU Biology** for the gift of five microscopes.

The **City of Ann Arbor** for their donation of an auto-sampler and **John Peterson** and **LimnoTech, Inc. staff** for restoring it.

Alexander "AJ" Jaeckel for his help at the City of Ann Arbor Green Fair.

The **property owners** who permitted field assessments, the **volunteers** who performed field assessments, and the **volunteers** who completed roadside surveys of natural areas, all for the Bioreserve Project.

Laura Colangelo, Rachael Machiele, and **Samantha Wolf** for organizing and inputting Bioreserve Project data.

Jacqueline Courteau for the Bioreserve Project Plant Identification workshop.

Lara Treemore-Spears, Lynn Kalfsbeek, and **Jacqueline Courteau** for the Bioreserve Field Assessment Training.

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Ted Hejka and the **Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant staff** for many overtime hours running storm analyses.

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46 dedicated volunteers who took time to learn the techniques, hide their thermometers and take measurements to measure the temperature of our rivers and streams this past summer.

Dave Polley, Bowei Zhao, Jesse Gordon, Michelle Eickholt, Lee Green, Julie Mida, Magda Herkhof, Allison Clements, Patti McCall, Anna Soehl, Mick Leiferman and **Yan Yan Zhang** for their dedicated, high-quality sampling of tributary sites twice-a-month this past summer.

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Susan McClive and **Excelda Manufacturing** for their substantial donation of books to our Books by Chance program.

Solomon David for his guidance and assistance teaching HRWC staff how to catch and analyze fish population diversity in the Huron River.