

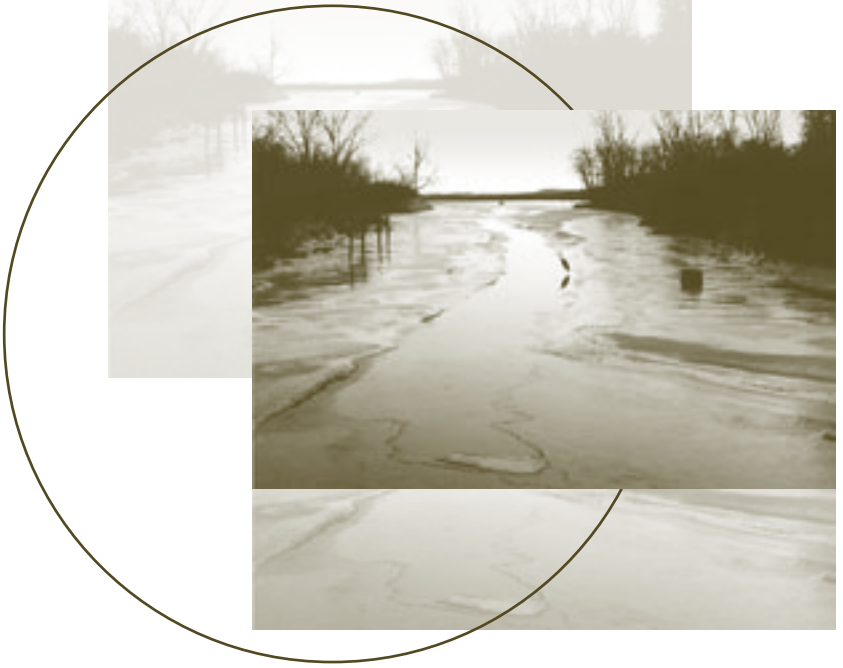
The Huron River Watershed Council

# Annual Report

2002-2003



Huron  
River  
Watershed  
Council



**The** Huron River Watershed is Michigan's cleanest urban river, the main source of drinking water for the City of Ann Arbor, home to ½ million people and several threatened and endangered animals. The Huron River is the only state designated "Scenic River" in southeast Michigan under the Natural Rivers Act and has a great reputation for its wealth of recreational opportunities and for having some of the State's last bogs, meadows, prairies, and forests.


Unfortunately, this unique river is also threatened. The cumulative impacts of urbanization throughout the watershed, but particularly in the headwaters, growing volumes of sewage discharge, alteration of the hydrology by 98 dams and filling in wetlands and floodplains, and a number of other pressures threaten the Huron's beauty, its usefulness, and its very life. The Huron is estimated to have lost over two-thirds of its wetlands and is projected to lose 40% of the remaining open space by the year 2010. Concern over the Huron River has resulted in the river's placement on the state's Unified Watershed Assessment as a category 1 watershed indicating its high restoration priority.

Since 1965, The Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) has been working to inspire attitudes, behaviors, and economies that protect, rehabilitate, and sustain the Huron River System. We have over 450 individual members, 39 member governments, and 45 business members. The Council's nine-person staff coordinates a dozen programs and the work of hundreds of volunteers who serve on our boards, committees, and in other volunteer activities. Our efforts fall into three major categories of Education, Technical Assistance, and Conservation. Our programs cover pollution prevention and abatement, hands-on citizen education and river monitoring, natural resource planning, mass media education and information, and wetland and floodplain protection.

The Huron River Watershed covers 910 square miles and includes 73 governments. The Huron River Watershed Council bridges these political boundaries by building partnerships—between communities and community leaders, residents, and businesses.

## About the Council

We are the only organization working to protect and restore the entire Huron River system and are a respected voice in the communities that make up the Huron River Watershed:

-  We have developed the premiere citizen river monitoring network in the State. Our strong quality assurance and quality control mechanisms allow agencies all over the State to confidently use this data to direct water protection programs.
-  We are in the sixth year of implementing an award-winning mass media campaign aimed at changing behaviors to make our water safe and clean.
-  Our initiatives to reduce phosphorus pollution in the Middle and Upper Huron produce numerous ordinances to protect natural areas, provide stronger protection of wetlands, and reduce conversion of land and natural habitat to pavement and buildings.
-  Our science and policy experts respond daily to residents and government representatives to help them manage development in ways that protect creeks, wildlife, and natural features.
-  We have written an award-winning community guide that communities all over the State of Michigan are using to develop drinking water protection plans.



## Summary of Accomplishments

Finalized two watershed management plans in the Upper Huron of the Watershed—Kent Lake and Brighton Lake Subwatersheds. These were both two-year efforts and approved by the MDEQ. Local governments, citizens and businesses in both subwatersheds now have specific roadmaps toward restoring and protecting the quality of the water entering both lakes.

Worked with local governments in the watershed to pass local phosphorus fertilizer ordinances and began conversations with state-wide stakeholders on phosphorus fertilizer legislation for Michigan.

Researched and wrote a Creek Report on Davis Creek providing an in-depth review of the waterways of South Lyon, Novi, and Green Oak, Lyon, Northfield and Salem Townships.

Twelve communities submitted resolutions to the US EPA urging full protection for wetlands under the Clean Water Act as part of an HRWC campaign to urge citizens and communities in the Huron River Watershed to provide public comment on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Completed and disseminated a community information system CD for Washtenaw County that will provide better, more readily accessible resource information and computer-based tools to help in evaluating local land use choices. With these tools, community leaders will be better prepared to evaluate development alternatives and their long-term impacts on the cultural and natural resources of Washtenaw County.

Researched plans to reduce phosphorus pollution in the Kent Lake subwatershed by identifying strategic locations for construction of innovative Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater management. Plans are in the development phase.

Worked with local road commissions and the Planning and Zoning Center to develop defensible growth standards for watersheds and gravel roads. This project is working to apply methodologies to help answer the question “How much development is too much?” as it applies to impervious surfaces and gravel roads.



Assisted local watershed governments with interpreting and implementing new federal standards for stormwater management. HRWC stepped in to offer advice and provide services to municipal and county governments for cost-effective compliance with the new stormwater regulations.



Convened all of the dam operators on the main stem of the Huron River to a meeting. We facilitated discussion among the operators, heard concerns and common problems, and gained insight into how HRWC could assist operators in the future.

Alerted DEQ to major permit violation in Boyden Creek and worked to monitor the situation and provide data on effects and clean-up efforts.



Worked with Flat Rock, Barton Pond, Gallup Pond and Tull Lake/Oxbow Lake residents and citizens concerned about excessive weed growth, low water levels, pond eutrophication, nutrient pollution and more. The HRWC researched the problems and causes, facilitated meetings among the stakeholders, and developed action plans.



Trained HRWC volunteers to measure flow, channel shape (geomorphic characteristics), stream life, and habitat on eight sites in Miller's Creek as part of the development of a Millers Creek Improvement Plan. Both the flow and channel shape measurements are new activities for Adopt-A-Stream and, in fact, for volunteer monitoring program nationwide. Participating volunteers underwent extensive training to learn how to take accurate measurements using expensive instruments.

Conducted water chemistry monitoring in the Middle Huron subwatersheds. Trained volunteers conducted nutrient monitoring at six sites to provide a better understanding of pollution contributions from non-point sources in the middle Huron Watershed. An improved understanding of sources will help the Middle Huron Partnership select appropriate management practices to reduce and prevent pollution.

Offered and taught the eight-session class called “Land Use Planning for Environmentally Sustainable Communities.” This class included citizens, planning commissioners, and other local land use decision makers who wanted to become valued advisors to their planning commissions. This popular class offers tools, information, resources, problem-solving, and networking for people working on local land use issues.

Celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Adopt-A-Stream program. As part of the celebration, 40 volunteers and 15 local and state officials installed 38 educational signs at parks and roads identifying bodies of water in Livingston, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.



Helped launch a Southeast Michigan website that houses environmental data about local air, water, land, community, and house. HRWC partners with other groups in SE Michigan to collect the information displayed at this site that gives you the quality of the air and stream near you, agricultural information, such as soil types and erosion potential, contaminated areas in your community and much more.

Completed the first stage in a bioserve mapping project. Mapping the last remaining open spaces in the watershed and assessing their ecologic “value” helps HRWC work with local governments, private landholders, businesses, and the state to develop methods to protect these valuable lands.



Hosted numerous events for a busy month of June. Events included River Day, a Historic Huron Exhibit at a local library, a talk on the early life along the Huron by a noted historian and a Tour De Wetlands.

Coordinated and facilitated a community meeting for Dexter Village residents to learn the most current information about removal of the Mill Pond Dam and to share their preferences for how to restore this reach of Mill Creek.



## Member Governments & Board of Directors

City of Ann Arbor	Dave Borneman, Joan Lowenstein, Shirley Axon, Craig Hupy, Eunice Burns; Alternates: Sumedh Bahl, John Hieftje
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City of Belleville	Steven Walters
Brighton Township	Bud Prine
City of Brighton	Eric Piehl
Brownstown Township	Leonard Mannausa
Village of Chelsea	Jack Myers
Commerce Township	Connie Guest, Tom Zoner (alt.)
Dexter Township	Richard Grannis
Village of Dexter	Paul Cousins
City of Flat Rock	Ricky Tefend
Genoa Township	no rep. appointed
Green Oak Township	Fred Hanert
Hamburg Township	Phil Paye
Huron Township	Deeda Stanczak, Robert Stanczak (alt.)
Livingston County	Jill Thacher
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Northfield Township	Ray Fullerton
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Village of Pinckney	no rep. appointed
Pittsfield Township	Jan BenDor
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Scio Township	Chuck Ream
Village of South Rockwood*	no rep. appointed
Springfield Township	no rep. appointed
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Van Buren Township	Dan Swallow
Village of Walled Lake	Carol Woodruff
Washtenaw County	Janis Bobrin, Evan Pratt, Dick Norton and John Russell (alt.)
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West Bloomfield Township	no rep. appointed
White Lake Township	Mike McAdams
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Wolverine Lake Village	James Donahue
City of Ypsilanti	no rep. appointed
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\* new member government in 2002-2003

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## Watershed Council Staff

Theresa Dakin, Adopt-A-Stream Co-Director  
Joan Martin, Adopt-A-Stream Co-Director  
Suzy Morse, Land Use Planning  
Workshop Coordinator  
Ellen Offen, Development Director  
Kris Olsson, Watershed Ecologist  
Cynthia Radcliffe, Webmaster  
Chris Riggs, Upper Huron Coordinator  
Elizabeth Riggs, Middle Huron Coordinator  
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Jennifer Wolf, Marketing Specialist  
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In addition we wish to acknowledge the many members who contributed via payroll deduction at their workplace, either through the Environmental Fund for Michigan or through the United Way. We are notified of contributors who check the box on their pledge form asking for an acknowledgement. All others remain anonymous to us, however their support is greatly appreciated.

## Volunteers in 2002-2003

### MHI Water Quality Monitoring

Debi Weiker  
Arvil Ancheta  
Doug Evans  
Jonathan Lutz  
Kay Werthan  
Randy Schneider  
Liz Simon  
Elijah Bowe  
Dana Infante  
Justin May

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Phil Boham  
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Pam Gerecke	Patrick Korth	Louise Piranian	Amy Vincent
Jane Gillies	Matthew Law	Brian Prather	Wes Vivian
Cari Gittleson	Betty Law	Karen Prochnow	Gloria Voght
Jesse Gordon	Vicki Lawrence	Arnold Proehl	Norma Jean Wade
Ken Gottschlich	Ric Lawson	Nancy Pyden	Kari Walworth
Kathie Gourlay	Julie LeBlanc	Cynthia Radcliffe	Fred Wark
Beth Grate	Mike Lemon	Ellen Rambo	Linda Wark
Andrew Grate	Sue Leonard	Joe Rathbun	Kate Weber
Scott Green	Brent Lignell	Dora Passino-Reader	John Westman
Alan Green	John Lillie	Rob Redmond	Erica Wetter
Emily Greenman	Sue Lillie	David Reichhardt	Marshal Wied
Ron Groeneveld	Mary Lirones	Lee Ren	Don Wilcox
Cyndee Gruden	Pat Little	Simon Ren	Mike Wiley
Haoyu Gu	Lois Lovejoy	Terry Rheinheimer	Jay Williams
Kevin Gustavson	Mary Maliarik	Bob Richards	Scott Williams
Dale E. Hadden	Laurel Malvitz	Carrie Ricker	Chris Wilson
Lauren Hall	Richard Manczak	Joe Riley	Matt Wimsatt
Jesse Hall	Richie Marks	Catherine Riseng	Larry Wolicki
Fred Hanert	Richard Marks	Bill Rodgers	Chris Wood
Fay Hansen	Dianne Martin	Don Rottiers	Lev Wood
Linda Harris	Erin Mayernik	Rob Rougeau	Al Woolf
Kevin Hartgerink	Mac McCauley	Esther Rubin	John Zielinski
Jane Hayes	Michael McClennen	Laura Rubin	Ann Zinn
Al Heavner	Thad McCollum	Victor Ruehle	Anita Zot
David Heilveil	Lucas McEvoy	Morgan Sabol	Cynthia Zuccaro
Julie Heinlein	Marianna McEvoy	William Samuels	
Carolyn Hejkal	Lynn Meadows	Mary Ann Schaefer	
Ben Hejkal	Dave Melmoth	Jeff Schaeffer	

**Statement of Activities**

**Fiscal Year April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003**

**REVENUES**

Membership Dues.....	\$ 130,469
Government Grants.....	393,038
Foundation Grants.....	170,448
Contributions.....	5,391
Interest Income.....	3,831
Miscellaneous.....	9,321
<b>Total Revenues</b> .....	<u>712,498</u>

**EXPENSES**

Program Service Costs:	
Watershed Planning.....	309,689
Education.....	104,619
Development of Stewards.....	135,114
Information.....	4,085
Total Program Service Costs.....	<u>553,507</u>
Supporting Service Costs:	
Management & General.....	62,055
Fund Raising.....	74,620
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<u>690,182</u>

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b> .....	22,316
Net Assets, beginning of year.....	182,401
Net Assets, end of year.....	<u>\$ 204,717</u>

**EXPENSES BY FUNCTION**

	PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT & FUND RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries.....	263,526	93,117	356,643
Payroll Taxes.....	20,508	7,595	28,103
Benefits.....	27,503	7,028	34,531
Total Personnel.....	<u>311,537</u>	<u>107,740</u>	<u>419,277</u>
Consultants.....	98,137	4,606	102,743
Depreciation.....	6,660	2,785	9,445
Dues & Publications.....	314	611	925
Insurance.....	3,050	2,353	5,403
Media Buys.....	16,377	-	16,377
Meeting Expenses.....	506	176	682
Newsletter.....	5,108	-	5,108
Other.....	313	334	647
Postage & Fax.....	7,059	1,641	8,700
Printing & Copying.....	41,448	4,444	45,892
Professional Fees.....	5,129	1,721	6,850
Rent.....	17,974	5,954	23,928
Supplies & Equipment.....	35,288	1,821	37,109
Telephone & Internet.....	3,005	635	3,640
Travel & Registration.....	1,602	1,854	3,456
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<u>553,507</u>	<u>136,675</u>	<u>690,182</u>





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