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 bioreserve 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,
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                                          Alternates: Sumedh Bahl, John Hieftje
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Barton Hills Village ...................... James Wilkes
City of Belleville ....................... Steven Walters
Brighton Township ....................... Bud Prine
City of Brighton ......................... Eric Pielh
Brownstown Township ................... Leonard Mannausa
Village of Chelsea ...................... Jack Myers
Commerce Township ..................... Connie Guest, Tom Zoner (alt.)
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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
Village of Milford ...................... no rep appointed
Northfield Township ................... Ray Fullerton
Oakland County ......................... Lev Wood, Al Drenchen
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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Washtenaw County ..................... Janis Bobrin, Evan Pratt,
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West Bloomfield Township ............ no rep. appointed
White Lake Township .................. Mike McAdams
City of Wixom ......................... Greg McCaffery
Wolverine Lake Village ............... James Donahue
City of Ypsilanti ....................... no rep. appointed
Ypsilanti Township ..................... Bob Neely, Colleen Bellers,
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* new member government in 2002-2003

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Simon Ren
Terry Rheinheimer
Bob Richards
Carrie Ricker
Joe Riley
Catherine Riseng
Bill Rodgers
Don Rottiers
Rob Rougeau
Esther Rubin
Laura Rubin
Victor Rauhle
Morgan Sadel
William Samuels
Mary Ann Schaefer
Jeff Schaeffer
Chuck Scherwitz
Bill Schimmell
Sue Schotts
Linda Schweitzer
Kirsten Segal
Bill Seib
Leann Seto
Miriam Shin
Candace Shelly
Hal Smith
Andrew Smith
Jim Smith
Bob Smith
Preston Smith
Beth Sparks-Jackson
Mary Spence
John Stahl
Alan Stefan
Margaret Steiner
Pat Stejskal
Lia Stevens
Nancy Stokes
Faye Stoner
Nancy Sweet
Dave Szczupiel
Ryan Tefertiller
Jane Temer Kleiner
Carolyne Teshley
Waylon Thacker
Chad Theissmann
Dan Thirty
Jan Thomas
Erin Tramm
Lewis Tripp
Bret Trocchio
Carrie Turner
Murat Ulaslar
Ben Upton
John Vanderley
Amy Vincent
Wes Vivian
Gloria Voght
Norma Jean Wade
Kari Walworth
Fred Wark
Linda Wark
Kate Weber
John Westman
Erica Wetter
Marshall Wied
Don Wilcox
Mike Wiley
Jay Williams
Scott Williams
Matt Wimsatt
Chris Wilson
Larry Wolicki
Chris Wood
Lee Wood
Al Wool
c John Zielinski
Anni Zinn
Anita Zoz
Cynthia Zuccaro
## REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$130,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$393,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$170,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$5,391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$3,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$9,321</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$712,498</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## EXPENSES

### Program Service Costs:
- Watershed Planning: $309,689
- Education: $104,619
- Development of Stewards: $135,114
- Information: $4,085

**Total Program Service Costs**: $553,507

### Supporting Service Costs:
- Management & General: $62,055
- Fund Raising: $74,620

**Total Expenses**: $690,182

## CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets, beginning of year: $182,401

**Net Assets, end of year**: $204,717

## EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Management &amp; Fund Raising</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>263,526</td>
<td>93,117</td>
<td>356,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>20,508</td>
<td>7,595</td>
<td>28,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>27,503</td>
<td>7,028</td>
<td>34,531</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Personnel</strong></td>
<td>311,537</td>
<td>107,740</td>
<td>419,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>98,137</td>
<td>4,606</td>
<td>102,743</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>6,660</td>
<td>2,785</td>
<td>9,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dues &amp; Publications</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>2,353</td>
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<td>Media Buys</td>
<td>16,377</td>
<td>16,377</td>
<td>32,754</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>672</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage &amp; Fax</td>
<td>7,059</td>
<td>1,641</td>
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<td>Printing &amp; Copying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone &amp; Internet</td>
<td>3,005</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>3,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Registration</td>
<td>1,602</td>
<td>1,854</td>
<td>3,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>553,507</td>
<td>136,675</td>
<td>690,182</td>
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</tbody>
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