

The Huron River Watershed Council

# Annual Report

2003-2004



Huron  
River  
Watershed  
Council

**“It’s inspirational to see everyone working so hard and actually concerned about the environment.”**

**Thank you to our volunteers, individual, business, and government members, technical advisors, board members, and funders. HRWC would not have the breadth and impact without you.**





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 protect and restore the Huron River System. We have over 500 individual members, 39 member governments, and 55 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.



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 seventh 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 produced 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, businesses, 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

Wrapped up an innovative program addressing urban sprawl. Created and successfully applied methodologies that help answer the question “*How much development is too much?*” as it applies to impervious surfaces and gravel roads. This is an often-asked question for which there previously has been no clearly defensible answer. Our research and guidebook provides specific answers to these questions in terms that local government officials can readily relate to. This is a very substantial advancement in this arena that is of both state and national significance.

Completed the Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan, a tool to guide the future protection and restoration activities in this subwatershed. The plan identifies current conditions in the system, existing impairments, future threats, and opportunities for resource protection and restoration. The MDEQ is using this as a model watershed management plan to the EPA and throughout Michigan.

Hosted the First State of the Huron Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

It was a great day filled with informative presentations, vibrant conversation and loads of learning. The attendance of 185 people exceeded our expectations and represented a diverse group of people. Many familiar faces were among the crowd along with new faces of interested citizens, developers, planners, local government officials, researchers, and regulators. With over 22 topics, people found sessions for all interests. Some of the comments from attendees were that the most beneficial aspect of the conference was: “the holistic summary of all aspects of the watershed and not just the river,” “listening to people who are knowledgeable and dedicated to protecting our water,” and “Great presentations — the quality was high.”

Engaged more watershed residents in river protection, making it easy and fun. Designed five tip cards that were mailed to homeowners so that they could learn to help protect the river from the comfort of their own homes.

Worked with the Village of Dexter, the Washtenaw County Road Commission and other stakeholders in finding funds to begin pre-dam removal studies.

Protected and upheld the Natural River Act and the Huron River’s Natural River Designation, the only river designated as such in SE Michigan, against attacks to weaken the Act and the Huron River Plan.

Reviewed the Codes and Ordinances of 6 Huron River Watershed Communities and recommended improvements for better water quality protection. Secured funds to take the next step and work with the Mill Creek communities to implement ordinance and code changes to improve water quality.

Worked with 22 municipalities to begin to develop roadmaps for protection and restoration of the Lower Huron and Chain of Lakes subwatersheds in the Huron as part of the new federal stormwater regulations affecting urban and urban fringe municipalities.

Secured the Middle Huron partnership agreement, an innovative agreement between point and non-point source pollution partners to voluntarily reduce phosphorus pollution. Coordinated efforts to reduce phosphorus pollution and report progress to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Convened all of the dam operators on the main stem of the Huron River. Facilitated discussion among the operators, heard concerns and common problems, and gained insight into how HRWC could assist operators.

Trained and coordinated 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.

Completed the Millers Creek Watershed Improvement Plan, a plan to guide future protection and restoration efforts.

Secured funding to host four riparian management workshops throughout the watershed in 2005.



Completed three site plans for Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Kent Lake subwatershed in strategic locations to reduce phosphorus pollution. Submitted proposals for funding two of the plans.

Directed a team of graduate students that studied the feasibility of Argo Pond restoration. A survey of residents, willingness to pay scenario, and economic analysis were completed as part of the project. Findings will direct future restoration efforts.

Conducted water chemistry monitoring in the Middle Huron subwatersheds. Volunteers conducted nutrient, total suspended solids, and flow monitoring at 10 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.

Completed 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.

Worked with local governments in the watershed to pass local phosphorus fertilizer ordinances and continued advancing statewide phosphorus fertilizer legislation.

Surveyed residents to find out how the *Pledge Book* may have changed behavior and what motivated people to return the pledge card. Highlights: 90% of the respondents reported having a greater awareness of the issues covered in the pledge book, with over 60% reporting changes in daily or weekly practices related to water and the environment.

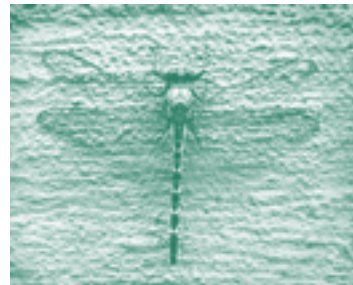
Assisted local watershed governments interpreting and implementing new federal standards for stormwater management. HRWC worked with counties and municipalities in the watershed that are coming under the new stormwater regulations. In an effort to make compliance cost effective for local watershed governments, we stepped in to give advice and provide services.

With the help of over 350 volunteers, monitored 65 sites for macroinvertebrates; 10 sites for habitat assessment, and our flow team swelled to 24 volunteers monitoring 6 sites for flow measurement.

Advocated for stronger, corrective action to bring Michigan's wetland protection program into compliance with the federal program. Michigan is one of only two states in the nation that have assumed administration of the Federal wetland program and the state-run program is in need of numerous improvements.

Partnered in an effort to reduce or eliminate noxious algae blooms that for years have plagued Ford and Belleville Lakes. HRWC provided technical and land use information data and served as a liaison to the public about research findings and their potential for improved management of the river.

Trained agency, local officials, and conservation group staff to use proven marketing techniques to inspire lasting behavior change. Conducted two "Marketing the Environment" Workshops reaching over 50 professionals.



**“The organization and execution of the winter stonefly survey were truly awesome to me, a newcomer to the group. All that equipment, all those maps (including the elegant and detailed site maps), the training of the team leaders, the folks on hand at the office to help us when we got back. I’ve been involved in a lot of volunteer monitoring (mostly chemical testing, sediment, or coliforms), but have never seen anything of the scope of yesterday’s festivity, nor anything carried out with such a high degree of competence.”**

## 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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Milford Township	Mary Bajcz
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Village of South Rockwood	no rep. appointed
Springfield Township	no rep. appointed
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## Watershed Council Staff

Theresa Dakin, Adopt-A-Stream Co-Director  
Joan Martin, Adopt-A-Stream Co-Director  
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Workshop Coordinator  
Ellen Offen, Development Director  
Kris Olsson, Watershed Ecologist  
Cynthia Radcliffe, Webmaster  
Chris Riggs, Upper Huron Coordinator  
Elizabeth Riggs, Middle Huron Coordinator  
Laura Rubin, Executive Director  
Jennifer Wolf, Marketing Specialist  
Susan Wooley, Office Manager



HRWC staff, 2003-2004

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Surface Water Quality Division  
Upton Foundation  
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Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation  
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“...The river is lucky to have you guys.”

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Phil Argiroff	Dave Brooks	Linda Damstra	Dirk Fishbach
Sonja and Nathan Bair	Steve Brownell	Ray Davio	Neal Foster
Mary and Alex Bajez	Jim Bryson	Kirk Davis	Sarah Foster
Alex Bajez	Lee Burton	Katie Davison	Julie Frost
Marty Baldwin	Eric Burton	Andrea DeAgostino & the Smiths	Ron Gamble
Julia Badow	Ray Caleca	George DeAngelis	Michael George
Noemi Barabas	Bruce Campbell	Tim Dekker	Pam Gerecke
Karl Leif Bates	Dean Carpenter	Tom Deku	Phil Giles
Marcy Bauman	Roberta Carr	Sean Demers	Sam Giraud
Dave Baxter	Mike Carroll	Charles Dershimer	Ann Gladwin
Michael Benham	Barb Chamness	Kelly Dettmer	Tom Glaser
Amy Berendt	James & D. Chamness	Andrew DeZeeuw	Jesse Gordon
Laurel Beyer	Wayne Cheyne	Nicole Dolney	Ken Gottschlich
Rob Biermann	Elizabeth Clay	Carole Dubritsky	Kathie Gourlay
Matthew Bird	Katy Cordova	Elizabeth Duell	Polina Gouskova
David Blough	Marilyn & Edward Couture	Barb Duperron	Sarah Grammel
Eric Boatman	Rodney Cox	Kent Early	Alan Green
	Rob Cox	Doug Egedy	Emily Greenman
			Christopher Grubb

**Adopt-A-Stream Volunteers, cont.**

Cynde Gruden	John Martin	Stacey Lang Roberts	Scott Williams
Kevin Gustavson	Dianne Martin	Bill Rodgers	Chris Wilson
Fred Hanert	Erin Mayernik	Joe Rogers	Dave Wilson
Fay Hansen	Mac McCauley	Don Rottiers	Larry Wolicki
Helen Harris	Trevor McCauley	Rob Rougeau	Lev Wood
Kevin Hartgerink	Marianna & Lucas	Dawn Roush	Chris Wood
Ted Hejka	McEvoy	Esther Rubin	Mahya Wood
Rob Henderson	Cheryl McGill	Anne Rueter	Al Wooll
Julia Henshaw	Carol and Tom	Theresa Samosiuk	Ann Zinn
Chad Hershock	McGrath	David Sawicki	Anita Zot
Mark Higbee	Lynn Meadows	Chuck Scherwitz	
Gwen Hinchey	Rosalie Meiland	Charles Scott	
Gary Hochgraf	Karla Metzger	Bill Seib	
Jennifer Hollenbeck	Linda Michele-Dobel	Harry Sheehan	
David Hopkinson	Joeseeph Miller	Candace Shelly	
Jessica Hornbeck	Jean Milligan	Maria Silveria	
David Howell	Colin Mindel	Andrea Smith	
Godwin Iduma	Laura Mindel	Andrew Smith	
Kiersten Isgrigg	John & Tui Minderhout	Bob Smith	
Greta Jacobs	Tui Minderhout	Hal Smith	
Jag Jagadish	Dan Minock	Jerry Smith	
Tom Jameson	Jill Money	Jim Smith	
Zane Janicki	Dallas Moore	Preston Smith	
Tom Jenkins	Lily Morishima	Eric Sokol	
Tim Jeris	B J Morrison	Beth Sparks-Jackson	
Zoltan Jung	Mike Morrissey	Mary Spence	
Meroe Kaericher	Suzy Morse	John Stahly	
Janet Kahan	Roger Mourad	Margaret Steiner	
Steven J. Kapeller	Edie Mueller	Lia Stevens	
Matt Kevnick	Hannah Murray	Nancy Stokes	
Sue and Pete Klaas	Nan Nelson	Faye Stoner	
Amanda Klain	Paul Nugent	Joy Strawser	
Jane Tesner Kleiner	Diane O'Connell	Kathleen Sullivan	
Andrea Kline	Marcela Orlandea	Nancy Sweet	
Dick Knopf & Dea	Spyridon Pavlidis	Brian Swisher	
Hideyuki Kobayashi	Mart Perkins	Dave Szczygiel	
Ray Kohut	Lisa Perschke	Ryan Tefertiller	
Mark Kozlowski	Dan Peters	Waylon Thacker	
Deborah L. Kuehn	Ted Peters	Chad Theismann	
Michelle LaRose	Larry Peterson	Dan Thiry	
Ric Lawson	Eric Piehl	Sandy Thomas	
Rowe Lee-Mills	Karen Pierce	Erin Trame	
Judith Lehman	Louise Piranian	Lewis Tripp	
Mike Lemon	Martha Pollack	Carrie Turner	
Kate Levin	Evan Pratt	Rebecca Turner	
Graham E. Lewis	Karen Prochnow	Murat Ulasir	
Brent Lignell	Ellen Rambo	L J Ulrich	
John Lillie	Joe Rathbun	Ben Upton	
Sue Lillie	Bonnie Reardan	Marie Valentine	
Mary Lirones	Reef, Don L	Wes Vivian	
Pat Little	Lee and Simon Ren	Norma Jean Wade	
Hilary Lowe	Bob Richards	Scott Wade	
Khaled Mabrouk	Ariana Rickard	Kari Walworth	
Cindy Mahalak	Carrie Ricker	Fred Wark	
Dean Maiberger	Chris Riggs	Mark Weiss	
Richard Manczak	Joe Riley	Mara Werner	
Emily Marinaro	Catherine Riseng	Mike Wiley	
Greg Marker	Peggy Roberts	Jay Williams	

**Middle Huron Initiative Monitoring**

Ron Oldfield  
Randy Schneider  
Chris Riggs  
Debi Weiker  
Steven Hufnagel  
David Katz  
Nate Bosch  
Janice Brummond  
Kyle Meister  
Steven Parrish  
Baku Takahashi

**Mill Creek**

Paul Richards  
Art Guzowski  
Tom Borton  
Phil Boham  
Dave Brooks  
Mary Lirones

**Upper Huron Technical Advisory Team**

Bill Stone  
Ron Fadoir  
Chris Carson

**HRWC General**

Laura Ghiron  
Jim Mudd  
Murat Ulasir  
Jason Zawacki  
Susan Bryan  
Dave Brooks  
Christianson Design  
Larime Photographic  
Paul Cousins  
Don Rottiers

**Statement of Activities**

**Fiscal Year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

<b>REVENUES</b>	
Membership Dues	\$148,986
Government Grants	295,073
Foundation Grants	226,891
Contributions	9,563
Interest Income	3,011
Miscellaneous	13,885
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 697,409</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Program Service Costs</b>	
Watershed Planning & Management	280,244
Education	109,747
Development of Stewards	149,942
<b>Total Program Service Costs</b>	<b>539,933</b>
<b>Supporting Service Costs</b>	
Management & General	66,582
Fund Raising	73,970
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 680,485</b>

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	16,924
Net Assets, beginning of year	204,717
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 221,641



<b>EXPENSES BY FUNCTION</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT &amp; FUND RAISING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Salaries	277,519	97,936	375,455
Payroll Taxes	21,815	7,698	29,513
Benefits	31,641	9,710	41,351
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>330,975</b>	<b>115,344</b>	<b>446,319</b>
Consultants	116,053	2,299	118,352
Depreciation	6,453	1,934	8,387
Dues & Publications	1,167	971	2,138
Insurance	1,200	2,042	3,242
Media Buys	8,513	-	8,513
Meeting Expenses	3,789	-	3,789
Newsletter	6,732	-	6,732
Other	16	428	444
Postage & Fax	4,688	1,669	6,357
Printing & Copying	25,946	4,771	30,717
Professional Fees	2,886	1,014	3,900
Rent	19,916	7,000	26,916
Supplies & Equipment	6,662	1,585	8,247
Telephone & Internet	2,934	618	3,552
Travel & Registration	2,003	877	2,880
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 539,933</b>	<b>\$ 140,552</b>	<b>\$ 680,485</b>



*Protecting the river since 1965*

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