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—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.
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 24th, 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 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.

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.”
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“The river is lucky to have you guys.”
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Randi 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
## Huron River Watershed Council
### Statement of Activities
#### Fiscal Year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$148,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>295,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>226,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>9,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>3,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>13,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 697,409</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

#### Program Service Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Planning &amp; Management</td>
<td>280,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>109,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Stewards</td>
<td>149,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Service Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>539,933</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Supporting Service Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>66,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td>73,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORTING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 680,485</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>277,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>21,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>31,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PERSONNEL</strong></td>
<td><strong>330,975</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>116,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>6,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues &amp; Publications</td>
<td>1,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Buys</td>
<td>8,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>3,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>6,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage &amp; Fax</td>
<td>4,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; Copying</td>
<td>25,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>2,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>19,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>6,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone &amp; Internet</td>
<td>2,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Registration</td>
<td>2,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 539,933</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT &amp; FUND RAISING</td>
<td>97,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 140,552</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 680,485</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>204,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>16,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, end of year</td>
<td><strong>$ 221,641</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>