



River Raisin
WATERSHED COUNCIL
Partner • Protect • Preserve

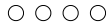
STREAMLINES

Protecting and restoring the River Raisin Watershed for over 50 years!

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NATIVE PLANT SALE RETURNS THIS MAY



Last May, we hosted our first **Native Plant Sale** and were thrilled by the incredible turnout from our community. Gardeners, landowners, and native plant enthusiasts gathered to shop, learn, and connect over a shared interest in supporting our local environment. With three local native plant vendors offering a wide selection of species, **hundreds of plants found new homes throughout our watershed.**

The event was more than just a plant sale, it became a community celebration! Over 15 partner organizations joined us to table and share resources on conservation, gardening, water quality, and habitat restoration. Guests also enjoyed live music from Bob Bransky, food from Pita Delight, and drinks from the Musgrove and Company beverage cart, making it a lively and welcoming day for all who attended.

Native plants play a critical role in **supporting pollinators, improving soil health, and protecting our waterways.** Because they are native to our local climate and soils, they require less watering and maintenance than non-native plants, while providing essential **habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.** By planting native species, residents can make a meaningful impact right in their own yards.

Due to the success of last year's event, we are excited to bring the Native Plant Sale back as an annual event on May 29th!



New this year: Early Bird tickets are now available. For \$5 per person, attendees can enter the sale one hour early to get first access to plants before the general crowd arrives. Early Bird tickets will be limited, so we encourage you to purchase them soon if you want the best selection.

General admission to the event will still be free and open to the public.

Join us again this spring to celebrate native plants, connect with local partners, and help grow healthier habitats across our community!

- Lydia Lopez,
Water Stewardship Coordinator



Don't Miss It!

Native Plant Sale May 29th
FREE & Open to the Public

More info & tickets:
riverraisin.org/plant-sale

Partner

Partner • Sponsor • Collaborate • Host

Protect

Reduce Runoff • Conserve • Learn • Advocate

Preserve

Plant Native • Restore • Steward • Support

Volunteer, Donate, or get involved in ways that matter to you.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK WITH SEAN DENNIS



Spring is here, and at RRWC we're heading into one of our busiest and most exciting seasons yet. From our annual Native Plant Sale to our Adopt-A-Stream program, along with a full slate of projects and educational presentations, there's a lot ahead. I'm genuinely excited to see what this season and the rest of the year will bring.

As the season unfolds, I encourage you to stay connected and get involved where you can. We are actively rebuilding and growing our volunteer base, and there are opportunities for everyone to contribute. We're also seeking monthly donors, at any level, to help sustain and expand this work over time. If you're able, please consider becoming a monthly supporter by visiting riverraisin.org and clicking the "Donate" button.

Thank you for being part of our mission to preserve, protect, and enhance the River Raisin watershed.

What's certain is this: none of it happens without you. Our partners, supporters, and volunteers are what keep this work moving forward. If you're reading this, you're already part of that effort in some way; and for that, I'm truly grateful.

One of the biggest milestones on the horizon is the long-anticipated Brooklyn Dam removal project. Many of you have followed its progress over the years, and it's been a priority for RRWC well before my time here. I'm honored to help carry it across the finish line alongside our dedicated partners. While construction has not yet begun, we expect work to start this summer, with regular updates to be shared on our website. I want to extend a sincere thank you to the funders and partners whose persistence and collaboration continue to make this project possible.





COMMUNITY EFFORT BRINGS RELIEF TO FLOODED AREA



After nearly 25 years of persistent flooding along Macon Creek near Bigelow and Stowell Roads in Dundee Township, a major log jam that had long blocked water flow was cleared last July, thanks to the determined efforts of resident Micaela Bogi and a coalition of local supporters. Macon Creek flows into the River Raisin a short distance away.

Bogi, who moved to the affected area six years ago from nearby Dundee, quickly realized the severity of the flooding caused by the massive log jam—a problem that had plagued her neighbors for decades, often requiring long detours. The issue was first brought to RRWC attention by Dundee Township Trustee Tim Miles, who advocated for a solution but noted the challenge faced by property owners, who are typically responsible for the cost of removal.

Recognizing that it was unfair for individual landowners to bear the burden alone, Bogi took action. She enlisted the help of her neighbor Tom Simon, owner of an excavating company, and obtained an estimate of \$22,000 for the removal work. To help cover expenses, Bogi spearheaded a fundraising campaign in April, seeking donations from local businesses and the broader community.

Her efforts paid off: Holcim US Inc. stepped up with a \$5,000 donation, which covered fuel and other essential costs, including the permit fee required by EGLE (the Michigan Department of Environment,

Great Lakes, and Energy). Additional community support came from Dundee Truck and Trim (\$500), BASE Contracting (\$500), and a GoFundMe campaign that raised \$200. All funding was routed through the River Raisin Watershed Council (RRWC) due to its nonprofit status.

By July, with the necessary resources in place, Tom Simon was able to complete the removal process while the road was temporarily closed for bridge repairs. The results were immediate: flooding in the area has been significantly reduced. The funds raised covered fuel and other expenses but did not cover the cost of labor.

The success of this log jam removal highlights both the challenges and the importance of community action in addressing long-standing environmental issues. While the responsibility for such work typically falls to landowners, Bogi’s initiative and the support from local businesses and residents demonstrate what’s possible when a community comes together. The RRWC continues to explore ways to assist with similar efforts, while recognizing that their resources are limited and each situation is unique.

As Trustee Tim Miles noted in a follow-up, continued collaboration among landowners, local government, and environmental agencies will be key to keeping Dundee Township’s waterways flowing freely.

- Sybil Kolon, Manchester Township

Before Removal

After Removal





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UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Earth Day Weekend (Apr 25–26)

Monroe • Cement City • Milan

Tree Plantings

April 25 | Monroe • May 1 | Milan • May 2 | Tecumseh • May 16 | Adrian

Adopt-A-Stream & Monitoring Events

May 10 – Stream Search – Brooklyn

May 16 – Stream Search – Adrian & Clayton

May 17 – Stream Search – Dundee

May 23 – Stream Search – Milan

June 13 – Bug ID Day – Tecumseh

Programs & Workshops

May 7 – Nature Narratives Book Club – Tecumseh

May 23 – In-Hive Beekeeping (Hive Inspection) – Adrian

June 4 – Nature Narratives Book Club – Tecumseh

June 6 – In-Hive Beekeeping (Splits & Swarm Management) – Adrian

June 13 – In-Hive Beekeeping (Queen Rearing) – Adrian

Native Plant Sale — May 29

For more info and to register: riverraisin.org/upcoming-events

We want to extend a special thank you to our 2025 donors!

Individual Supporters:

Michael Ayre, Robert Clark, Jeffrey Fineske, Philip Kittredge, Sybil Kolon, Dr. Carley Kratz, David Malmquist, Thomas McKarns, Morgan Ringel, Harry Sheehan

Corporate and Foundation Partners:

Fred and Barbara Erb Family Foundation
Washtenaw County Water Resources
Niswander Environmental

SCAN TO DONATE



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