

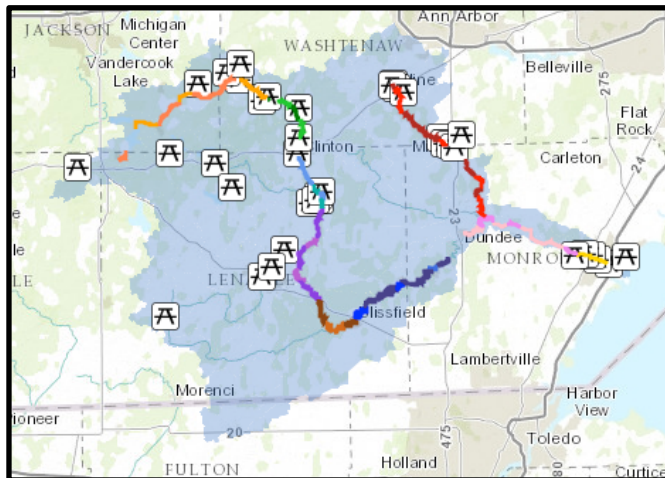


Streamlines

Spring 2015

Paddling the River Raisin

Last year the RRWC developed a water-trails map to help local citizens and visitors plan outdoor adventures in the watershed. The map includes parks and preserves that are open to public, in addition to possible paddling trails along the Raisin and Saline Rivers. The length of each trail is estimated, along with portage points.



You can find a link to the searchable map on our homepage. The map is a work in progress, and we need your input to improve it. This year we would like to mark locations where people have encountered log-jams, or other obstacles. Our long-term goal is to improve access to the river and make paddling easier by cutting passable channels through these log-jams in an ecologically responsible manner.

There are currently two canoe liveries along the River Raisin where you can rent a canoe or kayak to explore the river on your own, or take a guided paddling tour of the River Raisin. This offers a great opportunity to enjoy paddling on well-maintained water-trails.

The Tecumseh Paddling Company (TPC) is located in Tecumseh at Satterthwaite Park. TPC offers a half day guided paddle from Clinton to Tecumseh, a two hour paddle around the Tecumseh area, and paddling practice for beginners on the mill pond behind the park. Stand-up paddleboards are also available for use on the mill pond.

The River Raisin Canoe Livery is located on Plank Road, just east of Dundee. The River Raisin Canoe Livery offers a half day trip from Dundee to the livery, and a day long paddle from Petersburg back to the livery. Campsites are available at the livery for overnight stays, and paddle boats can be rented for use on the river directly behind the livery.

For more information visit these websites

River Raisin Water-Trails & Parks Map
www.riverraisin.org

Tecumseh Paddling Company
www.tecumsehpadding.com

River Raisin Canoe Livery
www.riverraisincanoelivery.com

Educational Resources

The primary goal of the RRWC is to help educate our citizens about water quality. Every living organism relies on clean water to survive, but sometimes it is unclear how our activities can impact water in indirect ways. We frequently provide educational presentations for both children and adults to address these gaps in knowledge. The RRWC has several different resources that are freely available to the public including activity books, reference books, maps and models.

Our "Surfin' the Watershed" activity books can be printed off of our website, and we distribute free copies to children and teachers. We have a small library of reference books, and can help guide you to online resources for specific topics. The River Raisin Watershed Management Plan is also available on our website, and contains a wealth of information on the watershed. We also have maps of the watershed that are frequently distributed to the public.



Our "Surfin' the Watershed" activity book (Top Left), Ward's Stormwater Model (Top Right), EnVision Ground Water Model (Bottom Left), and Environscape Surface Water Model (Bottom Right). These are a few of the educational resources that are available through the RRWC. You can also schedule an educational presentation on any topic related to environmental science with our Program Director.

The RRWC also owns or has access to three different models. The models are extremely effective teaching tools that show how water moves throughout the landscape. We were recently able to purchase a Ward's Stormwater Model with a generous donation from MIS Cares. This model shows how different types of land-use can impact the amount of water that enters a stream or river after a storm. Paved areas do not absorb as much rainfall as areas with plants, which can cause flooding downstream without proper stormwater management. We also have access to an EnVision Ground Water Model, which uses food coloring to show how pollution can move through soil and bedrock layers to contaminate drinking water and

surface water. Our Environscape model shows how water, pollution and erosion move over the surface of the land, and demonstrates the importance of wetlands to maintaining a healthy watershed. All three of these models can be borrowed from the RRWC, or our Program Director can assist in hand-on educational sessions using the models. All age groups enjoy these demonstrations, and activities can be tailored to the audience for an optimal learning experience.

The RRWC also has educational resources related to our Adopt-A-Stream program, which emphasize the importance of using macroinvertebrate "bugs" as indicators of water quality. These "bugs" also constitute an

important part of the food-web for wildlife such as fish and birds that live in the watershed. We have laminated posters and dichotomous keys that can be borrowed, in addition to more technical references related to macroinvertebrate identification. The RRWC also has access to a collection of preserved "bugs" that have been collected from the River Raisin. These can be useful tools to teach both children and adults about an important part of our ecosystem that is often overlooked. You can also join us each fall and spring in our long-term water quality monitoring Adopt-A-Stream program, which is a volunteer led effort now in its 13th year.

Contact Us!



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RRWC Executive Committee

Chair Stephen May
Drain Commissioner & Lenawee County Representative

Vice Chair Sybil Kolon
Manchester Township Representative, Washtenaw County

Secretary Hedi Kaufman
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Director David Hoffman
County Commissioner & Monroe County Representative

Director Evan Pratt
Water Resources Commissioner & Washtenaw County Representative

Program Director Carley Kratz, Ph.D.
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Volunteer Efforts



Recently a group of Americorp NCCC volunteers did an independent service project to help us cleanup garbage and log jams in Napoleon and Norvell Townships. The group is stationed at YMCA Storer Camps in Napoleon. Modern Waste Systems accepted the garbage free-of-charge. Log jam removals near Norvell will improve the paddling experiences of disabled veterans who visit Camp Liberty.

Volunteers are an integral part of our programs. Anyone can join our volunteer task-force to help at our River Raisin Rescue Cleanups, Adopt-A-Stream "bug" sampling to monitor water quality, to staff fair booths, and to help manage woody debris in the river. Contact us to get involved!

River Raisin Receives Funding to Help Reduce Algae Blooms in Lake Erie

Several conservation organizations in the River Raisin Watershed have recently received funding to help reduce nutrient run-off into the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). These projects were funded as a part of a nationwide effort to stop algal blooms that negatively impact access to clean drinking water. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was awarded \$17.5 million by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to be used in the WLEB. This funding will be distributed directly to landowners by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in an effort to increase best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient run-off contributing the algal blooms.

The Stewardship Network (TSN) Grand-Raisin Cluster was awarded for \$745,000 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. This funding will help support RRWC outreach and education efforts for the next three years. In addition to hosting watershed education events at K-12 schools, the RRWC will partner with the Army Corp of Engineers to host Sediment Transport Analysis and Regional Training (START) workshops. These workshops will teach volunteers and students how to use online resources to model the potential

for soil erosion, and will also include outdoor monitoring sessions. The first training using online models was held in April. We will hold more training and monitoring sessions throughout 2015.

The RRWC continues to be supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in a partnership project with the Lenawee County Conservation District. The NFWF funding allows us to promote the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), and provide opportunities to bring farmers from the fields to the waters of the Great Lakes for tall ship sails and laboratory tours. The GLRI funding will help to expand the number of these experiential learning events.

The Farmer's Advisory Committee will continue to be an important part of the conversation between farmers and agency staff. We now have a website dedicated to the committee, and outreach continues to bring more farmers into the discussion. The GLRI funding will also allow us to start an exciting Pay-for-Performance project, which will provide incentive payments to help farmers implement BMPs.

2015 Spring Meeting Watching Wildlife in the Watershed



Presentations

Speaker: Carley Kratz, RRWC Program Director
Topic: RRWC Water-Trails and Adopt-A-Stream Update

Speaker: Jeffrey Braunscheidel, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist
Topic: Fish That Can Be Found in the River Raisin Watershed

Speakers: Francie Krawcke & Dody Wyman, Leslie Science and Nature Center
Topic: River Raisin Raptors

Join us in celebration of Earth Day!
Share your ideas, questions,
comments, concerns and stories about
the River Raisin in your community.
We need your input!

When: April 22nd
Refreshments Served at 5:30 PM
Official Program Begins at 6 PM

Where: Cabela's in Dundee

Partnership Highlight-The Stewardship Network Grand-Raisin Cluster

Conceived to promote the science and art of land restoration in the River Raisin Watershed, the then "Raisin Cluster" was formed in late 2002. Each year since, we have offered public workshops on subjects of interest to those who would explore and interact with native habitats.

Whether it is a small corner of a residential lot or an entire landscape, cluster philosophy would have us appreciate how we are nurtured by the act of nurturing land. Through partnerships and networking, we learn to read landscapes and we learn stewardship techniques. We develop working relationships with land and those who would manage land to benefit the beauty and diversity in nature. In a nutshell, The Stewardship Network connects, equips and mobilizes people and organizations to care for lands and waters in their communities.

Reconfigured in 2015, the renamed "Grand-Raisin Cluster" seeks partnerships in areas within Lenawee, Jackson, Hillsdale and SW Washtenaw Counties.

For more information & events go to:
<http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/>



Grand Raising Cluster 2015 Events	Date	Time	Location
A Panacea of Plants at Public Parks	May 24 th	1-4 PM	Ervin-Stucki & Riverbend Washtenaw County Perserves, Bridgewater Township
Wildflower Walkabout	June 6 th	9:30 AM-Noon	Goose Creek Grasslands, Cement City
Terrestrial and Aquatic Networks: Implications of New Collaborations	June 19 th	9:30 AM-3 PM	LISD Center for a Sustainable Future, Adrian
Managing Land on a Large Scale: Lessons Still Being Learned at Hidden Lake Gardens	July 11 th	9:30 AM-Noon	Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton
Land Management at Haehnle Sanctuary: Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Large-Scale Restoration Projects	August 29 th	9:30 AM-Noon	Haehnle Sanctuary, Pleasant Lake