



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

April 2018

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #32**

Happy Spring!



Spring is here, and so are many new initiatives and projects from the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management! In the coming months, the GLRC will be holding a half day seminar for members to learn from consultants, labs, and stormwater experts and discuss innovative new strategies to improve their programs. Planning for the event has just begun, but we are anticipating a mid-June date for the seminar. IDEP field training is also being scheduled for late July, and GLRC coordinator Cliff Walls continues to meet with municipal communications staff to perform mock audits on websites and refresh staff of PEP obligations.

To assess the environmental awareness of the public and gauge the success of the GLRC's Public Education campaign, the GLRC is performing a follow up to the 2006 and 2012 Regional Water Quality Survey this spring! Mail, digital, and phone surveys will be sent to a sample pool in May, resulting in a statistically valid assessment of the public's knowledge of watershed and stormwater issues. Six hundred responses (two hundred per watershed) will be used to guide the GLRC's future efforts and help us identify knowledge gaps in our region. The survey firm will be presenting their final report at the Full Committee meeting on June 7th, and we are excited to learn the results and share them with our regional partners.

And in the spirit of spring, the GLRC is also participating in upcoming Earth Day, river clean-up, and rain barrel building events. If you are interested in getting involved or volunteering, please contact Cliff Walls, GLRC Coordinator at cwalls@mitcrpc.org or 517.393.0342 x 20.

Local Events

Lansing Board of Water and Light - Adopt-a-River: May 12th, 2018

Participate in the annual Adopt-a-River cleanup at Impression 5 Science Center! To get involved:

- Bring your own gloves and a water bottle (gloves are not provided)
- Join fellow participants for a free lunch following the clean up
- Explore the onsite environmental fair and enjoy free admission to Impression 5 Science Center

The GLRC will be participating at the environmental fair, sharing our Envirosapes watershed exhibit with attendees.

More information on the event can be found at <https://lbwl.com/aar/>

Ingham Conservation District Rain Barrel Workshop: May 19th, 2018

The GLRC is partnering with the Ingham Conservation District in putting on a Community Rain Barrel workshop for individuals and groups across Ingham County who manage public gardens or other green space. Learn about water quality issues impacting our local watersheds and how rain barrels can help. Participants will help assemble barrels and then receive one for their location. Barrels must be installed in publicly visible locations to showcase the value of rain barrels and promote water quality.

With funding from the GLRC, REACH Art Center in Lansing has been creatively painting each barrel. The GLRC coordinator will also attend to pass out green infrastructure educational materials to attendees.

More information on the event can be found at www.inghamconservation.com/events

GLRC Coordinator Cliff Walls displayed the committee's Envirosapes watershed model to those attending the MSU Science Festival on April 7th!





Responsible Car Washing

Most storm drains found in our streets and neighborhoods empty into our rivers and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our shared surface waterbodies! While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in rivers and lakes makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

In recent years sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like excess fertilizer applications, cars leaking oil, pet waste and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too, and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean. For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit www.mywatersheds.org.

How Can You Care For Your Yard AND Help Keep Our Environment Clean?

Sweep it: Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.

Buy low and go slow: First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water. Follow the manufacturer's recommended amounts, and don't fertilize before a rain storm.

Hire smart: Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.

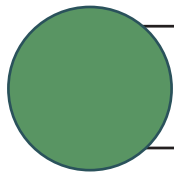
Mow high: Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.

Don't over water your lawn and garden: Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

Go natural: Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. And, consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.

Make fertilizer-free zones: Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.

Upcoming Meetings

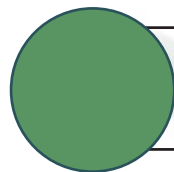


GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

June 7th, 2018

8:00am

Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

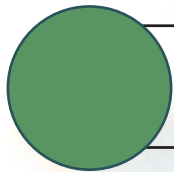


GLRC Full Committee Meeting

June 7th, 2018

9:30am

Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911



GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

September 13th, 2018

8:30am

Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

Training Events

May 8th (8:30am-10:00am) & May 10th (1:30pm-3:00pm) at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

The GLRC will be showing Excal's IDEP and Pollution Prevention training videos on the above dates. Staff only need to attend one date, though two are scheduled to accommodate scheduling and staffing conflicts. Members can reserve spots at the training with the GLRC Coordinator.

GLRC Members:

Clinton County
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
Eaton County
City of Grand Ledge

Ingham County
Lansing Charter Township
Lansing School District
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Meridian Charter Township
Michigan State University
Waverly Community Schools



**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Administrative Support:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing MI 48911
517-393-0342

Photo Recap



Future scientists learning about watersheds at the MSU Science Festival



GLRC Coordinator Cliff Walls exhibiting at the Quiet Water Symposium



A flooded Red Cedar approaching a Pollution Isn't Pretty sign during February's flood event!

Produced by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission



**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Mid-Michigan's Future Together Since 1956

Stay Connected.

Follow the GLRC and TCRPC online for updates on regional planning and stormwater management!



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@TriCountyPlanning**



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@MI_TCRPC**



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