



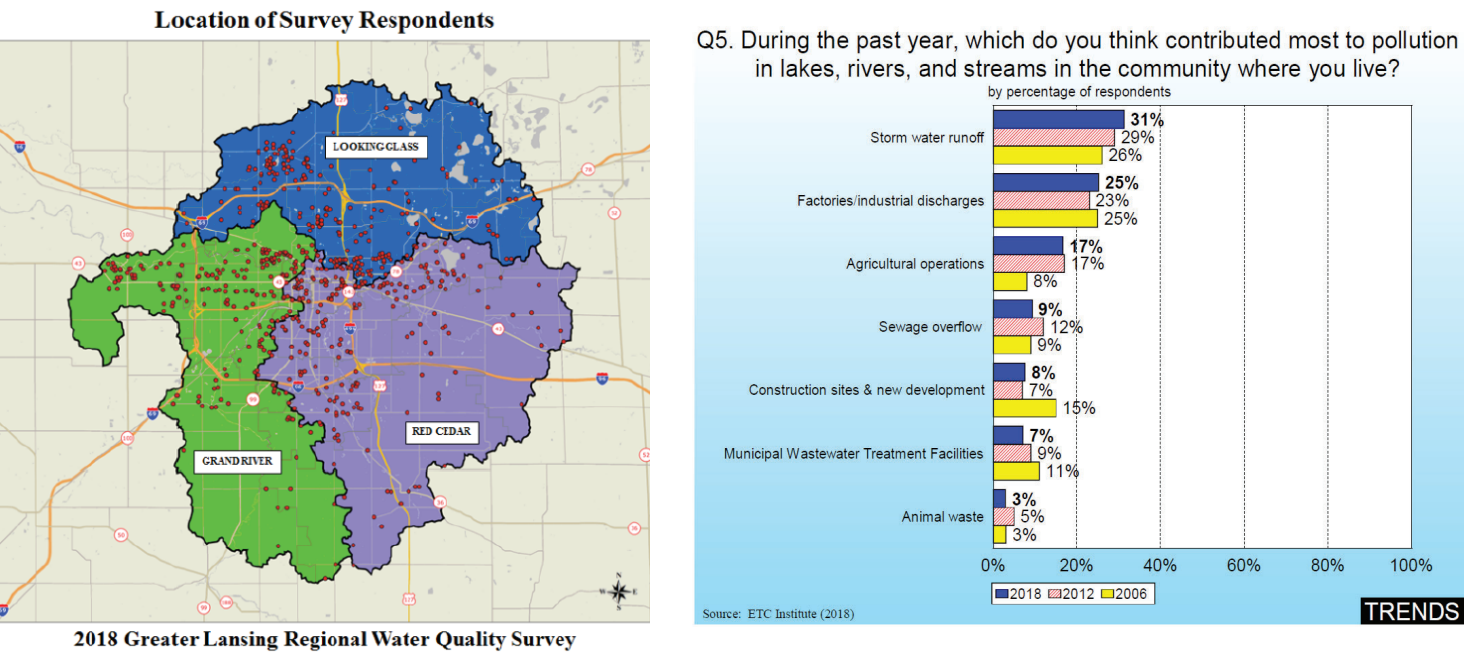
**GREATER LANSING  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**  
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)



***October 2018***  
**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
**ISSUE #34**

# 2018 Regional Water Quality Survey



The GLRC's 2018 Regional Water Quality Survey results are in! The survey was administered this summer through phone, mail, and digital questionnaires and completed by over 600 randomly selected residents throughout the Grand River, Red Cedar, and Looking Glass River urbanized watersheds. The GLRC Public Education subcommittee uses the survey data to inform future outreach strategies and to identify knowledge gaps within the region. Results are compared to the GLRC's 2006 and 2012 surveys to determine if outreach campaigns have been effective in educating the public or if new approaches should be adopted in the upcoming MS4 permit cycle.

Below are some key take-aways from the final report:

- More people realize that their actions at home impact water quality in their community. Only 24% of respondents said their actions have "little effect" or "no effect", compared to 36% in 2006.
- 89% of respondents believe local water quality affects the Great Lakes.
- Over time, more respondents have correctly indicated that "stormwater runoff" contributes most to water pollution.
- The majority of people understand where storm drains lead.
- 14% of respondents were familiar with the GLRC.
- Respondents prefer to learn about environmental issues and initiatives through social media.
- The majority of respondents are willing to pay more in taxes, utilities, and housing to improve water quality in their community.

The 2018, 2012, and 2006 survey final reports are available at [www.mywatersheds.org/for-municipalities-1](http://www.mywatersheds.org/for-municipalities-1). The public and partners are encouraged to use and share these reports freely.

Reach out to GLRC Coordinator Cliff Walls at [CWalls@mitcrpc.org](mailto:CWalls@mitcrpc.org) with any questions.

# Fall Leaf Management

Autumn leaves may be beautiful, but they can cause a variety of issues for stormwater drainage systems and the waterways they discharge into.

An obvious consequence of falling leaves is flooding. Large bunches of leaves can blow into stormwater drains, clog the grates and pipes, and slow or stop water from draining. This can cause homes and yards to flood and impact road safety.

A less obvious concern is nutrient loading. Decaying leaves can rob aquatic habitats of oxygen and account for more than half of the annual amount of phosphorus found in urban stormwater, a nutrient known to cause toxic algal blooms.

Though leaves are natural, we've altered the environment in a way that can amplify the impact of seemingly harmless "pollution." In a natural environment, leaves would decay in place and most rain runoff and nutrients would be absorbed into the soil. But in urban areas, drainage systems collect and concentrate contaminated runoff from entire neighborhoods, communities, and watersheds, discharging it into common points. In this system, nutrients from leaves (and any other pollutant) can reach and impact waterways far from their point of origin.

For these reasons and more, communities sweep their streets and may offer free yard waste disposal or curbside leaf pickup for homeowners. You can help protect water quality by following these tips:

- Mulch mow! Set your mower to the highest setting, chop up those leaves, and leave them to fertilize your lawn.
- If utilizing curbside pickup, store leaves away from drains while awaiting pick-up.
- If you notice a clogged drain, remove leaves from the grates (if you can safely do so), or call your local public works department.
- If you notice that a catch basin is frequently clogged, alert public works of the problem area.

Leaf-clogged drains can cause localized flooding, damage property, and impact road safety! Keep leaves clear of any storm drain and safely remove obstructions or call your local public works department.

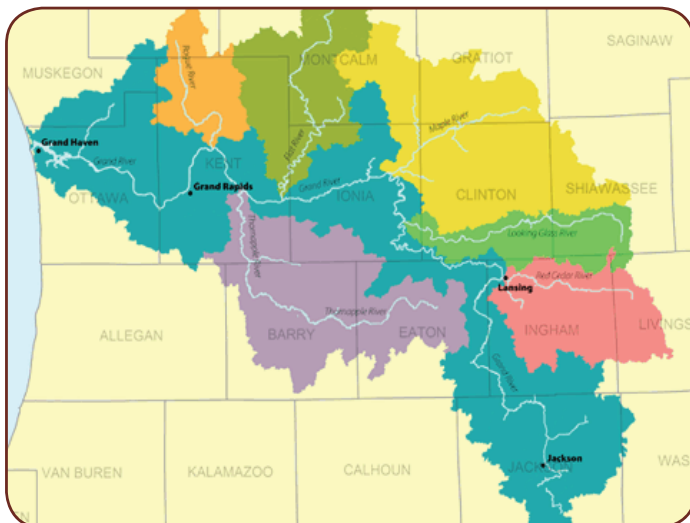




## Oil and Water Don't Mix

Most oil pollution is different than the pictures you see of oil covered beaches or large spills. In fact, poorly maintained vehicles are one of the biggest contributors of oil to our waterways. Leaking automotive fluid goes from car to street, street to storm drain, and from the drain to our rivers, lakes and streams. With over 250 million cars on the road, small leaks and spills add up to big problems. Just one pint of motor oil can create a slick larger than a football field and it's estimated that Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year!

The mid-Michigan area is home to three watersheds - the Grand River, Red Cedar River, and Looking Glass River Watersheds - and all land within this area drains to Lake Michigan. Keeping automotive fluids, litter, and other pollutants off the ground is the best way to keep them out of the Great Lakes!



## Vehicle Maintenance Tips

- Repair any leaks and drips from your vehicle. This includes: motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze/coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, gasoline and other lubricants. Remember, these chemicals are also dangerous to your pets.
- If you choose to change your own oil, do not dump the used oil in the yard, on your driveway, or in a storm drain. Find a local business that will recycle the used oil or drop it off at a community collection event.
- Do not use used motor oil to control dust on gravel drive-ways.
- Wash your car on the grass to filter out impurities or take it to a commercial car wash where the water is reclaimed and treated (check local ordinances first).
- Basic automotive maintenance such as tune-ups, proper tire inflation, and efficient driving practices saves on fuel, as well as water and air pollution.
- Abandoned vehicles should be taken to a scrap yard or donated to a local charity. Old cars sitting in fields or driveways will leak oil and fuel.

# Upcoming Meetings

## GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

**December 13th, 2018**

8:00am

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

## GLRC Full Committee Meeting

**December 13th, 2018**

9:30am

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

## Dog Photo Contest

Keep an eye on the GLRC Facebook and website! We'll be holding a photo contest to determine which dogs will win prizes and be featured on our 2019 calendar!

Stay tuned!



## 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

# IDEP Training



Outfall screening demonstration near Hawk Island County Park.

The GLRC organizes multiple training opportunities for members each year and the Outfall Field Screening training gave everyone a chance to enjoy the beautiful summer weather! Special thanks to Spicer Group for refreshing staff on Illicit Discharge Elimination Program requirements, screening protocols, and for demonstrating new tools and equipment.



GLRC members' staff at Hawk Island Park for IDEP field training!

Produced by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission



## Stay Connected.

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



@GLRC4Stormwater  
@TriCountyPlanning



@GLRC4Stormwater  
@MI\_TCRPC



**GREATER LANSING  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**  
FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT  
[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)