

FOCUS ON WATER PICTURE YOURSELF HERE



PHOTO CONTEST

TAKE YOUR
BEST SHOT
AND WIN
COOL PRIZES!



**Alliance of
Downriver
Watersheds**
OURS TO PROTECT

THE ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS 2022 COMMUNITY CALENDAR
A MONTH-BY-MONTH LOOK AT OUR REMARKABLE WATERWAYS... AND EVERYDAY ACTIONS FOR PROTECTING THEM.

FOCUS ON WATERSHEDS

Downriver waterways are nothing short of amazing. They play a vital role in our daily lives. In many ways, they make our lives possible. Thanks to these rivers and watersheds, we can enjoy healthy ecosystems. Safe drinking water. Thriving towns and cities. Diverse wildlife. And inviting places to swim, fish, paddle, socialize, exercise or simply enjoy nature.

In this year's calendar, we celebrate the beauty and benefits of Downriver waterways by spotlighting some of the many images we received from participants in last year's Monthly Photo Contests.

Now we're encouraging you to join in. Take photos, win prizes! Check out the topic for the month. Grab your camera or your phone. Then visit one of the area's many natural destinations or explore the hidden wonders of your neighborhood and even your own backyard. Let yourself be inspired. And share your favorite images with us. It's that easy.

PICTURE THIS:
A MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST THAT
FOCUSES ON DOWNRIVER WATERWAYS...
AND OFFERS GREAT PRIZES.

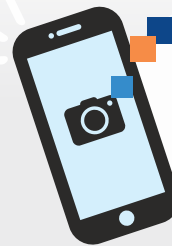


PHOTO CONTEST

Gift certificates to Downriver businesses: Riverside Kayak Connection, H2E River Adventure, Motor City Canoe Rental, Portofino, Big Bear Lodge, Major Tomato, and many more. Learn more at allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com/photocontest

THREE TIPS FOR GREAT PHOTOS:



Take advantage of your natural surroundings:

There are wonders to explore in your yard, neighborhood, or local park.



Think about light: The best time to take nature photos is when the sun is low and the light is warmer and softer.



Composition, composition, composition:

Consider including a focal point, following the rules of thirds, or shooting from a lower angle.



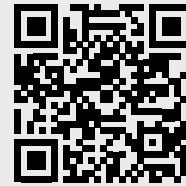
PICTURE YOURSELF
PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

FOCUS ON HOW YOU USE WATER



The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW) is a council of 21 communities and public agencies working together to protect and sustainably manage the area's water resources. The ADW area includes Ecorse Creek, the lower Huron River, and the combined Downriver watersheds.

To learn more about the ADW and Downriver watersheds, visit allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com



Focus on Watersheds A watershed is the area of land where water—including rainfall—collects and drains into a river, lake or ocean. On the map below, you'll see how land in the Downriver area contains smaller creeks and streams that flow into larger creeks and rivers. These watersheds drain into the Detroit River and Lake Erie.

Focus on Drinking Water Drinking water for the Downriver area comes from several sources, including Lake Erie and the Detroit River. By keeping harmful pollutants out of runoff that goes into storm drains, Downriver residents can protect the drinking water quality of 126 southeast Michigan communities. This community calendar provides simple household tips for keeping our water clean.

Focus on Runoff Our everyday actions have a direct impact on the quality of regional waterways, large and small. Even a community many miles from a lake or river can pollute it. For instance, excess fertilizer used on a lawn 20 miles away from Lake Erie will wash into a storm drain with rainfall and then flow from local creeks into the lake, where it can cause harmful algae blooms.

Focus on Solutions Fortunately, there are simple daily actions that you can take to help prevent water pollution. Twelve of them are featured in this calendar. We hope you'll try them all.



PICTURE YOURSELF
ENJOYING OUR WATERWAYS

FOCUS ON FUN

Detroit Heritage River Water Trail Enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife of the Detroit, Huron, Rouge and Raisin rivers by canoe or kayak. The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail provides a map of paddling routes complete with a list of access points and suggested trips. michiganwatertrails.org

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Yours to explore: 6,000 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of Detroit River and Western Lake Erie shorelines. fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river

Elizabeth Park With its 1,300-foot riverwalk, this county park in Trenton is an ideal place for fishing, river watching and year-round activities. Here, you can rent a canoe or kayak, cycle, hike, cross-country ski, even ice skate. waynecounty.com and elizabethparkmarina.com

Huron River National Water Trail This 104-mile (167 km) inland paddling trail connects people to the river and its history. Paddlers can stop at five Trail Towns along the way—Milford, Dexter, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Flat Rock. huronriverwatertrail.org

Huron Clinton Metroparks For a relaxing getaway, visit one of the several metroparks located along the shores of the lower Huron River and Lake Erie (Lower Huron, Oakwoods, Willow, and Lake Erie). metroparks.com

Pointe Mouillée State Game Area One of the largest freshwater marsh restoration projects in the world, this area consists of wetlands, diked marshes and river bayous that offer some of the best shorebird viewing in the state. michigan.gov/dnr

Summer Discovery Cruises, Michigan

Sea Grant These fun, educational cruises of Lake Erie, the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair offer an opportunity to learn about lighthouses, bootleggers, sturgeon, ecology and much more. miseagrant.umich.edu/sdc

Downriver Linked Greenways The current trail network includes over 100 miles of both water and land trails that reach within a half-mile of every home and connect millions of residents to each other across Downriver. downrivertrails.org



PICTURE YOURSELF
AS PART OF A COMMUNITY

FOCUS ON PRESERVING OUR WATERWAYS...TOGETHER!

What We're Doing: Educating Education about water quality is central to the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds' mission. In April of 2021, 23 Green Schools in the Downriver community participated in the Schools for Clean Water Contest. This friendly competition recruited residents to "pledge" and adopt a nearby storm drain as a way of reducing pollution and trash flow in our local waters.

The competition concluded with 1,235 pledges and 9 Green Schools earning \$5,000 in prize money for educational programming. Chapman Elementary of Rockwood won the \$1,500 grand prize with 371 pledges. Schools are using their

prize money to fund various green initiatives such as school gardens, an outdoor reading garden for special education students, the development of an outside classroom, and beautification of school property.

Other ADW educational programs include mapping of invasive species by local residents, virtual field trips to the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History for elementary school students, and a volunteer Chemistry and Flow Monitoring program. allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com



What You Can Do: Volunteer You can have a big impact by volunteering with one of our cooperating partners. You can participate in river clean ups, water quality monitoring, and keep our streams and rivers clean.



Friends of the Detroit River is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving water quality and habitat along the Detroit River. detroitriver.org

The **Huron River Watershed Council** is a nonprofit organization that protects and restores the river for healthy and vibrant communities. hrwc.org



Photos 2019 (L and R courtesy University of Michigan Museum of Natural History)

JANUARY 2022

Ice Crystals, Bradford Ciecko, Lake Erie



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



To learn about Wayne County's Department of Public Services and their Household Hazardous Waste Collections, as well as other related services, visit owly.link/hazardous-waste

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New Year's Day

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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22
Huron River Watershed Council Stonefly Search, www.hrwc.org

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FOCUS ON WATER

Put poisons in their place.

When possible, avoid using toxic household cleaners and chemicals. Also, remember that household cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint and other toxics should never be poured down a sink, into a storm drain or onto the ground. Always dispose of them at a county collection site. In addition to hosting four Household Hazardous Waste Collections per year, Wayne County publishes a Resource Recovery Guide listing facilities that accept household hazardous waste year-round.

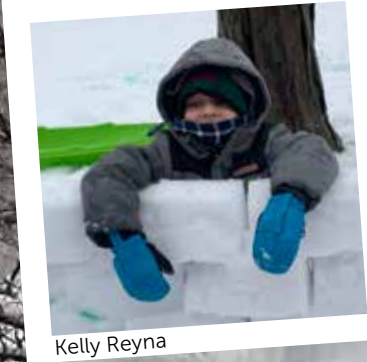


Snap a photo that features a **frozen waterway, snow or ice** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: Dinner for two at TV's Diner in Trenton.

FEBRUARY 2022

Snow Blowing on a Winter Day, Chris Zawistowicz, Grosse Ile



Kelly Reyna



Heather R. Frank



Chris Zawistowicz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chinese New Year	2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents' Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

FOCUS ON WATER

Volunteer!

As a volunteer for the Huron River Watershed Council or the Friends of the Detroit River, you'll have an opportunity to gather essential data for restoration and protection efforts by testing water quality, collecting river bugs, mapping streams, and hiking and assessing natural areas that benefit the river. You can also volunteer to clean up trash, weed rain gardens, help with special events, and label neighborhood storm drains. Sign up at hrwc.org or detroitriver.org.



Snap a photo of a **winter activity** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: Dinner for two at Big Bear Lodge in Brownstown.

MARCH 2022

Berries on the Ice, Chris Zawistowicz



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time begins	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Huron River Watershed Council Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Orientation, Washtenaw County, www.hrwc.org
20 Vernal Equinox	21	22 World Water Day	23	24	25	26 Huron River Watershed Council Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Orientation, Wayne County, www.hrwc.org
27	28	29	30	31		

FOCUS ON WATER

Pick up after your pets.

When left on sidewalks or lawns, pet waste washes directly into storm drains and enters our local waterways in the form of raw, unfiltered sewage. As a pet owner, do your part by scooping, bagging and trashing. It makes for better water quality as well as cleaner sidewalks and happier neighbors.



Snap a photo of **your pet** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com. **This month's prize:** \$100 in pet supplies from Pet Supplies Plus in Taylor.



To learn more, check out this tip sheet from our cooperating partner, the Huron River Watershed Council. hrwc.org/petwaste

APRIL 2022

Blue Hour, Bradford Ciecko, Elizabeth Park



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 April Fool's Day	2 Ramadan
3 Good Deeds Day	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday	11	12	13	14	15 Tax Day Good Friday Passover begins	16
17 Easter Sunday	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Passover ends Huron River Watershed Council River Roundup, www.hrwc.org
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FOCUS ON WATER

Put your lawn on a diet.

Prevent the growth of harmful algae in downstream lakes by avoiding phosphorus-based lawn fertilizers, which are restricted under Michigan law. Instead, control weeds and encourage root growth by letting your grass grow to a height of three inches or more. Then use a mulching mower to put back nutrients and organic matter. To find out what would most benefit your particular lawn, consider testing your soil.

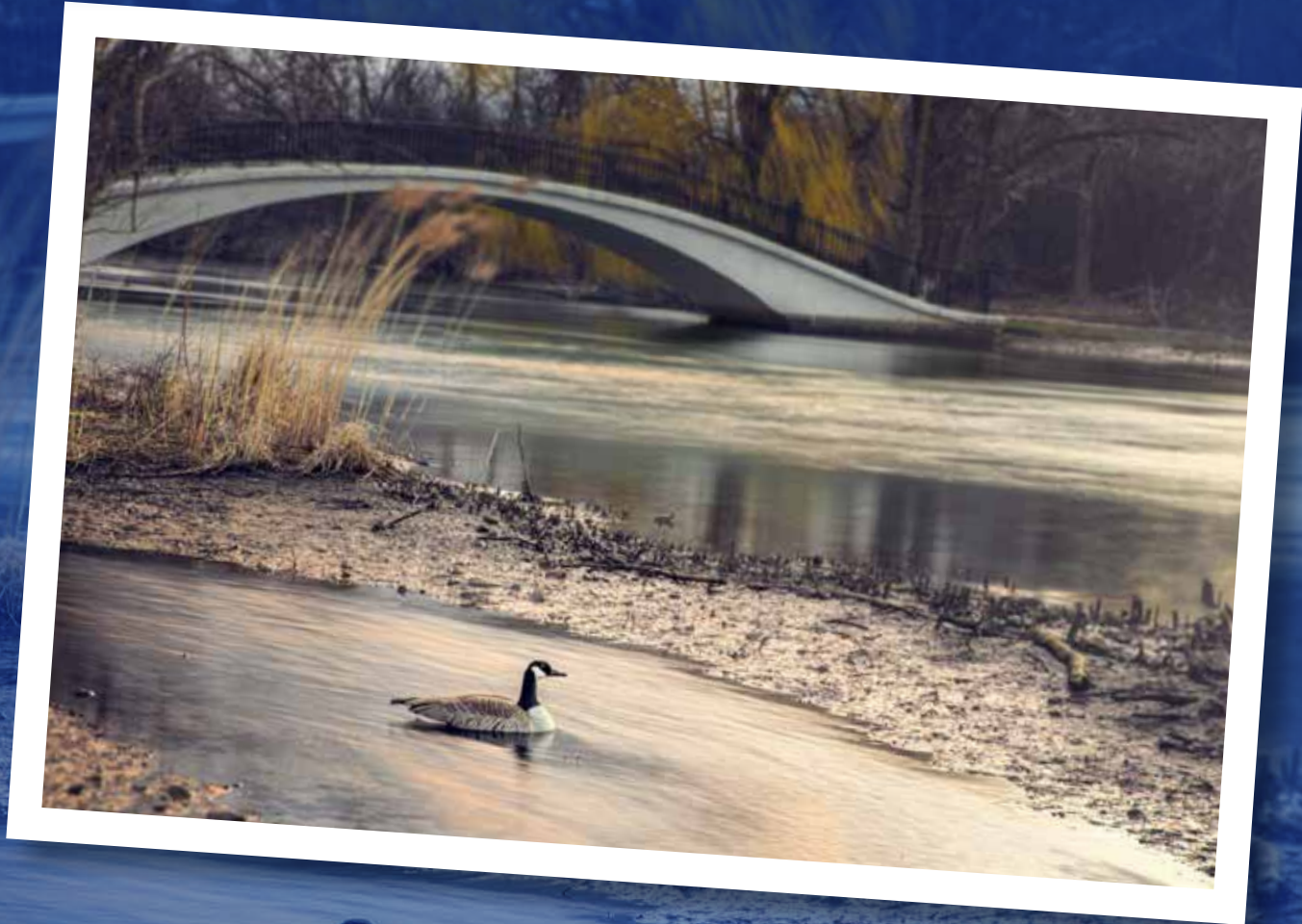


Snap a photo that depicts **spring rain** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: A \$100 gift card from Riverside Kayak Connection in Wyandotte.

MAY 2022

Sunrise Park, Bradford Ciecko, Grosse Ile



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 May is American Wetlands Month Last day of Ramadan	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 World Bird Migration Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

FOCUS ON WATER

Focus on rain gardens— Go native!

Consider creating a beautiful rain garden in a naturally low spot in your yard. Rain gardens use native Michigan plants—like Sand Coreopsis and Black Eyed Susans—that thrive in local conditions while providing habitat for pollinators. With their deep, thirsty roots, these plants capture storm runoff before it has the chance to enter storm drains and pollute our local waterways. To learn more, visit ewashtenaw.org/raingardens



Snap a photo of a **stream, pond, river or other waterway** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: A full-day paddle trip for two from H2E River Adventures in Flat Rock.

JUNE 2022

Detroit River Dog, Karyn Kadau, Sunrise Park, Grosse Ile



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Great Lakes Fresh Water Week begins National Trails Day
5 World Environment Day	6	7	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11
12 Great Lakes Fresh Water Week ends	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 Juneteenth Father's Day	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

FOCUS ON WATER

Choose a safe sealant.

Avoid using coal tar sealcoats on your asphalt driveway. Several Southeast Michigan communities have banned their use because they are high in dangerous polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, many of which are hazardous to human health. Instead, choose readily available safer asphalt-based, acrylic or latex alternatives. Learn more from our cooperating partner, HRWC, at: hrwc.org/coaltar.



Snap a photo showing **flowers or a garden** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: A \$100 gift card from Westcroft Gardens in Grosse Ile.

JULY 2022

Deer, Paula Gravlin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9 Eid al-Adha begins
10 Eid al-Adha ends	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

FOCUS ON WATER

Speak up, speak out.

If you see illegal dumping into curbside storm drains and ditches, don't hesitate. Get on the phone and report the problem. By making that call, you'll be doing your part to protect water quality for our entire community.

Call 1-800-292-4706 to report illegal dumping.

For hazardous or flammable spills, call 9-1-1 immediately.



Snap a photo of **your favorite park** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.



This month's prize: A full-day paddle trip for two from H2E River Adventures in Flat Rock.

AUGUST 2022

Crosswinds Marsh, Karen Johnson, New Boston



Chris Zawistowicz



Andrienne Simowski



Carol Galloway



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FOCUS ON WATER

Clean on the green.

Commercial car washes should always be your first choice, since they're required by law to treat their wastewater. But if you're washing your car at home, park it on the grass. Your lawn will soak up the dirty water, break down the soap, and prevent runoff into the storm drain—and nearby waterways.



Snap a photo of a **stream, pond, river or other waterway** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: A paddle trip for two from Motor City Canoe Rental in Flat Rock.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunrise on the River, Marilyn Rose Galloway, Bishop Park, Wyandotte



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Patriot Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 World Water Monitoring Day	19	20	21	22 Autumnal Equinox	23	24 National Public Lands Day
25 Rosh Hashanah begins World Rivers Day	26	27 Rosh Hashanah ends	28	29	30	



Learn how to properly plant your trees based on their root configuration at: owly.link/planting-trees

FOCUS ON WATER

Plant a tree and reduce runoff.

Consider planting more trees in your yard! They increase your property value and they play a significant role in reducing runoff. Their leaves and bark retain a surprising amount of water—allowing some to evaporate and some to reach the ground more slowly. Depending on size and species, a single tree can store 100 gallons or more. And an urban forest can reduce annual runoff by up to 7 percent.



Snap a photo of a **big tree** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: A paddle trip for two from Motor City Canoe Rental in Flat Rock.

OCTOBER 2022

Big Tree Little Squirrel, Michael Harabedian, Brownstown



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Huron River Watershed Council River Roundup, www.hrwc.org
2	3 Yom Kippur begins	4 Yom Kippur ends	5	6	7	8
9	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Make a Difference Day
23 <hr/> 30	24 United Nations Day 31 Halloween	25	26	27	28	29

FOCUS ON WATER

Mulch away.

There's much to be said for mulch. Leaves and grass that make their way into waterways add excess nutrients and use up valuable oxygen as they decompose. But with the help of a mulching mower, leaves and grass clippings can become a natural fertilizer that stays on your lawn, where it belongs. Be sure to keep your yard waste out of the street, where it could wash into nearby waterways through the storm drains.



Snap a photo of **fall colors** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

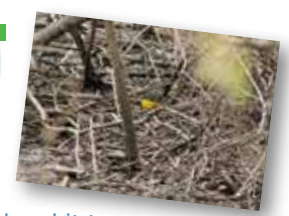
This month's prize: A gift card from Blue Heron Trading Company in Flat Rock.

NOVEMBER 2022

Egret in Flight, Paula Gravlin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time ends	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Family Volunteer Day
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			



FOCUS ON WATER

Don't flush your Rx.

Never flush unused prescription medications. They can pollute local waterways because wastewater treatment plants are not designed to filter out the chemicals. A U.S. Geological Survey study found that 80 percent of sampled streams had detectable levels of compounds found in common medications. Bring your unused medications (for people and pets) to a Drug Take Back program near you.

Snap a photo of **birds or wildlife** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com. **This month's prize:** Dinner for two at Portofino on the River in Wyandotte.



Find a nearby
Drug Take Back location
at: ow.ly/link/take-back



DECEMBER 2022

Christmas in Wyandotte, Chris Zawistowicz, Downtown Wyandotte



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Hanukkah begins	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Hanukkah ends Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

FOCUS ON WATER

Go easy on the salt.

The best way to keep salt out of our streams during cold weather months is by shoveling snow and ice, and doing it early and often. If you occasionally need a de-icer for sidewalks and driveways, choose an environmentally friendly product.



Snap a photo of an **iconic Downriver location or feature** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: Pizza for a week from Major Tomato in Allen Park.

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHS



Bradford Ciecko
Winner, Jan. 2020



Chris Zawistowicz
Winner, Feb. 2020



Chris Zawistowicz
Runner Up, Jan. 2020



Bradford Ciecko
Runner Up, Apr. 2020



Bradford Ciecko
May 2020 entry



Karyn Kadau
Winner, Mar. 2020



Paula Gravlin



Karen Johnson



Marilyn Rose Galloway
Winner, Jul. 2020



Michael Harabedian
Winner, Sept. 2020



Paula Gravlin
Runner Up, Oct. 2020



Chris Zawistowicz
Winner, Dec. 2020



Thank You... to Everyone Who Contributed to This Calendar

The partner communities that produce the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Community Calendar have one shared goal: to educate residents about the impact of their day-to-day actions on rivers, streams and lakes. ADW members recognize that only by working together we can secure our watersheds as a permanent and bountiful source of clean drinking water, natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 photo contest winners and thank you for participating! We made an effort to feature all winning photos, but due to resolution and layout restrictions not all are featured photos.

Sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make this 2022 calendar a reality!

Additional 2020 Focus on Downriver Watersheds Photo Contest Winners



Chris Zawistowicz



Karen Johnson



Michael Harabedian



Bradford Ciecko



Natalie Gamble



Paula Gravlin

Thank you also to these 2020 Focus on Downriver Watersheds Photo Contest participants, whose work is also shown in this 2022 calendar:

Robert Arzadon
Christina Gessner
Sarah Britz

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND RESOURCES



ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com



HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
hrwc.org
734-769-5123



WAYNE COUNTY
waynecounty.com
Main Office: 313-224-0286
Environmental Services: 313-224-3620
24 Hour Environmental Hotline: 888-223-2363

ALLEN PARK
cityoffallenpark.org
313-928-1400

BELLEVILLE
belleville.mi.us
734-697-9323

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us
Public Works: 313-791-6000
Water: 313-791-3450

ECORSE
ecorsemi.gov
313-386-2520

FLAT ROCK
flatrockmi.org
734-782-2455

GIBRALTAR
cityofgibraltar.net
734-676-3900

GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP
grosseile.com
734-676-4422

CITY OF INKSTER
cityofinkster.com
313-563-4232

LINCOLN PARK
lincolnpark.govoffice.com
Public Services: 313-386-9000
Parks & Rec: 313-386-1817

MELVINDALE
melvindale.org
313-429-1040

RIVERVIEW
cityofriverview.com
Public Works: 734-281-4270
Land Preserve: 734-281-4263

ROCKWOOD
rockwoodmi.org
734-379-9496

ROMULUS
romulusgov.com
734-942-7540

SOUTHGATE
southgatemi.org
734-258-3010

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
sumptertwp.com
734-461-6201

TAYLOR
cityoftaylor.com
734-287-6550

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
vanburen-mi.org
734-699-8900

WESTLAND
cityofwestland.com
Public Works: 734-728-1770
Parks & Rec: 734-722-7620

**WOODHAVEN-BROWNSTOWN
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
woodhaven.k12.mi.us
734-783-3300

WYANDOTTE
wyandotte.net
734-324-4540

To report illegal dumping or other environmental pollution concerns, call the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Pollution Emergency Alert System at **800-292-4706** as well as the Wayne County 24 Hour Environmental Hotline **888-223-2363**.



allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com

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