



Summer
PHOTO
CONTEST

TAKE YOUR
BEST SHOT
TO WIN CASH
PRIZES!



Alliance of
Downriver
Watersheds
OURS TO PROTECT

THE ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS 2024 COMMUNITY CALENDAR
FOCUS ON EVERYDAY ACTIONS TO PROTECT OUR REMARKABLE WATERWAYS

FOCUS ON WATERSHEDS

Downriver waterways are nothing short of remarkable. 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.

This year's calendar celebrates the beauty and benefits of Downriver waterways by spotlighting the winning entries from the 2022 Focus on Downriver Water Photo Contest. Thank you to everyone who participated!

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.



Learn about
the ADW!



**ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER
WATERSHEDS**
allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com

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

WAYNE COUNTY
waynecounty.com
Main Office: 313-224-3620
Environmental Services: 313-326-3936
24-Hour Hotline:
1-888-ROAD-CREW (888-762-3273)

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
cityofgibraltarmi.gov
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

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.



ENTER YOUR BEST PHOTOS TO WIN CASH PRIZES! We'll select four winners in each category. First Place \$200; Second Place \$150; Third Place \$100; and Fourth Place \$50. Contest opens June 1, 2024 and closes August 31, 2024.

- Michigan native plants, trees or wildflowers
- Nature in the Downriver area
- A wetland, pond, stream or river in the Downriver area



Photo Contest Info

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

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

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 Hotline: 1-888-ROAD-CREW (888-762-3273).

JANUARY 2024

Elizabeth Park Sunrise, Trenton, Bradford Ciecko



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Mahayana New Year	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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. Get tips and information on local household hazardous waste collections at allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com/hometoxics.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2024 Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Community Calendar! And a special congratulations to all of the 2022 Focus on Downriver Water Photo Contest winners whose photos are featured each month. We appreciate everyone who has participated since the contest first launched in 2018.

FEBRUARY 2024

Police Sledding Contest, Woodhaven, Bob Arzadon



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 February is Black History Month	2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Chinese New Year
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15 Parinirvana Day	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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/volunteer or detroitriver.org.



MARCH 2024

Monarch Butterfly, Brownstown, Rebecca Lowe



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 March is National Women's History Month	4	5	6	7	1 <hr/> 8 Maha Shivarati International Women's Day	2 <hr/> 9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 Ramadan Begins	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Vernal Equinox	20	21	22 World Water Day	23
24 Holi Begins Palm Sunday	25 Holi Ends	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday International Transgender Day of Visibility						

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 at hrwc.org/coaltar.



News from the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

The ADW publishes a quarterly e-newsletter. Get news on initiatives to protect and restore the Downriver watersheds, stormwater pollution prevention tips, upcoming event announcements and more sent right to your inbox. Subscribe at allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

APRIL 2024

Spring Rainfall, Paula Gravlin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April is Arab-American Heritage Month April is National Volunteer Month April Fool's Day	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Last Day of Ramadan	10 Eid al-Fitr	11	12	13
14 Good Deeds Day	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Passover begins Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27 National Prescription Drug Takeback Day, see dea.gov/takebackday
28	29	30 Passover ends				

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.

Learn more at hrwc.org/lawncare.

MAY 2024

White Pelicans, Randy Krause



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 May is National Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month May is American Wetlands Month	2	3	4
5 Yom Hashoah begins Cinco de Mayo	6 Yom Hashoah ends	7	8	9	10	11 World Migratory Bird Day
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

FOCUS ON WATER

Plant a rain garden.

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. Learn more at hrwc.org/landscaping.

JUNE 2024

Quincy's Day at the Beach, Kimberly Addison



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 June is Pride Month (LGBTQIAA+)	3	4	5	6	7	1 Great Lakes Fresh Water Week 8 World Oceans Day
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day Eid al-Adha begins	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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. Learn more at hrwc.org/petwaste.



Photo Contest
Info



Snap a photo showing
**Michigan native plants, trees
or wildflowers** and upload it to
allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.
Win cash prizes!

JULY 2024

Bishop Park, Wyandotte, Rosemary Nicholson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 Al-Hijri New Year begins	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

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.



Photo Contest
Info



Snap a photo of
nature in the Downriver

area and upload it to
allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

Win cash prizes!



AUGUST 2024

American Lotus, Gibraltar Bay, Grosse Ile, Jessica Hancock



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 Raksha Bandhan	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Krishna Janmashtami	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.

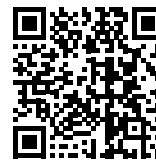


Photo Contest
Info



Snap a photo of a **wetland, pond, stream or river in the Downriver area** and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.
Win cash prizes!



SEPTEMBER 2024

Dreaming Skyward, Bob Arzadon



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 September is Hispanic Heritage Month	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	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	25	26	27	28 National Public Lands Day
29	30					

FOCUS ON WATER

Plant a tree to reduce runoff.

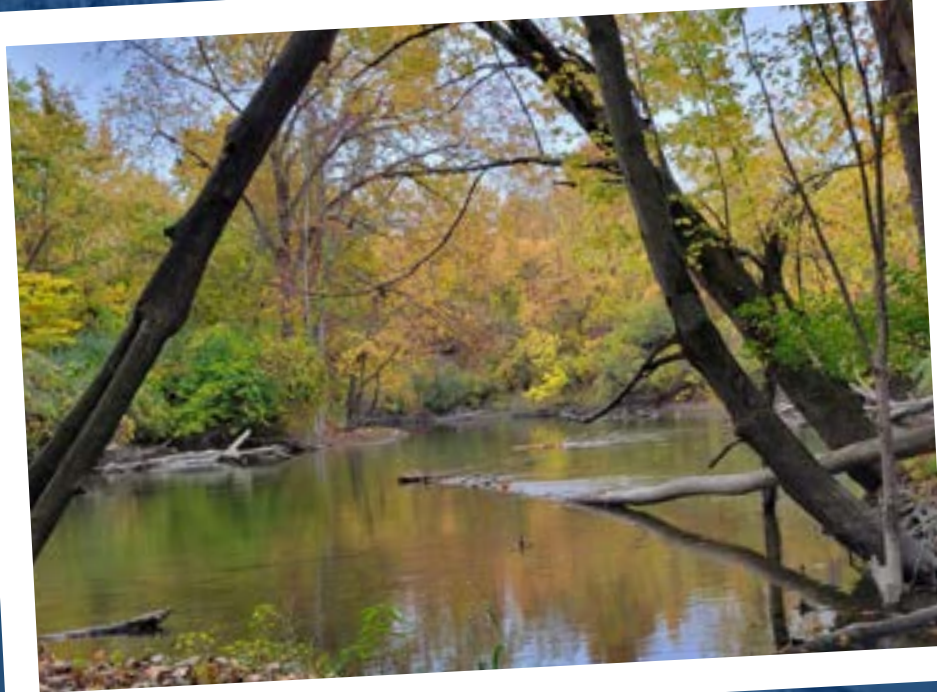
Consider planting more trees in your yard! They increase your property value and they play a significant role in reducing runoff. Their leaves and bark retain a surprising amount of water—allowing some to evaporate and some to reach the ground more slowly. Depending on size and species, a single tree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



Alliance of Downriver Watershed members work together and individually to reduce runoff and prevent pollution. Learn what your community is doing to manage stormwater and provide your feedback at allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com/swmps.

OCTOBER 2024

Fishing the Huron River, Bryan Meldau



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Rosh Hashanah begins Navrati begins	4 Rosh Hashanah ends	5
6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 Yom Kippur begins Navrati ends National Coming Out Day	12 Yom Kippur ends
13	14 Indigenous Peoples' Day	15	16	17 Sukkot begins	18	19
20	21	22	23 Sukkot ends	24 United Nations Day	25	26 Make A Difference Day National Prescription Drug Takeback Day, see dea.gov/takebackday
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

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. Learn more at hrwc.org/lawncare.

October is a great month to "adopt" a neighborhood storm drain. Prevent water pollution and flooding problems by keeping it free of leaves and trash. Your pledge can help a local schools win cash for educational supplies and activities in the ADW's Schools for Clean Water Contest. Check it out at schoolsforcleanwater.org.

NOVEMBER 2024

Great Blue Heron Fishing, Tom Foxworthy



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 November is National Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native Heritage Month Diwali	2
3 Daylight Savings Time ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 America Recycles Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Family Volunteer Day	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 Native American Heritage Day	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. Learn more at hrwc.org/dontflushrx.

DECEMBER 2024

Grosse Ile Lighthouse, Chris Zawistowicz



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 Winter Solstice
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Hanukkah begins Kwanzaa begins	27	28
29	30	31 Hanukkah ends 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. Learn more at hrwc.org/uselesssalt.



allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com

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