THE ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS 2020 COMMUNITY CALENDAR



A MONTH-BY-MONTH LOOK AT OUR REMARKABLE WATERWAYS... AND EVERYDAY ACTIONS FOR PROTECTING THEM.

How Do You FOCUS ON WATER?

Clean water makes so many things possible. Healthy ecosystems. Plentiful wildlife. Safe drinking water. Inviting places to swim, fish, paddle or simply enjoy nature. Vibrant towns and cities. A legacy for future generations.

This year's Alliance of Downriver Watersheds calendar is a reminder of our amazing waterways: the vital role they play in our lives and the actions you can take year-round to create healthier watersheds and rivers.



The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW) is a council of 22 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.

A BIG CHALLENGE...

Most of the pollution entering our rivers, streams and lakes is carried by rainwater that runs off hard surfaces such as roads, parking lots and rooftops. Pollutants include dirt, motor oil and toxic auto fluids, pesticides, fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems.



We depend on our built infrastructure—storm drains, drainage ditches and culverts—to keep water away from our homes and prevent streets from flooding. But those same systems also direct polluted and untreated rainwater straight into our smaller local waterways, which ultimately flow downstream into the Detroit River and Lake Erie.



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. And we hope to see your "water focus" photos in our monthly contest.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS! WIN PRIZES!

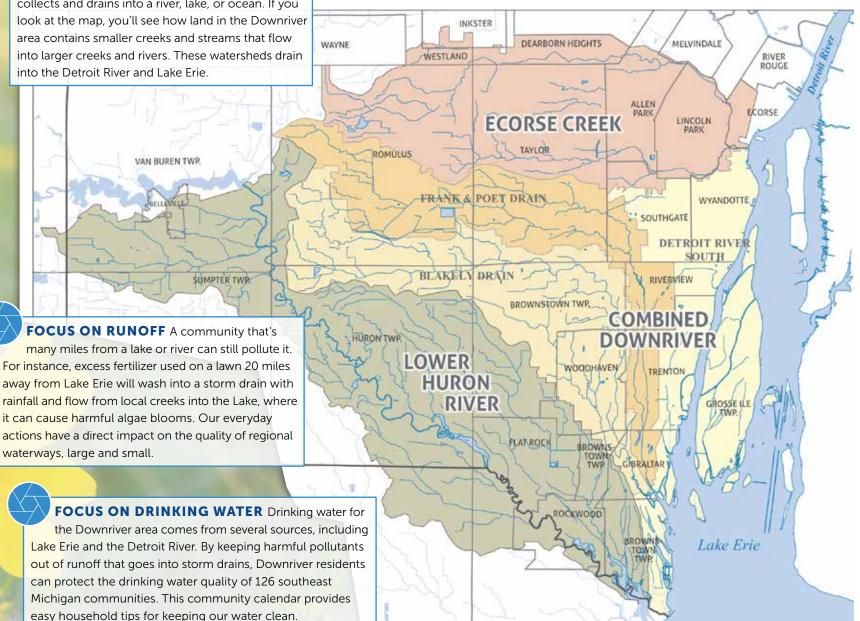
Each month, check out the topic highlighted in the lower right-hand corner of the calendar. Then snap a photo and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com. You could win a gift certificate for dinner at a Downriver restaurant, pet supplies from your local pet store, plants from your favorite nursery, or a paddle trip for two on the Huron River!





FOCUS ON WATERSHEDS A watershed is an area of land where water-including rainfallcollects and drains into a river, lake, or ocean. If you look at the map, you'll see how land in the Downriver area contains smaller creeks and streams that flow into larger creeks and rivers. These watersheds drain

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ADW AND DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS. VISIT ALLIANCEOFDOWNRIVERWATERSHEDS.COM.



FOCUS ON FUN

GET OUT AND ENJOY OUR WATERWAYS!

Detroit Heritage River Water Trail Enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife of the Detroit, Huron, Rouge and Raisin rivers by canoe or kayak. Along the way, discover the rich cultural history of these waterways. 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. Special events, open houses and educational programs are offered throughout the year.

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, crosscountry ski, even ice skate. There are also picnic shelters, plenty of special events, and a 52-slip transient marina and boat launch.

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. Open to the public for hiking and paddling.

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

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

TOGETHER, WE PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS





WHAT WE'RE DOING

Education about water quality is central to the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds' mission. Each year, the ADW gives hundreds of Wayne County students an opportunity to learn about watersheds, water flows and erosion, flooding, and the consequences of human activities on water quality. Made possible by a partnership between the ADW, Wayne County Green Schools and the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History, the River Residency program provides inschool workshops focused on a 12-foot traveling stream simulation table that cycles 40 gallons of water and holds 240 pounds of plastic sediment.

allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com





WHAT YOU CAN DO

Volunteer! You can have a big impact by volunteering to monitor water quality and keep our streams and rivers clean.

Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving water quality and habitat along the Detroit River. FDR volunteers educate the public about the importance of keeping the Detroit River clean, act as stewards of creeks and streams that flow into the Detroit River, and advise state and federal agencies on issues of concern to local communities. They also monitor water quality on a regular basis, clean up trash and other water contaminants, and engage in public outreach.

detroitriver.org

The **Huron River Watershed Council** is



a nonprofit organization that coordinates several volunteer programs throughout the Downriver area, including:

- Summertime river cleanups
- Annual winter, spring and fall searches for benthic macroinvertebrates (river bugs that are environmental indicators)
- Spring and summer flow and water quality sampling

Volunteer programs are designed to be both fun and educational. As an added incentive, all of the data is used to inform water resource decision—making and initiatives.

hrwc.org





JANUARY 2020



	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	16	17	18
19		20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25 Chinese New Year Huron River Watershed Council Stonefly Search, hrwc.org
26		27	28	29	30	31	

Put poisons in their place.

Keep household cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint and other toxics out of our water supply by never pouring them down a sink, into a storm drain or onto the ground. Dispose of these materials at a county collection site or event. Check Wayne County's Resource Recovery Guide for a list of facilities that accept household hazardous waste year-round or look for one of the four collection days held by Wayne County for residents each year.



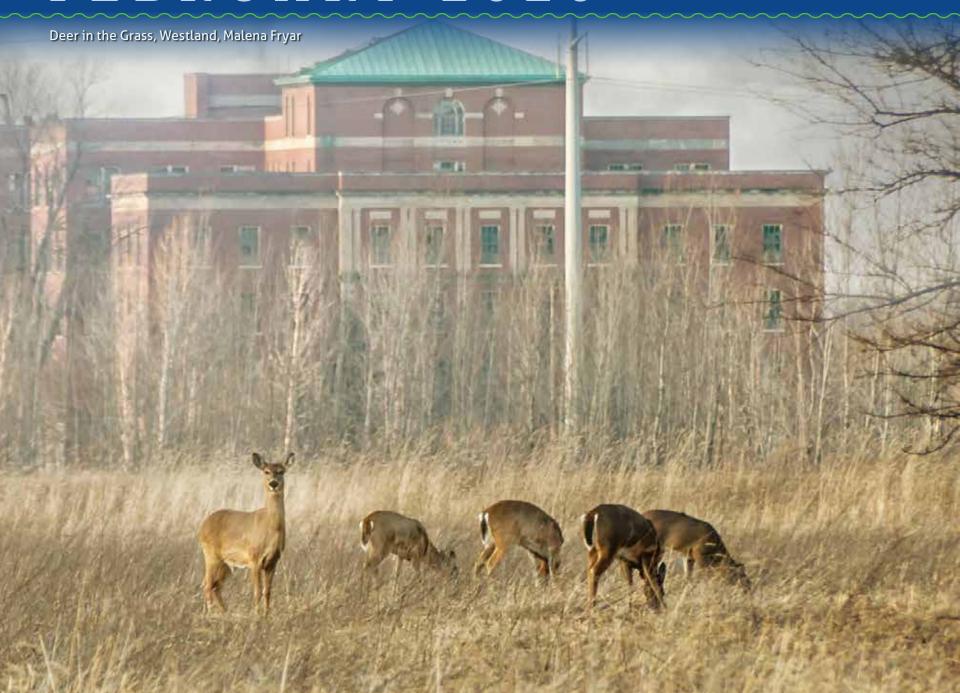


Snap a photo that features a

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 2020



						1
2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	3	Z _b	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29
FOCUS	ON WATE	R ~~~	~~~~~		~~~~	

Wednesday

Thursday

Volunteer!

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Volunteers for organizations like the Huron River Watershed Council and the Friends of the Detroit River 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. As a volunteer, you can also clean up trash, weed a rain garden, work a special event, or label neighborhood storm drains. Sign up at hrwc.org or detroitriver.org.



Snap a photo of a

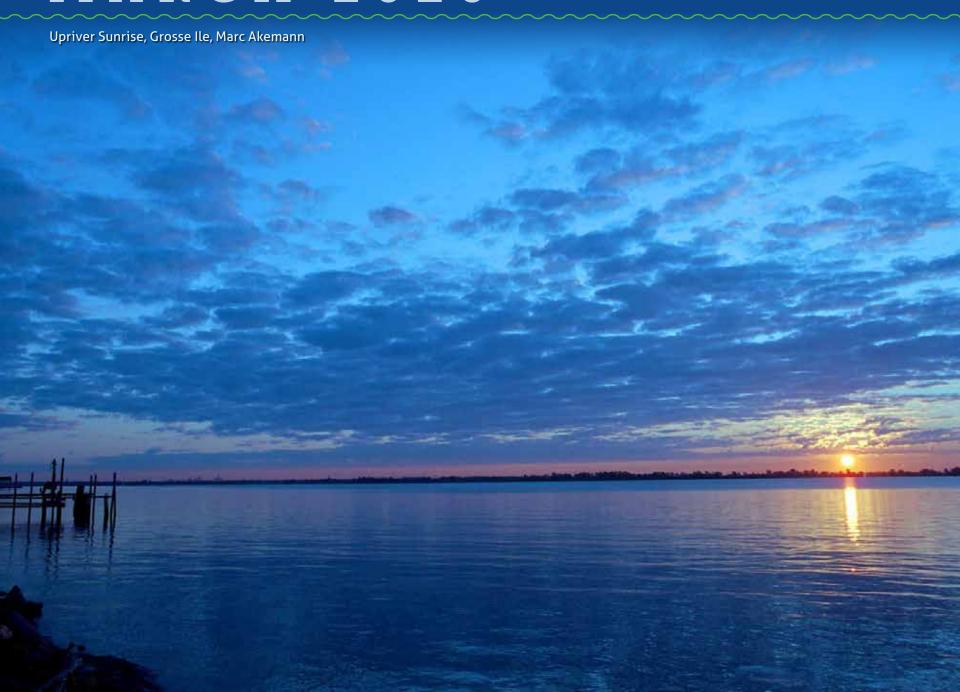
winter activity and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

Friday

Saturday

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

MARCH 2020



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

Pick up after your pets.

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 at Pet Supplies Plus in Taylor.

APRIL 2020



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

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. Choose readily available safer asphalt-based, acrylic or latex alternatives.

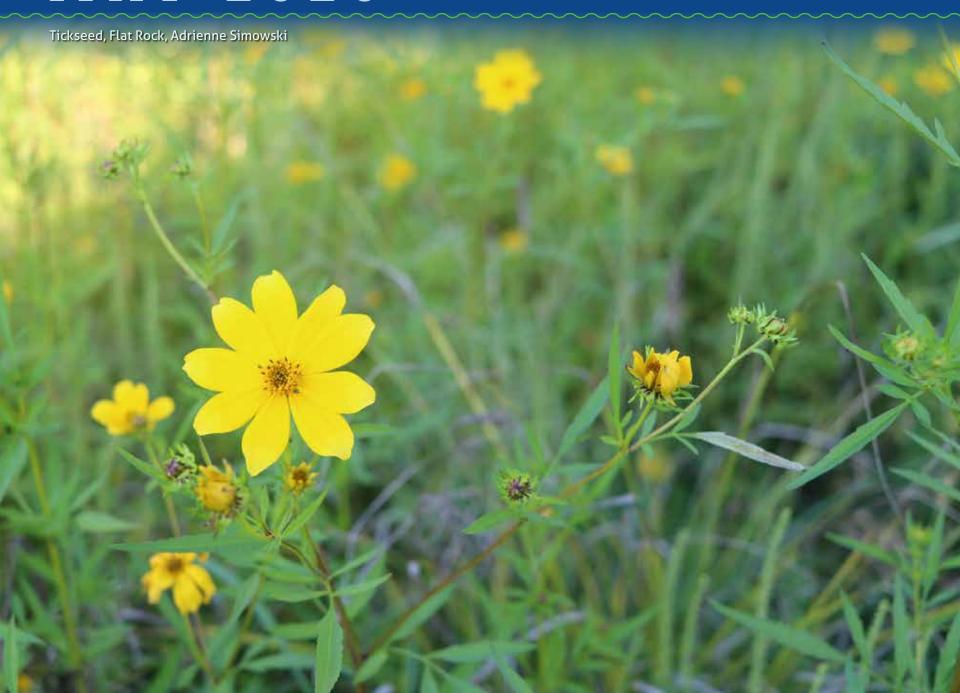
Learn more at: allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.



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 2020



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

Go native.

If you garden, make a point of using plants that are native to Michigan—like Sand Coreopsis or Black Eyed Susans. Deep-rooted Michigan native plants are not only beautiful, they also trap and filter polluted runoff from roadsides and rooftops. And they can transform a natural low spot in your yard into a rain garden. To find out how, 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 2020



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

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, keep down 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 be of most benefit to your lawn, consider testing your soil.



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 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	Independence Day
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 Eid al-Adha begins	31 Eid al-Adha ends	

Speak up, speak out.

If you see illegal dumping into curbside storm drains and ditches, don't hesitate. Get on the phone. 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 2020



Sunday	Monday	ruesday	weanesaay	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 30	2 <u>4</u> 31	25	26	27	28	29

Wednesday

Thursday

FOCUS ON WATER

Sunday

Clean on the green.

Monday

Tupcday

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**,

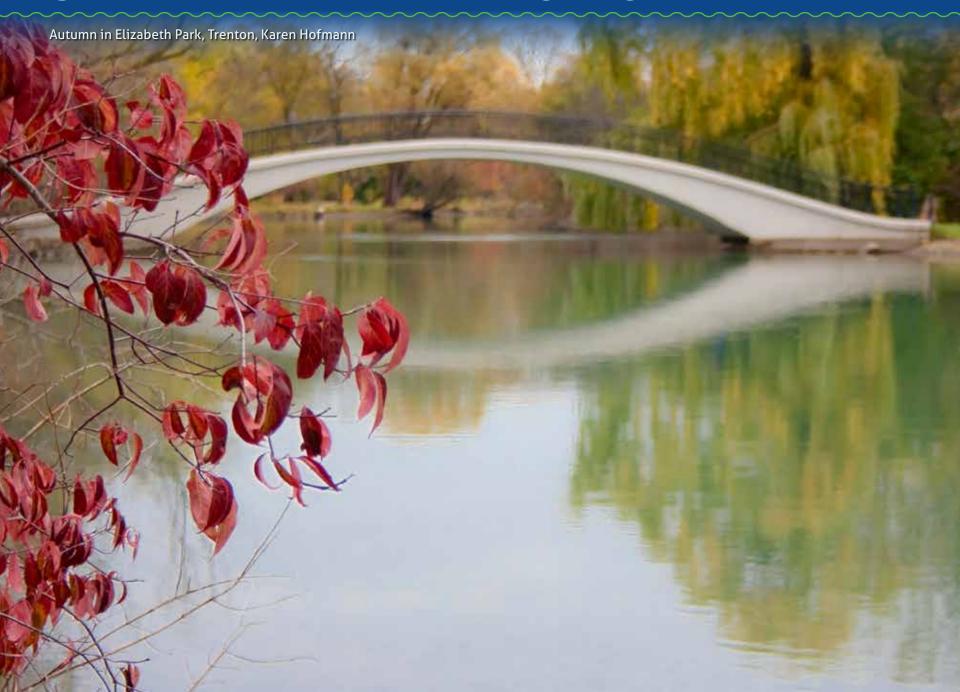
pond, river or other waterway and upload it to **allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.**

Friday

Saturday

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

SEPTEMBER 2020



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

Trees reduce runoff.

The leaves and bark of a tree retain a surprising amount of water—allowing some to evaporate and some to reach the ground more slowly. Depending on the size and species, a single tree can store 100 gallons or more. This redistribution of water can be significant. In fact, it's been estimated that an urban forest can reduce annual runoff by up to 7 percent. Calculate your tree's impact at **treebenefits.com**.



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 2020



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

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 2020



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

30

29

Keep up your septic system.

Improperly maintained or failing septic systems release excess nutrients and harmful pathogens into both surface water and shallow groundwater supplies. Have your septic system inspected regularly, and have your tank pumped out every 3 to 5 years. Signs of trouble at the drainfield include puddles or heavily saturated ground, dead spots or suspiciously vigorous vegetation, sewage on the surface, or a putrid stench. Back-ups in your sink and toilets are also warning signs.

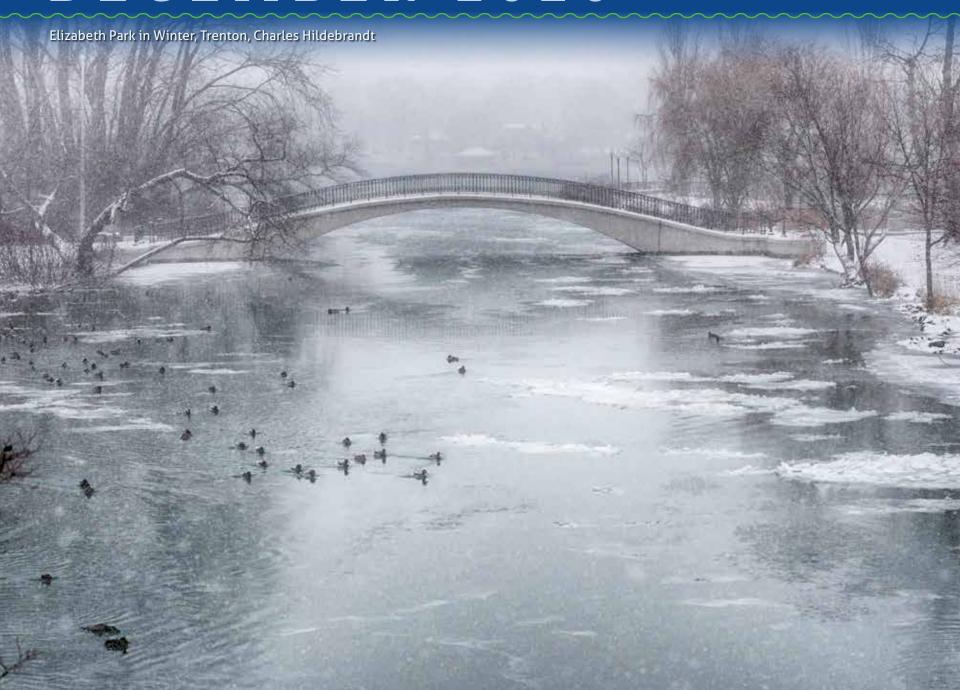


Snap a photo of

birds or wildlife and upload it to allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com.

This month's prize: Dinner for two at Portofino on the River in Wyandotte.

DECEMBER 2020



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

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 early and often. And if you occasionally need a de-icer for sidewalks and driveways, choose an environmentally friendly product.



CONTEST

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.

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 can we can secure our watersheds as a permanent and bountiful source of clean drinking water, natural beauty, and diverse recreational opportunities.

In creating this calendar, the ADW made it a priority

to contain costs and engage local vendors. Featured photos were sourced from the Focus on Downriver Water photo contest and other photographers who live and work in Southeast Michigan. The Huron River Watershed Council shared its expertise on watershed pollution prevention by providing content and managing the calendar's overall production.

Sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make this 2020 calendar a reality!

Feature Photographers:

Marc Akemann
Malena Fryar
Michael Harabedian
Charles Hildebrandt
Karen Hofmann
Jennifer Mason
Christine Oest
Adrienne Simowski

Additional 2018 Focus on Downriver Watersheds photo contest winners and participants, shown throughout the calendar:

Kristen Bruley
Adam Blake
Susan Corpe
Jeanette Gronda
Marian Harabedian
Loretta Hawley
Keila Howard
Ketty Ludtke
Jennifer Piekarski
Lori Poremsky
Shelly Reichlin
Pamela Watts
Rachel Young

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

cityofallenpark.org 313-928-1400

BELLEVILLE

belleville.mi.us

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

woodhavenmi.org

734-675-3000

WOODHAVEN-BROWNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT

woodhaven.k12.mi.us

734-783-3300

WYANDOTTE

wvandotte.net

wyanaotte.net

734-324-4540

To report illegal dumping or other environmental pollution concerns, call the MDEQ Pollution Emergency Alert System **800-292-4706** in addition to the Wayne County 24 Hour Environmental Hotline **888-223-2363**.



allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com

CREDITS

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Mary Christianson – Christianson Design

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Huron River Watershed Council

COPY EDITING:

Linda Fitzgerald – Fitzgerald

Communications

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY:

Marc Akemann

Malena Fryar

Michael Harabedian

Charles Hildebrandt

Karen Hofmann

Jennifer Mason

Christine Oest

Adrienne Simowski

MAP ART:

Andra Mealey, Wayne County Department of Public Services, Environmental Services Group

PRINTING:

ULitho

Printed on recycled paper
© 2020 Alliance of Downriver Watersheds