



REIMAGINE LANSING'S RIVERS AND RIVER TRAILS THEY HAVE NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Lansing Area Rivers and River Trail Cleanup
A Review of a Spectacular Event.



Let's Do It Again.
Let's Make It Bigger and Better Than Ever Before!
We'll See You In September.

Table of Contents

Letter from our Founder	1	Event Photos	6
June River and River Trail Cleanup Summary	2	September River and River Trail Cleanup Poster	9
Event Special Recognition	3		

Letter
From
Our
Founder
Mike Stout



REIMAGINE LANSING'S RIVERS AND RIVER TRAILS

Reimagine, Revisit, and Experience the Transformational Change.

It was not long ago that Lansing's rivers were choked with trees and logs making them difficult, dangerous, and often impossible to navigate. Caught behind these river-wide obstructions were large pools of litter and trash, and there were long stretches of river that had long been neglected. It was an unsightly mess.

That is all in the past now.

Since October of last year we have fielded over 30 projects to remove litter, trash, and other evidence of urban living from Lansing area rivers and river trail. From the onset, we received enthusiastic support from local businesses, clubs, schools, churches, media, and passionate individuals. We are also pleased with the growing support of government; specifically that of Lansing's Parks and Recreation Department.

Our first stewardship outreach was with the new owners of Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company. After a call in the morning, we met that afternoon and agreed to work together to clear a longstanding river-wide obstruction below their railroad bridge in north Lansing. With that meeting a plan was put in place and volunteers recruited. This marked the official beginning of Michigan Waterways Stewards.



With growing acceptance of our work the City of Lansing asked us to lead two city-wide rivers and river trail cleanups. We accepted without hesitation. The first event took place in June with the second scheduled for September.

We have been thrilled by the interest and offers of support. Participation rates for our June event far exceeded our expectations and it clearly demonstrates Lansing community pride. With 270 volunteers we were able to cover all our designated river and river trail areas, with many being covered twice or more.

A large collection of tires, grocery carts, barbecue grills, highway cones and markers, abandoned bicycles and e-scooters, fencing, signage, scrap metal, pallets, steel doors, softballs, baseballs, golfballs, and scrap metal was retrieved. There was also the expected collection of glass, plastics, paper, styrofoam and articles of clothing. The largest item that eluded us was the thick steel cable that once secured the floating fountain in the area of Lansing's convention center. Despite our best effort, with it still secured to the bottom of the river, we were unable to retrieve it.

Additionally, river-wide obstructions were cleared and passages opened in other areas making it easy, safe, and pleasant to navigate Lansing's rivers without having to make a difficult portage around those nonpermanent structures.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, and many of Lansing's top businesses, clubs, and other exceptional organizations, we didn't just clean and clear our treasured rivers and prized river trail, we unveiled an incredible urban experience. We created an urban experience that most cities across Michigan and our Upper Midwest would covet.

As we turn our focus toward achieving sustainability, we have begun discussions to make our second Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup bigger, better, and truly a community-wide celebration. Mark you calendars for Friday, September 22.

Join Us. Make a Lasting Impact. This is our Legacy.



By All Accounts Our June Lansing Area Rivers and River Trail Cleanup Was a Huge Success.



Partners, Sponsors
and
Volunteer Organizations



Individual
Volunteers



Tons of
Litter & Trash
Removed

**Let's Give a Special Thanks To Our
Partners, Sponsors, and Volunteer Organizations.**
Without their support this event would not have been possible.

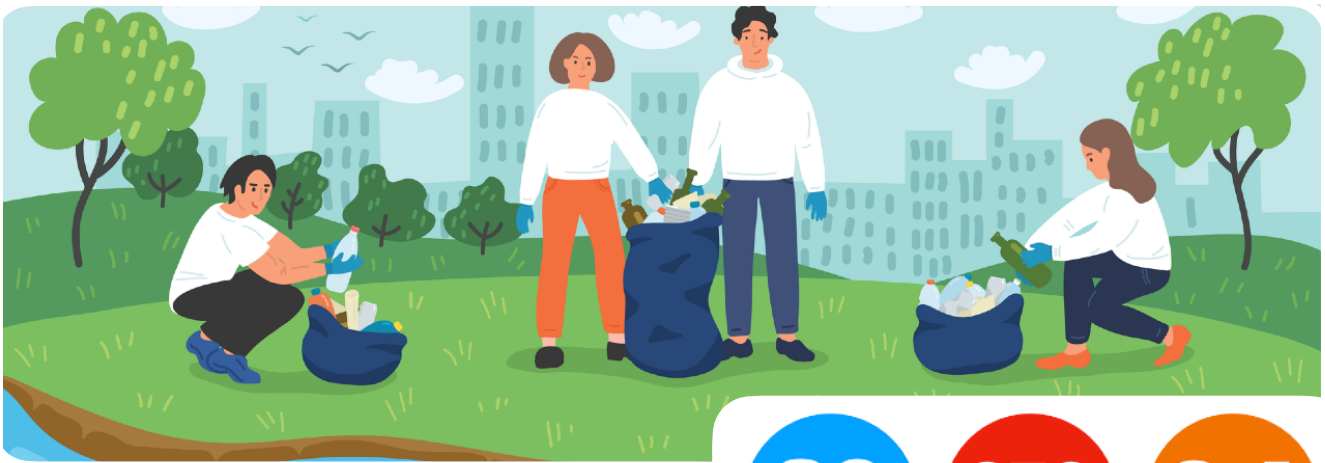
Partners and Event Sponsors

1. Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company*
2. American Rivers
3. City of Lansing*
4. Clark Construction Company*
5. Dart Container Corporation*
6. Friedland Industries, Inc.
7. Granger Waste Services
8. Great Lakes Watercraft*
9. I3 Marketing, LLC*
10. Meijer
11. Moosejaw*
12. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique
13. Old Town Commercial Association
14. Ranger Landing Nets
15. Rotary Club of East Lansing
16. Werner Paddles

Volunteer Partner Organizations

1. Canadian National Railway
2. Central Free Methodist Church
3. Dragonflyers of Michigan
4. EGLE
5. Impression Five
6. Lansing Community College
7. Lansing Shuffle
8. Mount Hope Church
9. MSU Federal Credit Union
10. Revco
11. Rotary Club of Lansing
12. Senior Corps RSVP
13. SGMP of Michigan
14. The Quiet Water Society

*Partners and Event Sponsors who also volunteered.



30

Partners, Sponsors
and
Volunteer Organizations

270

Individual
Volunteers

3-4

Tons of
Litter & Trash
Removed

We were blessed with the generous support of businesses, clubs, schools, churches, local government, and a large army of individuals. We would like to recognize just a few whose efforts were extraordinary.



Top Volunteer Organization: Mount Hope Church

- Most enthusiastic.
- Covered all of the Red Cedar River in Lansing.
- Covered Lansing River Trail too.
- Accepted the greatest challenge.
- Achieved the greatest haul of litter, trash, and urban debris.

Runner Up: Dart Container Corporation



Largest Volunteer Group

Michigan Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals

- Over 40 volunteer members strong.

Runner Ups: Dart Container Corporation and Clark Construction Company



Top Individual Event Volunteer: Bill Belbot

- Two full days scouring entire length of Red Cedar River.
- Most travelled volunteer having come all the way from Toronto.
- A chainsaw operator who helped create two safe passages on the Red Cedar River.
- Achieved greatest individual haul of litter, trash, and other evidence of urban and campus living.



Top Individual Event Volunteer - Runner Up: Joe Naerabout

- A full day's haul of scrap metal from the Grand River.
- Tirelessly retrieved e-scooters, grocery cart, bike frames, and helped cleanup a homeless encampment.
- Among the first to sign up as an event volunteer.



Top Individual Event Volunteer - Honorable Mention: Patrick Harrington

- When there was a request for assistance to help with a special needs volunteer, Patrick Harrington was the first name that came to mind.
- Without reservation Patrick accepted, then shadowed this young man all day along
- Additionally, he brought a canoe and other materials to help others who wanted to volunteer in a greater capacity.



Top Individual Volunteer and Unsung Hero: Christine Pearson

- Always supportive and eager to help.
- Always the first to attend and last to breakaway from any event activity.
- Instrumental in developing community relations and media coverage.
- Her non-profit leadership, former Susan G. Komen executive director, was invaluable in our organizational development.



Red Cedar River - Adopt a River Designees

- Entire Red Cedar River - Lansing Area:
Mount Hope Church and Great Lakes Watercraft



Grand River - Adopt A River Designees

- North of Moore's Park Dam - Lansing Area:
Great Lakes Watercraft
- North of Rotary Park - Lansing Area:
Dragonflyers of Michigan
- South of Moore's Park Dam - Lansing Area:
Clark Construction Company:



IT TAKES A TEAM TO PULL OFF AN EVENT SO GRAND IN SCALE AND SCOPE.
A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MOST VALUED PARTNERS.

Planning Partner
RSVP

Outfitter Partner
Moosejaw

Watercraft Partner
Great Lakes Watercraft

Government Partner
City of Lansing





THE EXCITEMENT



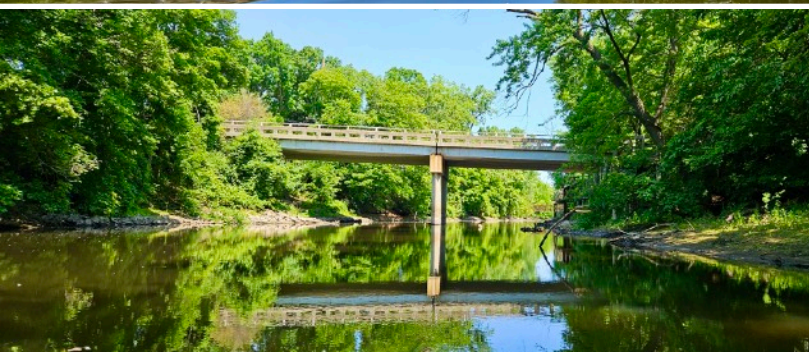
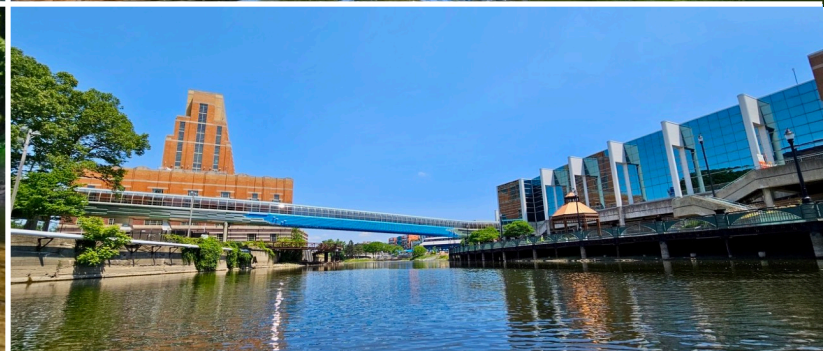
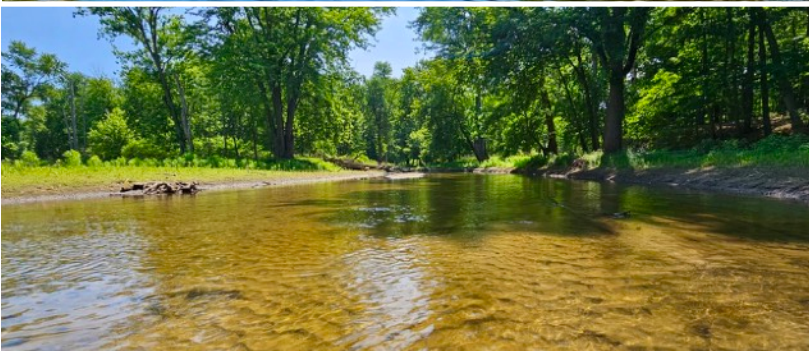


THE TREASURE





THE REWARD



Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup

JOIN US. MAKE A LASTING IMPACT. THIS IS OUR LEGACY.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 SEP 20, 21, 22*

- 2PM - 7PM Willbro Beach Kayak Landing @ Rotary Park.
- Equipment, food, drink, and other hospitality provided.

*Can't make the main event date? No worries. There is always time to make a difference. Join us during any of our three event days.



PARTNERS AND EVENT SPONSORS



Volunteer Partner Organizations



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
WE'LL ADD YOUR NAME TOO