



Tecumseh Park, North Lansing, April 30, 2023

JOIN US. BE INSPIRED. MAKE AN IMPACT. THIS IS OUR LEGACY.

OUR MISSION

To protect and improve Michigan’s treasured and vulnerable waterways for the benefit of fish and wildlife, recreation and sport.

Through our work we will inspire current and future generations to protect and care for our prized waterways.

OUR VISION

To make Michigan’s waterways the envy of our Great Lakes industrial states.

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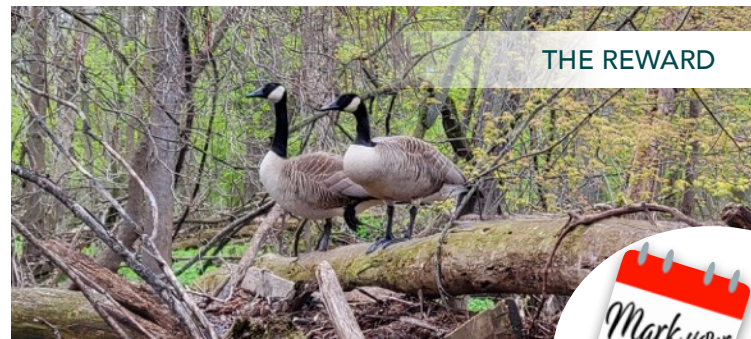
To learn more, visit us online at www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org.
For the latest in news [follow us on Facebook!](#)



BEFORE



AFTER



THE REWARD



Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanups



Saturday, June 10, 2023
Friday, September 22, 2023



A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

INSPIRED BY A THIRD GRADE STUDENT 2,250 MILES AWAY

by Mike Stout, president and founder of Michigan Waterways Stewards

Despite launching several campaigns consisting of personal calls, sending letters and emails, and filling out endless contact forms, I failed to gain the interest of local, county, or state governments, and their agencies. Coincidentally, weeks later and on the same day, I received two calls. Neither were on my original distribution list. They explained why this known problem had been allowed to exist and worsen. The reasons given included; they were unsure who ultimately was responsible, it was not a high enough priority, and wasn't in their budget.



No one wanted to accept responsibility.

Not to be deterred, I sought out the owner of the railroad bridge where for years, piles of trees, logs, and other natural debris had collected and choked the Grand River. Behind it were large stagnant pools of litter, trash, and other evidence of urban living. I learned this bridge was owned by Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company (ADBF) headquartered in Okemos.

I reached out to ADBF over a weekend. Monday morning the company president called. We met that afternoon and agreed to a plan to clear this river-wide blockage and its pooled pollution the following Thursday.

Via the collaborative efforts of the new owners of ADBF and team of environmentally-minded paddlers, this long-standing, neglected stretch of river was transformed. It was now safe to navigate and became one of the most scenic sections of river in urban Lansing. It shows the joy and ease with which we can accomplish great things when working together.

There was still much more to do as Lansing rivers were often described as paddling or fishing in a garbage dump. People purposely avoided this area and it reflected poorly on Lansing and our state.

My decision to create Michigan Waterways Stewards and expand our waterways stewardship was not the result of the appreciation from the outdoor community, the many emails from the general public giving thanks, or EGLE encouraging us to help elsewhere. My commitment to expand our work was triggered by a chance meeting with an eight-year-old, in a third grade class 2,250 miles away.

This past winter I traveled to California to visit with my daughters and eight-year-old granddaughter. I asked them to not tell Lola so I could surprise her. With the help of her third-grade teacher, our plan was put in motion. I would surprise her while she was at school and in class.

Grand River Railroad Bridge Engagement
North Lansing, November, 2022



Continued on page 7

LANSING RIVERS AND RIVER TRAIL CLEANUPS

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

DAY OF EVENTS HEADQUARTERS
LANSING ROTARY PARK - WILLBRO BEACH KAYAK LANDING
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 10:00AM - 4:00PM

For a most pleasant experience we recommend limiting your service to about 2-2.5 hours.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, June 10
Friday, September 22

Let's make Lansing area's Grand and Red Cedar Rivers, and our prized Lansing River Trail, look their best ever.

Since our beginning not long ago, with the help of local businesses, clubs, civic organizations, passionate volunteers, and the growing support of local governments, we have removed tons of litter and trash from our rivers, removed longstanding river-wide obstructions, and cleared our riverbanks and adjoining parks of unsightly evidence of urban living.

We are thrilled that the City of Lansing recognized our work and asked us to lead two city-wide rivers and river trails cleanups.

Join us. Become a River Angel and make a lasting impact. Equipment, food and drink, provided for all who attend!

If you, your club, friends and neighbors, or business, can't make it on our main event June 10 and September 22 dates, no worries. There is always time to make a difference. Join us during any of our three river cleanup days:

- June 8, 9, or 10
- September 20, 21, or 22



Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

JUN 8, 9, 10*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

SEP 20, 21, 22*

- Join Us. Make An Impact. This Is Our Legacy.
- Equipment, food and drink 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



www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org

JUNE 10, IS A LANSING COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION

- Our event headquarters at Lansing Rotary Park may be the business place of all! -

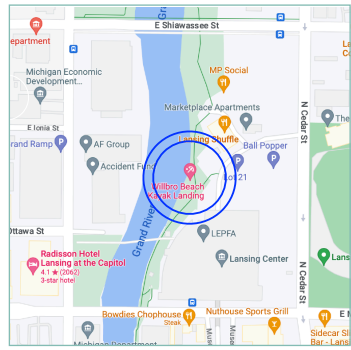
- From 10:00AM - 4:00PM Lansing Rivers and River Trail partners, sponsors, and volunteers will be here.
- In the morning participants from the Mayor's Riverwalk and Run 5K will be passing by.
- Around noon participants from the Frida 5K Run/Walk will be passing by too.
- All day long residents and visitors will be here taking in Lansing's prized River Trail and Grand River views.



LANSING RIVERS AND RIVER TRAIL CLEANUPS - JUNE 10 EVENT DETAILS -

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

- MAIN EVENT DATE** **SATURDAY, JUNE 10**
If you wish to volunteer, but can't make it on June 10. No worries, we can assign you a project for either June 8 or 9.
- TIME** **10AM - 4PM**
For a most pleasant experience we recommend limiting your service time to about 2-2.5 hours.
- LOCATION** **LANSING ROTARY PARK**
At Willbro Beach Kayak Landing and Lansing River Trail.
- EQUIPMENT** **GLOVES, GARBAGE BAGS, TRASH PICKERS, INSECT REPELLENT, AND SUNSCREEN PROVIDED**
Based on availability.
- HOSPITALITY** **FOOD AND DRINK PROVIDED**
Each participant receives a FREE 3" waterproof River Angles decal.



Event news and updates will be regularly provided via [Facebook page](#), email and [our website](#). If you wish to be an event sponsor, volunteer as a group or individual, [drop us a note](#). We would love to hear from you.

Join us on this community-wide celebration and become a River Angel.



THANK YOU VALUED PARTNERS & EVENT SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

MICHIGAN WATERWAYS 2023 PARTNERS



The Adrian & Blissfield Railroad Company, headquartered in Okemos, has been an invaluable partner in helping keep our rivers open for all those who enjoy our waterways. We can only hope other railroad companies follow their lead.

www.ABRailroad.com

Based in SE Michigan, everything this family owned business does demonstrates their love for adventure and wanting to create a pathway for everyone to enjoy our treasured waters. Their products and services are at the core of our mission.

www.GreatLakesWatercraft.com



Werner Paddles has supported MWS president and founder all along the way. First, when he was paddling on our country's most scenic rivers and then crossing our Great Lakes. Now they support his efforts to improve the health of Michigan's rivers and lakes.

www.WernerPaddles.com/pages/healthy-waters

i3 Marketing is a Lansing based strategic marketing and creative services firm. They have been instrumental in bringing the Michigan Waterways Stewards vision to life and creating partnerships with like-minded, purpose driven people and organizations, like you.

www.i3-Marketing.com



Rotary Club of East Lansing lives their mission. They are all in when it come to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities.

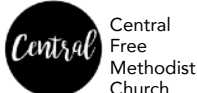
www.EastLansingRotaryClub.com

LANSING RIVERS AND RIVER TRAIL CLEANUP SPONSORS



Mother and Earth Baby Boutique

LANSING RIVERS AND RIVER TRAIL VOLUNTEER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS





RIVER ANGELS IN ACTION

Our mission statement begins with our commitment "To protect and improve Michigan's treasured and vulnerable waterways for the benefit of fish and wildlife." With that said, we are thrilled to have completed the cleanup of a natural area along the Grand River, east of Tecumseh Park.

This natural area is a popular nesting area for geese. Sadly, it is always where much of what travels down river from Lansing collects. This includes large amounts of litter, trash, and other evidence of urban living. With this year's high floodwaters, it was particularly problematic. Many nests were surrounded by unsightly trash.

A special thanks to 2022 Living or Mission honoree, Matthew Edmond, for his support and ongoing great work. It is amazing the joy and ease in which we can accomplish great things when working together.

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



THE REWARD



FRIENDS OF THE LOOKING GLASS RIVER CLEANUP

May 7, 2023

Spring storms blew through that morning, leaving a perfect day for Friends of the Looking Glass River to hit the river for their first organized cleanup of the year. Over twenty attended the event. Each was passionate about their river and wanting to improve it, not just for themselves, but for others who will soon be paddling this narrow, winding, scenic, 71-mile river.

The Friends of the Looking Glass River are wonderful ambassadors and even better stewards. To view additional photos from this weekend's event, [click here](#). To learn more about Friends of the Looking Glass River, [click here](#) to visit their website.



INSPIRED BY A THIRD GRADE STUDENT 2,250 MILES AWAY

With Lola seated at a small table in front, with her back to the door, we quietly entered. The teacher gave no hint of our arrival. As I walked toward Lola, her friends sitting across from her and other classmates noticed my approach. I raised my index finger to my face, and with a smile, I asked them to keep quiet.

Everyone was in on our plan.

Standing behind her, I watched Lola working on her tablet. So focused she did not sense my presence. Impatient, and unable to wait any longer, I reached over her left shoulder and pointed to her tablet. Thinking I must be her teacher she didn't give it much thought. But when she looked up and saw her teacher in the front of the classroom, she knew something wasn't right.

Unsure who was standing behind her, she looked back over her left shoulder. She couldn't make sense of it, "How is it that Grandpa is here? He lives so far away."

While trying to make sense of it, she slowly stood up and gave me that long hug every grandparent covets. A short while later she unexpectedly broke away and walked across the room. With her hand cupped against her friend's ear, she whispered something that only he could hear.

Several minutes passed before this same young boy stood up and walked across the room. With his outstretched hand, he reached out for mine and said, "Thank you for the work you're doing to save the world."

Surprised, all I could think of saying was, "Aww. Thank you. It is my pleasure." I looked around, to Lola, and then to the teacher, and said with my eyes, "WOW. What an honor!"

It wasn't what he said, nor his gentle kindness and sincere appreciation that nearly brought me to tears. Instead, it was the realization that my granddaughter was so proud of my conservation efforts, that it meant so much to her, that she boasted to others about what I did. And they too, were thankful.

I started Michigan Waterways Stewards because in the eyes of eight-year-olds we are saving the world and they are genuinely thankful. Is there anything more important than to awe and inspire, and to lead by example?

Who knows? Maybe you will spend an afternoon with hundreds of other purpose-minded individuals, or you may inspire an eight-year-old. Or, in turn, they may just inspire you.



Mike Stout
On the Looking Glass River, May 7, 2023

Join Us. Make A Lasting Impact. This Is Our Legacy.

Mike Stout
President and founder, Michigan Waterways Stewards
www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org



KEEP A LID ON IT!

Do your part. Make an Impact.
Close the lid to prevent trash and litter from
polluting our treasured and vulnerable waterways.

This is a public service announcement from Michigan Waterways Stewards.
www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org





IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM CLEANER HEALTHIER WATERWAYS

We are thrilled to play a small part in protecting and improving our treasured rivers. In addition to creating a cleaner, safer place to live, work, and play, we:

- Improve plant, wildlife, and human health.
- Improve local, county, and state community appearance, acceptance, and pride.
- Create a vibrant tourism.
- Impact residential and commercial property values.

All that we have accomplished, and wish to achieve, would not be possible without the generous support of the greater community.

To the right are photos of Michigan Waterways Stewards active in the community. Presented clockwise are:

1. (l-r) Richard Bailey (outdoorsman extraordinaire), Shireen Luther (Kiwanis Club of Mason president), and Mike Stout (Michigan Waterways Stewards president). Richard and Mike were guest speakers at the Kiwanis Club of Mason. They were there talking about environmental stewardship and upcoming projects.
2. (l-r) Michigan Waterways Stewards board of directors; Christine Pearson (secretary), Mike Stout (president), and Michael Green (treasurer) attending the 39th Annual Father Mac Scholarship Dinner supporting Lansing Catholic High School students.
3. In the center is Collin Tarr (Moosejaw General Manager) with his retail team showcase their support. They are our MVP sponsor and volunteer partner organization for our two Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup events.



Michigan Waterways Stewardship

Projects Summary (October 2022 thru May 2023)

Stewardship: Grand River Railroad Bridge Cleanup (N. MLK Highway); Tecumseh Park Cleanup; Red Cedar River Assessment (Kruger's Landing to Grand River); Red Cedar River Railroad Bridge Cleanup (S. Cedar Street); Grand River Assessment (Jackson); Red Cedar River Cleanup (MSU Campus); Cherry Hill Park Cleanup; Grand River (I 496) Cleanup; Abandoned Homeless Encampment Cleanup (N. MLK Highway); Grand River Assessment (Lansing to Grand Ledge, and Jackson); Red Cedar River Assessment (Williamston to Lansing); Red Cedar Assessment (Kruger's Landing to East Lansing); Red Cedar River Metal Impediments Removed (Railroad Bridge); Red Cedar Assessment (Meridian Riverfront Park); Red Cedar River Cleanup (Lansing); Red Cedar River Cleanup (west Okemos and East Lansing); Red Cedar River Assessment (Lansing), Grand River Assessment (Moores Park to North Park Dam); Grand River Cleanup (North Grand Avenue Bridge); Grand River Tecumseh Park Cleanup (PH 1); Grand River Tecumseh Park Cleanup (PH 2); Friends of the Looking Glass River Cleanup.

Education - Presentations: Red Cedar Pathway; Meridian Township Board - Townhall; Meridian Township Parks and Recreation director, LuAnn Meisner; Meridian Township Supervisor Patricia Jackson and Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer; Williamstown Township Supervisor; Wanda Bloomquist; Rotary Club of Williamston-Sunrise; Rotary Club of East Lansing; Kiwanis Club of Mason.

Education - PSAs: "Keep A Lid On It" and "Come Clean - Leave Clean Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers."

Advocacy: City of Lansing Public Works Department - Improved grounds care; Michigan Legislative Service Bureau Printing Services - Improved grounds care; Meridian Township Okemos Road Bridge Construction - Improved site management.