



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

July 2019
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #37

COMMITTEE UPDATE

GLRC members are expected to receive their MS4 stormwater permits by the end of the summer, marking the beginning of a new permit cycle and program requirements. Permits will soon be in the public notice phase, allowing the public the opportunity to review and comment on their municipality's proposed stormwater management plan. Check with your community to learn more.

In addition to implementing the new Grand and Red Cedar River E. Coli Total Maximum Daily Load in the upcoming permit cycle, the GLRC will begin operating under their updated Public Education Plan and launching new outreach material, including video content. Recent surveys have indicated that residents prefer learning about local water quality issues through video, and the GLRC is responding by creating education "shorts" and working with a local production firm to create a live video about the GLRC's work. Stay tuned!

GET INVOLVED



Joining a watershed organization and participating in river clean-ups are great ways to make a positive impact on your local waterways. The GLRC partners with two Lansing area groups that provide the public opportunities to get involved in watershed protection - MGROW and the Lansing Earth Project.

The Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds, or MGROW, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2011 as an umbrella organization serving the people and organizations within the Middle Grand River Watershed. Its mission is to protect and preserve the history and natural resources of the watershed by promoting education, conservation, restoration, and wise use of watershed resources.

MGROW holds invasive species workshops, maintains area rain gardens, organizes paddling events, and developed the state-designated Middle Grand River Water Trail. See what they're up to and consider becoming a member at www.mgrow.org.

The Lansing Earth Project is a partnership between MGROW and River Town Adventures, a Lansing based paddle sport rental company. They organize clean-up events throughout the summer where volunteers collect litter and debris while hiking and kayaking area parks and rivers. They have two events planned for both July and August. For information on how to volunteer, visit www.rivertownadventures.com/lansing-earth-project-2.



CAR WASHING AND WATER QUALITY

When you wash your car in the driveway or street, the soap - together with the dirt, wax, oil, grease, grime, and grit - washes from your car, flows along the curb, and then deposits into nearby storm drains. From there, the mess flows through the storm sewer system and directly into our rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes. This impacts water quality for both humans and aquatic life.

When water from car washing enters a waterway, it harms fish and impairs water quality. The phosphates from the soap cause excess algae to grow, which reduces oxygen levels as it decays. The soap's surfactants damage fish gills and kill their eggs. Even if soap isn't used, the oils, heavy metals, brake linings, and rust washed from vehicles enter storm drains and impact our shared surface water resources.

The best way to minimize your environmental impact is to use a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. The average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a car, but commercial operations use 60 percent less water for the entire process than a homeowner uses just to rinse! Most car washes also reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sanitary sewer system for treatment, ensuring pollution stays out of our waterways.

However, if you choose to wash your car at home, follow these tips:

- If allowed by your local community, wash your car on the lawn so the ground can filter the water naturally (check local ordinances before washing or parking your vehicle on the lawn).
- Use soap sparingly, and only use phosphate-free, biodegradable soap.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water when you're not spraying.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, NOT in the street.
- Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

September 5th, 2019

8:30am

Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2019

8:30am

Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Full Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2019

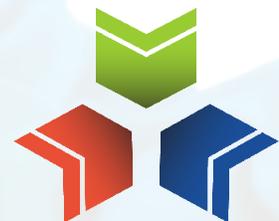
9:00am

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3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Members:

Clinton County
Clinton County Road Comm.
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
Eaton County
City of Grand Ledge

Ingham County
Lansing Charter Township
Lansing School District
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Meridian Charter Township
Michigan State University
Waverly Community Schools



TRI-COUNTY
regional planning commission

Administrative Support:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
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