



2011 Annual Report



The Voice of the River



Kearsley Creek, For-Mar Nature Preserve

Boundaries don't protect rivers, people do.

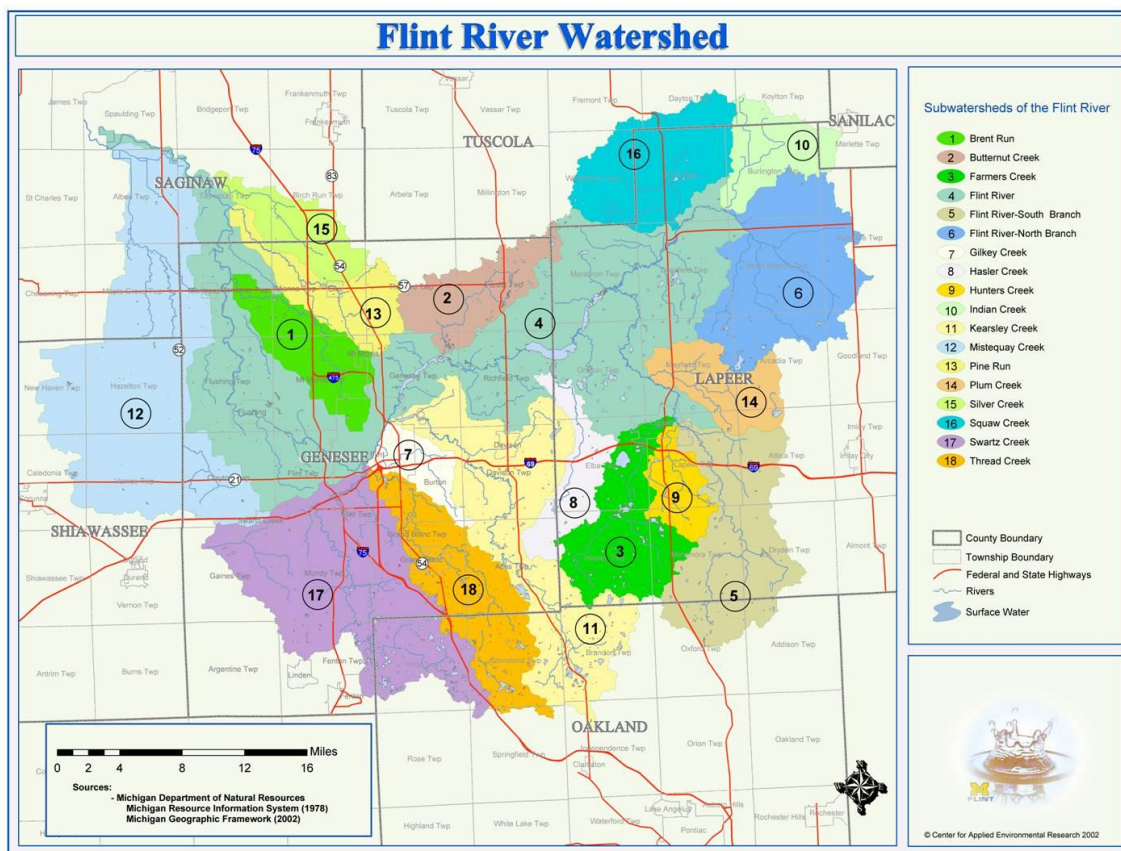
--Brad Arrowsmith, Landowner along the Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

About the Flint River Watershed Coalition

The Flint River Watershed Coalition represents concerned citizens, local government, business interests, educational institutions, and others who feel strongly that the Flint River and its tributaries are a vital resource to protect, preserve, and improve. With offices in Flint, Michigan, the Coalition serves as the Voice that speaks for the entire Flint River drainage basin including parts of Genesee, Lapeer, Oakland, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Sanilac counties. We are involved in a variety of education and advocacy efforts and are engaged in state and federal issues that have a direct influence on our local water quality.

The Coalition first convened in the fall of 1997 and incorporated as a 501©3 organization in August of 1998.

Currently, we are engaged in a variety of educational and advocacy programs throughout the nearly 1,400 square miles of Flint River Watershed. You can read all about the FRWC, its programs and successes here and on our website at www.flintriver.org



2010 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Brent Nikola	University of Michigan-Alumni Relations Board chairman, Strategic Planning Committee Chair
Diane Peplinski	Burlington Township Clerk Board Vice-Chair, Lapeer Chapter Representative
Darren Bagley	MSU Extension, Genesee County Board Secretary, Education Committee Chair
Robert McAllister	Kettering University Board Treasurer
S. Olof Karlstrom	Attorney Past Chair

Committee Leadership

Linda Berker	Sierra Club –Nepessing Group Policy Committee Chair
Jim Ananich	Michigan House of Representatives 49 th district Finance Committee Chair
Jack Minore	AFL-CIO Immediate past board chairman, Governance Committee Chair, Friends of the Flint River Trail representative
Brad Hill	City of Flint Water Department (retired) Watershed Management Chair, Monitoring Committee Chair

2010 Board of Directors

Directors

Irene Bashore

General Motors

Linda Berker

Sierra Club – Nepessing Group

Amy McMillan

Genesee County Parks & Recreation

Bill Welch

Citizen Representative

Duane Elling

C.S. Mott Foundation

Carol VanBuren

Mott Community College

Derek Bradshaw

Steve Hester

Andy Leavitt

Constituent Services Representative



FRWC Staff

Rebecca Fedewa

Director

Suzanne Lossing

Outreach and Education Coordinator

Edythe Westhoff

Business Manager

Jaime Welch

Program Assistant

Casev Foote

Development Director

Report from the Executive Director

From the Executive Director

We frequently quote some variation of the saying "You cannot step twice into the same river; for other waters are continually flowing in." I'm not a scholar of Greek philosophy, so I admit I had to Google the origin of the saying. And while there seems to be some question as to whether or not our friend Heraclitus of Ephesus actually was the one to say or inspire this now famous line, the meaning remains the same – everything flows, and change is inevitable.

For us, the analogy directly applies to the work of the FRWC. Our beautiful rivers and streams are a dynamic system, constantly at the whim of what next comes downstream. Which means the approach we used last year may not be what we do again this year. Our programs are growing and evolving, and we also are focusing on bigger issues that could dramatically impact our watershed. You can read more about our programs in this report, as well as on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.

As you may notice, change also follows to our Annual Report. This year, we have abbreviated the content and format, and have moved to a primarily electronic distribution method. We hope in this way to save on resources, while still effectively distributing vital information about the organization to our supporters. I hope you enjoy this new format. As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the FRWC at info@FlintRiver.org or 810-767-6490. Or find us on Facebook and comment there. We definitely want to hear from you!

All of us at the FRWC feel privileged to work to protect, preserve, and improve this dynamic resource that is vital to the health and vitality of all our communities. And we are so grateful that you have joined us in our mission. We literally could not do this without you.

Rebecca Fedewa,

Executive Director

Report from the Board Chair

This year has been another year of growth at the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We continue to be the voice of the river and encourage our community to better appreciate and understand the Flint River. The public is beginning to understand that our river is a great resource that is creating economic, recreational and social opportunities for all of us. The quality of the water in our river is increasingly healthy and we are witnessing the community use the river in more ways than we have ever seen in our organizations history.

Thirteen years ago, when our organization was founded, few imagined that today our river would be host to an annual walleye fishing tournament, a triathlon, two commercial canoe liveries, dozens of canoe landings, professional fishing guide services, and miles of an interconnected trail systems along its banks. I am confident that that without the efforts of our organization and our members that many of these events would not have taken place.

Our staff and board members believe that clean water, a beautiful riverfront and access to recreation are more than just a community amenity. We feel that these are a right for all of us and that with these rights comes a certain responsibility to steward these resources. We believe that the Flint River Watershed Coalition is the best organization to protect and preserve your rights to these assets. We hope that you feel the same way and that you will continue to support our organization in our efforts protect, preserve and enhance the Flint River.



Water Quality Monitoring

2011 was a year of highs for monitoring – high water levels, high learning curves, high stress levels as well as high training attendance, high hopes, and in the end, a high sense of satisfaction. Streams are monitored twice a year in the spring and fall and the results are used in our database to track each stream's score from season to season. Our monitoring committee met regularly to assess the program, review the data collected and assess how each site is doing, including comparing the scores from the previous seasons.

Two training days were held this year to certify volunteers and to teach proper monitoring procedure according to MiCorps guidelines, and over 30 new and returning monitors attended. It was great to see so many volunteers of all ages interested in learning how they could protect their watershed. New monitors were amazed to see just how much life teemed in apparently quiet streams.

To say our spring monitoring season was challenging would be a definite understatement. Record setting rains this spring resulted in overflowing creeks and high water levels that made it impossible to complete monitoring at some of our 34 sites. Through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers who doggedly visited their sites multiple times, at least partial monitoring assessments were made at all sites. The fall marked a much easier season, and we monitored all our regular sites successfully. In addition, for the first time we identified our samples from several sites down to family level during the identification process. Many benthics also were set aside to preserve in resin as examples for future monitoring labs.

The results from the Spring and Fall season were tallied and reported to MiCorps Monitoring Program, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment – Surface Water Quality Division, and the Genesee County Drain Commissioner. These results are also available on our website at www.flintriver.org under the Programs tab.



Gilkey Creek Stream Profiling

The FRWC continues to coordinate local stream profiling efforts throughout the Gilkey Creek sub-watershed. Many of our benthic monitors assist with this process, and hail from various organizations such as the Sierra Club, Flint River Corridor Alliance, and local boy scout troops. The final report can be found on our website at www.flintriver.org.



Watershed Management

The Flint River Watershed Coalition has traditionally focused on our very successful education and outreach programs. Our mission to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River Watershed, however, extends beyond these wonderful programs. As such, the board of the FRWC determined during our strategic planning process that our work also should include on the ground efforts to improve the quality of our watershed.

In 2009, the momentum behind this type of work began to pick up, and we are very excited about the great progress we've made.

South Branch Watershed – the FRWC helped bring together a coalition of nonprofit and governmental agencies, as well as interested citizens and business owners, to chart out how we can collectively begin implementation of the management plan written for that portion of the watershed. The Lapeer County Conservation District submitted a major funding request to the state, and we look forward to working cooperatively to help implement this project.

Swartz Creek – similar to our efforts in the South Branch, the FRWC has pulled together stakeholders in the Swartz Creek watershed to begin implementation of that watershed management plan. The FRWC continues to seek out funding to begin on the ground improvements in that watershed.

Gilkey Creek – The Genesee County Drain Commissioner and the Center for Applied Environmental Research are leading efforts that include developing a regional storm water detention basin (including land acquisition and construction) and a branding/education program. The FRWC participates on the citizen's advisory council, and has been hired to carry out stream profiling (discussed later under the monitoring sections).

Flint River Corridor Alliance – The FRWC is working with city leaders in downtown Flint to use our combined influence and resources to transform the downtown stretch of the Flint River from a distressed waterway to a natural resource that is an asset to the community and a national example of urban river restoration. Our efforts most notably have resulted in a new vision for the decaying Hamilton Dam, which includes a naturalized waterway rather than a brand new dam.

Flint River Watershed & Community Clean Ups

2011 Flint River & Community Clean Ups

The Friends of the Flint River Trail Cleanup on April 30th kicked off a successful year of community clean up efforts. This year we had the highest number of community partners supporting 20 sites within 3 counties: Genesee, Lapeer, and Oakland. This collaboration provided the opportunity for volunteers to retrieve 1,168 bags of trash – equivalent to approximately 5,137 cubic feet-- from our rivers & streams. Large items retrieved--not bagged, included 263 tires, wood and other abandoned building materials. Most of the 207 tires retrieved from the Thread Lake area were large, industrial size tires.

Community Partners:

Alpha Phi Apha	Bendle Community Schools	Boy Scout Troop 168
Brandon Community Schools	Carriage Town	Chatfield Schools
Christ Community Baptist Church	Citizens Nuisance Task Force	City of Burton
City of Clio	City of Flint	City of Flint Parks and Recreation
City of Flint, DDA	City of Flushing	City of Lapeer
City of Ortonville	College Community & Cultural Center	Compatible Laser Products
Congressman Dale Kildee	Flint Community Schools, Pierce Elementary	Flint River Corridor Alliance
Flushing Community Schools	Friends of the Flint River Trail	FRWC Lapeer Chapter
Genesee County Land Bank	Genesee County Parks & Recreation	Genesee Early College
Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan	Good Beans Café	HealthPlus of Michigan
Ichtus Foundation	InterVarsity Christians	Katherine Price Unity Park Neighborhood
Keep Genesee County Beautiful	Mott Community College, Campus Safety	MCC, Honors Students
Mott Park Neighborhood Association	New Paths	Resource Genesee
Resource Genesee Youth Leadership	Rick Rhein Disposal	Rowe Engineering,
Sierra Club	Spencer Agency	

Our Water Public Education Events

Paddling and Our Water River Walks: River: Putting People on the River!

People of all ages—starting from age 3 and into their '70s connected with the Flint River watershed through participation in one or more of Our Water Paddles and Walks. Our thanks to the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium for their support of these fun and informative events.

River Paddles & Municipal Residence:

Mitson Landing to Flushing River Road Landing:

Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Freeland, Holly, Linden

Holloway Dam to Richfield Park:

Burton, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Davison, Grand Blanc, Lapeer, Linden, Ortonville

Irish Road to Mott Lake:

Burton, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Linden, Mt. Morris, Swartz Creek

Montrose to Birch Run:

Burton, Clarkston, Davison, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Holly, Linden, Milford, Montrose, Rochester Hills, Swartz Creek

River Walks & Municipal Residence:

Flint River Trail:

Burton, Grand Blanc, Lapeer, Linden

Thread Creek Farm:

Royal Oak, Flint, Swartz Creek, Grand Blanc, Davison, Holly, Davisburg, Flushing

Richfield Park:

Burton, Davison, Flint, Mt. Morris, Lapeer, Swartz Creek

Gilkey Creek Trail:

Burton, Davison, Flint, Lapeer

Max Brandon Park:

Flint, Davison

Stepping Stone Falls:

Burton, Davison, Flint, Montrose

Flint River Watershed Programs

Our Water Storm Water Awareness Programs

Inclement weather conditions forced the cancellation of the first 10 Storm Water Awareness events planned by Catholic Heart Work Camp and Sierra Club. Through collaboration with the following groups, 15 neighborhoods -- over 1,400 homes, received information on storm water awareness and simple steps residents can do to help keep the watershed healthy. Storm Drains in the cities of Burton, Flint, Flushing, and Swartz Creek were stenciled by volunteers of all ages. Our thanks to the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium for their support of this program.

Volunteer Groups:

Circle K International, UM-Flint C

Citizens Nuisance Task Force

Cub Scouts Den 1, Pack 22

Flushing High School Environmental Club

Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce

New Paths

Sierra Club Nepessing Group

Southside Business & Resident Association

St. John Vianney Girl Scouts

2011 Our Water Community Presentation Programs

Through community presentations, individuals through the following groups received information on the Flint River Watershed. Our thanks to the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium for this program.

Annual Earth Day & Garden Celebration

Davison Optimist Club

East Flint Business & Resident Association

Flint Classical Academy & Southwestern Career Fair

Flint River Paddlers Community Meeting

Flushing Rotary

Genesee Chapter of Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel

Genesee County Master Gardeners

Grand Blanc Optimist Club

Kiwanis Club of Swartz Creek

Mott Park Neighborhood Association

MSU-Extension Master Gardeners

Nepessing Group, Sierra Club

South Side Business & Resident Association

Summer Youth Initiative

Swartz Creek Kiwanis Club

Valley School Parents and Lower School

Women's National Forum & Garden Club

Flint River Green

Global Rivers Environmental Education Network

Students, Teachers & Mentors Bringing Education Outdoors and to the Community

In 2011 the Flint River GREEN program broke national records by being the largest participating program in the nation. Over 3,600 students participated, learning how *they* can improve their Flint River Watershed.

Using scientific methods, students conduct nine tests (Nitrates, DO, BOD, pH, Turbidity, Temperature, Total Solids, Fecal Coli Form, Total Phosphates) to assess the health of a local river or stream. Students then work to identify any environmental problems, research the causes of the problem, and develop solutions to improve the health of their stream. Beyond merely identifying the environmental issue, the class works to make positive changes in practices or policies that allowed the problem to emerge in the first place.

Professional mentors from agencies across the watershed contribute to student learning and awareness. 2011 mentors came from twelve local organizations including Genesee County Drain Commission, General Motors, and the City of Flint Waste Water Treatment Center.

Other 2011 Numbers:

- 4 Counties had schools participating in GREEN (Lapeer, Oakland, Genesee and Saginaw)
- 10 Sub-watersheds were tested
- 27 School Districts supported the GREEN program in their schools
- 58 Teachers provided the GREEN program to their students
- 32 Environmental Professionals were available as Mentors for over 100 classrooms
- 16 School Districts were represented at the Student Summit
- 20 Individuals served as Presenters at the Student Summit
- 40 Educational Sessions were provided at the Student Summit
- 25 Organizations provided in-kind support for this program.

Visit the FRWC website for program details and for the 2011 Flint River GREEN Annual Report.

The FRWC is reaching new and current members!

At the end of 2011, we look back and reflect upon the impact that we had this year. Once again we can say we have met our mission to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River. We have archived our mission due to the contributions and support of our valued members, volunteers, and sponsors; we cannot do it without you. With the support of our members we are able to conduct River Cleanups, our Flint River Green Program or our Education outreach programs.

We currently have 466 members, and we are proud to say we have 69 new members this year alone! We continue to grow stronger as a voice of the river with each new membership.

As a nonprofit member funded organization we would like to say thank you for the contributions that you have made to support the Flint River Watershed Coalition.

Thank You for being a valued FRWC member!



FRWC Chapters

Friends of the Flint River Trail

The Friends of the Flint River Trail host Sunday rides every Sunday, May through October – and along with our “regulars” – some of whom have been riding on Sundays for more than ten years, brings new riders to the trail almost every week. In addition, the Friends lead rides on a number of Saturdays on other trails within about an hour drive from Flint. These rides proved more popular than ever!

Flint River Paddlers

The Flint River Paddlers encourage recreational canoeing and kayaking on the Flint River. Members of the chapter also volunteer many hours to our other events, including the Boats, Bikes, and Bricks triathlon coordinated by our partner organization the Flint River Corridor Alliance.

Lapeer County

As one of our oldest chapters, the volunteers in the Lapeer County Chapter bring a tireless voice of river conservation and protection to their community. Projects include maintaining a canoe path throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, and advocating water quality protection measures to local officials and decision makers.

Kearsley Creek Chapter

Focused primarily in Ortonville, but reaching all of the northern Oakland County portion of the Flint River Watershed, The Kearsley Creek Chapter monitors local planning and zoning issues that will impact the last remaining cool water fishery in the Flint River Watershed. Members also play a significant role in organizing the annual Ortonville Creek Fest event, as well as coordinate our only Oakland County site for the annual Flint River and Community Clean Up.



Grants

The following individuals and organizations are the major source of grants and financial support for the operations and projects of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Without the generosity of these foundations and businesses, we would not be able to carry out the FRWC mission. We look forward to a continued good relationship with our supporters in 2012 and beyond.

Paid Sources of Program Support and Grants	Programs Supported
A.D.A.M., Inc.	Flint River and Community Cleanup
BEST Project	General Operations and Strategic Planning
Center for Community Progress	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Coldwell Banker, Wade Pyles	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Cornell University	Outreach
Genesee County Conservation District	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Genesee County Drain Commissioner	Our Water Campaign Programs:
Genesee County Land Bank Authority	Flint River GREEN, Benthic Monitoring, Outreach
Genesee Intermediate School District	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Greg Hamman	Flint River GREEN
Highfield Foundation	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Hurley Medical Center	General Operations and Development
Representative Dale Kildee	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Lapeer Intermediate School District	Flint River and Community Cleanup
MI Corps	Flint River GREEN
Mott Community College	Benthic Monitoring
C. S. Mott Foundation	Flint River and Community Cleanup
C.S. Mott Foundation Matching Gifts Program	General Operations
Ruth Mott Foundation	General Operations,
Ruth Mott Foundation, Applewood Estate	River and Community Cleanup
Rowe, Inc.	General Operations
Sierra Club Nepessing Group	Benthic Monitoring
Wade Trim	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Pedals to Paddles	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Red Frog Productions	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Soggy Bottom Bar	Flint River and Community Cleanup
University of Michigan – Flint	General Operations
Vern's Collision and Glass	Flint River and Community Cleanup, Outreach
Wellness Massage Therapy and Yoga	General Operations
Wolverine Bump and Paint	General Operations
	Flint River and Community Cleanup

We have dozens of sources of valued in-kind support, and wish that space would allow individual recognition for all. Please contact the offices of the FRWC for a list of our in-kind donors, or to find out how you might be able to offer support to our programs.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition would like to thank the following partners who have helped build the success of the organization and our many programs.

C. S. Mott Foundation
Ruth Mott Foundation
Johnson Foundation
Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Genesee County Water Quality Consortium
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
University of Michigan – Flint
Flint River Corridor Alliance
Crim Fitness Foundation
Genesee County Conservation District
Lapeer County Conservation District
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Center for Applied Environmental Research at UM-Flint
City of Flushing
City of Flint
City of Lapeer
Epic Technology Solutions
Earth Force
General Motors

Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed



FRWC Financial Information

Flint River Watershed Coalition					
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets					
December 31, 2011 and 2010					
UNAUDITED					
Revenues and Support		2011		2010	
	Contributions, Fundraising, Events	\$	21,000.00	\$	42,000.00
	Foundation grants		80,000.00		45,000.00
	In-kind donations		12,000.00		12,000.00
	Interest income		100.00		100.00
	Membership fees		5,400.00		9,000.00
	Miscellaneous		2,300.00		1,200.00
	Project revenues		54,000.00		34,000.00
	Total revenue and support	\$	174,800.00	\$	143,300.00
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			-		-
	Total revenue, support and net released from restrictions		174,800.00		143,300.00
Expenses					
	Program services	\$	145,000.00	\$	135,000.00
	Support services				
	Management and general		60,000.00		55,000.00
	Total expenses	\$	205,000.00	\$	190,000.00
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets			(30,200.00)		(46,700.00)
Net Assets (Deficit) - Beginning of year			133,300.00		180,000.00
Net Assets (Deficit) - End of year		\$	103,100.00	\$	133,300.00
<p>The Balance Sheet and Activities Statement reflects the accounts of the Flint River Watershed Coalition as of December 31, 2011. These statements are not audited as of the printing of this annual report. The last audit of the organization's financial statements were conducted for the accounts as of December 31, 2010. See the audit report dated July 28, 2011 by Taylor & Morgan, Certified Public Accountants. The INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT stated that there were no material exceptions to the FRWC records. A copy of the auditor's report can be found on line at www.flintriver.org or by calling the Flint River Watershed at 810-767-6490.)</p>					

To Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed



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