



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality News Release

June 9, 2011

11-0609

For More Information

Brad Wurfel, 517-373-7917, wurfelb@michigan.gov

Bill Dimond, 517-241-9565, dimondw@michigan.gov

Volunteer cleanup grants total \$34,000

15 local governments to host river, stream and creek cleanup events

The Department of Environmental Quality and the Great Lakes Commission have selected 15 organizations to receive 2011 Volunteer River, Stream, and Creek Cleanup Program grants totaling \$34,148.

Michigan's VRSCC program provides grants from \$500 to \$5,000 to local units of government to improve Michigan's waters by cleaning up rivers, streams, and creeks. Local governments often partner with nonprofit organizations or other volunteer groups to perform the cleanups, which include removal of trash and other debris from the water's edge and stream banks.

Removal of natural materials like fallen trees, branches, and rocks is not allowed under this grant program.

The groups selected to receive funding in 2011 include:

- South Branch Township, "Au Sable River Annual River Cleanup" - \$2,692
- City of Ann Arbor, "Cleanup the Huron River" - \$3,419
- City of Battle Creek, "2011 Global Citizens River Conservation Day" - \$1,500
- City of Cedar Springs, "Cedar Creek Cleanup" - \$1,222
- Saginaw Conservation District, "Cass River 3rd Annual Clean-up" - \$2,450
- City of Charlotte, "7th Annual River Clean-up" - \$740
- Barry Conservation District, "16th Annual Thornapple River Cleanup" - \$1,680
- Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District, "1st Annual Munuscong River Cleanup Project" - \$2,846
- Tuscarora Township, "2011 Big Splash Clean Up" - \$1,345
- City of Marshall, "Marshall Area River Clean Up & Conservation Day" - \$1,760
- St. Joe County Conservation District, "St. Joe County River Cleanup 2011" - \$3,910

- Van Buren Conservation District, “River Rescue in Black & Paw Paw River and Hickory Creek Watersheds” - \$4,098
- City of Grand Rapids–Environmental Services Department, “Mayors’ Grand River Clean Up” - \$3,094
- Shiawassee County Health Department–Environmental Health Division, “14th Annual Shiawassee River Cleanup” - \$1,935
- Grand Traverse Conservation District, “7th Annual Boardman River Clean Sweep–2011” - \$1,458

Michigan’s VRSCC program began in 1998 and has been funded through various public acts. Since 2001, funds for this program have originated from the sale of the state’s water quality protection license plates. Grants are administered by the Great Lakes Commission, under contract with the DEQ. These grants help foster local stewardship and a sense of community while protecting Michigan’s waters.

Additional information on the VRSCC program is available online at www.glc.org/streamclean or by e-mailing Laura Kaminski, Great Lakes Commission, at laurak@glc.org, or Bill Dimond, DEQ, at dimondw@michigan.gov.

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