

The Watering Hole



This Month by the Numbers

3 Landowner visits

1,100 Feet of Grassed waterway completed

2 Grant Opportunities applied for

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Our Water Resources

Michigan is blessed with 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, over 11,000 inland lakes, 30,000 miles of navigable rivers, and millions of acres of wetlands. It comes at no surprise that water is on the minds of many a Michigander. And so, too, should water quality. After all, healthy waterways are vital to the economy, recreation opportunities, and our own health and well-being.

Michigan's economy depends on water. According to michiganblueeconomy.org, 1 in 5 jobs in Michigan are water-related. Our Great Lakes provide ample shipping opportunities. Rain and groundwater give life to our crops and our streams carry away excess water, making more land tillable. Water-based tourism and recreation define what it means to be in "Pure Michigan."

Whether taking a dip in Lake Michigan, visiting waterfalls in the Upper Peninsula, hitting your favorite stream for the trout opener, or even hitting the slopes in winter, water is a big part of recreation in Michigan. Ask just about anyone and they will tell you that recreation and water are almost synonymous in our state.

Water quality has been popping up on the news a lot lately, and there are many examples of why water quality is so important to our health and well-being. Hazardous chemicals, bacteria and other pathogens, and nutrients can very easily enter our water undetected and cause major health issues and negative environmental impacts. It is up to each of us to protect our water resources and ensure that we have safe water for drinking and other personal uses far into the future.

Whatever water means to you, we can all agree that it is a resource that deserves our care and attention. Throughout the county and state you can find groups, like the Barry Conservation District, that are committed to protecting our water for future generations.

