



The Blue Watershed News

Welcome!

This newsletter is meant to keep a variety of interested citizens, state legislators, municipal board members and county commissioners informed about water quality initiatives in St. Clair County. If you would like more information, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

Northeastern Watershed Active Partners

St. Clair County
 City of Marine City
 City of Marysville
 City of Port Huron
 City of St. Clair
 Burtchville Twp
 Clyde Twp
 East China Twp
 Fort Gratiot Twp
 Kimball Twp
 Port Huron Twp
 St. Clair Twp

Anchor Bay Watershed Active Partners

St. Clair County
 Casco Twp.
 Ira Twp.
 City of Algonac
 Cottreville Twp.
 Clay Twp.
 Macomb County
 Lenox Twp
 City of Richmond
 Chesterfield Twp.

Watershed Planning in St. Clair County

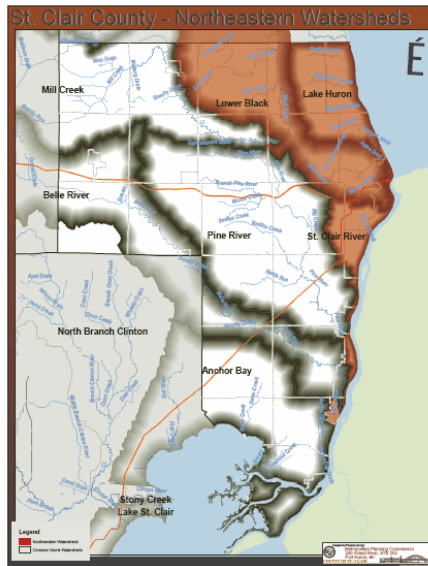
Two watersheds planning groups have formed in St. Clair County to address storm water management: the **Northeastern Watersheds** (includes the Lake Huron, Black River and St. Clair River subwatersheds) and the **Anchor Bay Watershed**.

Storm water has become our predominant source of water quality pollution. Under Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System,

part of the Clean Water Act, seventeen local municipalities, St. Clair County and numerous other public entities must meet federal standards for reducing stormwater pollution.

These groups are charting a course to fulfill the requirements of their stormwater permits by working together on a watershed basis to share resources and create joint planning documents.

St. Clair County's Northeastern Watersheds



In February 2005, the Northeastern Watershed active partners (see side bar) jointly contributed \$120,000 to hire **Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.** and **Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc.** to begin developing a watershed plan for St. Clair County's Northeastern Watersheds. The watershed plan will be complete by September 2006.

The Northeastern Watershed Plan will identify and prioritize sources of water pollution and the management actions needed to improve and maintain water quality in the Black River, Lake Huron and St. Clair River watersheds. Active partners are mandated to submit a list of actions they will implement to address the plan's recommendations in May 2007.

St. Clair County's Anchor Bay Watershed

The Anchor Bay Watershed Plan was completed in December 2003. As a result, the watershed received a \$100,000 grant from the state in September 2004.

The goal of the grant is to improve the watershed plan and implement one of its recommendations to **control increased storm water flows that result from new development.**

Increase of storm water flow to our waterways causes flooding, erosion, and destruction of aquatic habitat.

Public meetings regarding this project will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2005 (see page 3).

View a map of the Anchor Bay Watershed at <http://awp.stclaircounty.org> or see the outline of the watershed in the above map on this page.

2005 River Day Events

~ Featuring ~

Pancake kick-off breakfast

Goodells County Park Splash Pad grand opening

River clean-ups

Nature walks

Water quality monitoring

Storm drain curb marking

Fishing clinics

Water plant tours

Fly tying classes

River crossing sign installations

Free fishing equipment rentals

Free canoe rentals

A Green Roof workshop

Household hazardous waste collection

And much more!

Request a River Day Event Guide or for more information, contact:

Phone

810.987.5306

Email

riverday@st.claircounty.org

Web

www.stclaircounty
stormwater.org

River Day 2005 is here! – Saturday, June 11th

Celebrate the rivers, lakes and bays throughout St. Clair County

Join us in celebrating St. Clair County's first-ever River Day. More than forty events will be held at locations throughout all of St. Clair County's seven watersheds.

The purpose of River Day is to celebrate, learn about, and enhance our abundant water resources through recreation, education, and stewardship activities. Whether you like to walk, fish, plant, paddle or play, there's something for everyone during River Day! How can you get involved? Sponsor or promote events, recruit volunteers, or simply come out to enjoy the day! Request a River Day Event Guide to learn more about each event (see side bar).



Volunteers mark storm drains with "No Polluting, Drains to Waterways" permanent decals. These decals promote the link between streets, storm water run-off and water pollution. Place markers in your neighborhood by contacting the Health Dept. at 810.987.5306 or stormwater@stclaircounty.org

Rain Gardens: A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution

When you build a rain garden, you improve the quality of your water while creating a beautiful natural area that will attract birds and butterflies.

A Rain Garden is an attractive, bowl-shaped, landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants.



Rain Gardens are designed to filter and absorb storm water running off rooftops and driveways. They help recharge our groundwater, alleviate flooding in low areas and reduce polluted storm water.

Rain Gardens can be a small garden for a single home to a large system for a new development or somewhere in between.

To enhance the ability of a Rain Garden to handle storm water, sand and top soil

are often needed to replace heavy clay. Compost is also particularly important for pollutant breakdown and water uptake.

Once a Rain Garden is established they provide beauty with minimal maintenance. Specific perennial native plants suited to rain garden conditions do not require watering or fertilizers, and are resistant to pests. In fact, a variety of native plants can be placed anywhere in your yard resulting in a yard that is lower maintenance than a typical lawn and much better for water quality.

A Rain Garden presentation can be given to your organization, board, or association. Please contact 810.987.5306 or stormwater@stclaircounty.org.

Household Hazardous Waste accepted any time of year!

- oil-based paints
- varnish
- cleaners
- gasoline
- household batteries and more

Appointments required

Contact Smiths Creek Landfill at
bbarnes@stclaircounty.org or
(810) 367-3784

Attend an Anchor Bay Watershed Public Meeting

The Anchor Bay Watershed Project is a partnership between Macomb and St. Clair Counties and nine local communities that aims to improve water quality in Anchor Bay and its tributaries.



On May 26th there will be two public meetings to present the results of a \$100,000 grant funded project.

Part of this grant was used to estimate increases of storm water that will result from future planned development and determine if current local and county storm water management practices are sufficient for preventing future flooding and water quality degradation. Model ordinances have been developed for communities or counties to adopt which will better control storm water flows for the future.

Come to an afternoon or evening public meeting to learn more about this project.

Earth Fair 2005 a success!

On April 15-16, the St. Clair County Environmental Education Network celebrated its 3rd Annual Earth Fair at Goodells County Park. The event is a grass-roots effort to educate people who want to promote a cleaner, healthier world for themselves and future generations. There were informational booths, hands-on activities, live animals, wagon rides, natural products, plants, and art for sale, performers, hybrid vehicles, and more! Earth Fair is held every year in conjunction with the St. Clair Conservation District's tree sale.



DTE Energy sponsored an educational and entertaining Enviro-Magic show.

Summer Tip for Your 'shed – *Fertilize caringly & sparingly*

Just in time for spring yard work, we are reminding homeowners that fertilizer should be applied caringly and sparingly with awareness that excess fertilizer can harm the county's waterways.

Having your soil tested is an important first step to determine the fertilizer nutrients needed (if any). St. Clair County's MSU Extension office offers soil testing for \$11.00. Homeowners can learn their soil's pH, nutrients, soil type, organic matter, and receive a custom recommendation for their yard. For example, usually St. Clair County lawns do not need fertilizer with phosphorous and this nutrient can impact

local waterways where we like to swim!

Additional tips include:

- **Sweep it.** Sweep fertilizer & grass clippings back onto the lawn instead of spraying them into a storm drain.
- **Mow high.** Make your lawn cheaper & easier to maintain by mowing high – three inches is the rule! Tall grass promotes root growth & shades out weeds. Let grass clippings fall back on the lawn.
- **Make fertilizer-free zones.** Keep fertilizer applications at least 20 feet away from the edge of lakes, rivers, and storm drains.

Anchor Bay Public Meeting Dates

May 26
3:00- 4:00pm
Clay Twp Hall

4710 Pte. Tremble Road

May 26*
7:00-8:00pm
Chesterfield Twp Hall
47275 Sugarbush Road

**Snacks provided
and activities for children!*

Who should attend?

Anyone who lives or works in the Anchor Bay Watershed communities:

Casco Twp.
Ira Twp.
City of Algonac
Cottreville Twp.
Clay Twp.
Lenox Twp.
City of Richmond
Chesterfield Twp.
City of New Baltimore



Practice smart fertilizer application methods. Contact the MSU Extension office at 810.989.6935 to request a soil testing box. Visit www.semco.org and click on "Ours to Protect" for more clean water tips.

St. Clair County Health Department

Division of
Environmental Health
Storm Water Program

3415 28th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

PHONE
(810) 987 - 5306

FAX
(810) 985 - 2150



Visit us online at:
[www.stclaircounty
stormwater.org](http://www.stclaircountystormwater.org)

Happenings In Your 'shed

Saturday, May 7th - Spring Wildflower Walk

10:00am - Noon at the Pine River Nature Center. Registration required. Contact Lisa Appel at 810.325.9106 or lappel@sccresa.org

Saturday, May 14th - St. John's Marsh Clean-up

Meet at 9am for check-in and location assignments. Garbage bags supplied. Gloves and boots recommended. Lunch provided. Sponsored by Water Fowl USA St. Clair Flats Chapter. Meet at 6211 Pte. Tremble Road, Algonac. Contact: Mike Pellerito at 586.725.2858

Thursday May 26th - Anchor Bay Watershed Public Meeting

3:00 - 4:00pm at Clay Township Hall, 4710 Pte. Tremble Road, Algonac. Contact: 810.794.9303

Thursday, May 26th - Anchor Bay Watershed Public Meeting

7:00 - 8:00pm at Chesterfield Township Hall, 47275 Sugarbush Road. Contact: 586.949.0400

Saturday, June 4th - Pre-River Day activities begin

Kid Fest in Port Huron, Kids All-American Fishing Derby in St. Clair, & Pine River Water Festival at the Pine River Nature Center. Request an Event Guide at 987.5306 or riverday@stclaircounty.org

Tuesday, June 7th - Native Shoreline Vegetation Workshop

Algonac-Clay Branch Library at 2011 St. Clair River Dr, Algonac. Hosted by Macomb County Groundwater Stewardship Program. Contact Matt Catanzarite at 586.469.5180

Wednesday, June 8th - Green Roof Workshop

4:00pm, MTEC Center, Rm. 150 at St. Clair County Community College. Ford Rouge Plant Green Roof designer will speak and participants will see him install a small green roof in Port Huron. Contact Kristen O'Reilly at 987.5306 or koreilly@hd.stclaircounty.org

Saturday, June 11th - River Day 2005

Join us in celebrating St. Clair County's first-ever River Day! Request an Event Guide at 810.987.5306, riverday@stclaircounty.org or www.stclaircountystormwater.org

Saturday, October 15th - Adopt-A-Stream

Fall water quality testing & clean-up. Hosted by the St. Clair County MSU Extension Office. Contact Liane Allen at 810.989.6935 or lallen@stclaircounty.org

If you no longer wish to receive **The Blue Watershed News** by mail, or you are not yet on our mailing list and would like to receive the newsletter electronically or by mail, please call 810.987.5306 and leave your name, address, phone number, email, and whether you wish to be added or removed from the mailing list.

This newsletter is being distributed on behalf of the St. Clair County Storm Water Program for the Black River, St. Clair River, Lake Huron and Anchor Bay Watershed groups.

St. Clair County Health Department
Division of Environmental Health
3415 28th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

