



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



www.mywatersheds.org

Improving the health of the Grand River,
the Red Cedar River, and the Looking
Glass River watersheds since 1999.

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Throughout 2025, the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC) sought additional avenues of engagement with the residents of Greater Lansing, encouraging personal actions to reduce stormwater pollution. A new educational poster on rain gardens was developed for outreach along with a “How to Build a Rain Garden” workshop and a rain garden tour, presented in partnership with Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. These efforts were complemented by a new video on “How to Install a Rain Garden” shown to fans during two Lansing Lugnuts’ baseball games.

Unique engagement strategies prevailed in every GLRC member community in the region through 17 new works of art commissioned to raise awareness of the importance of keeping storm drains clear of litter and debris. Under the ArtStorm 2025 grant received by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Michigan Arts and Culture Council, an Adventure Lab geocaching adventure was also created with the ArtStorm murals, leading to a cache of prizes. A video showcasing all the murals completed for the grant project has become GLRC’s most popular YouTube resource.

As education is at the crux of water protection, the GLRC also engaged with its municipal members by offering two “Smart Salting” training opportunities in 2025. Seminars were held, with certifications available for “Smart Salting for Roads” and “Smart Salting for Parking Lots and Sidewalks”. To further our reach, private snow removal companies in the region were invited to learn about proper salting and calibration techniques at no cost.

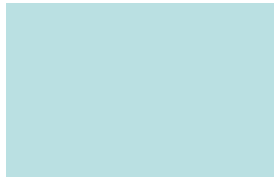
GLRC’s outreach in 2025 continued into schools, with three new lesson plans developed and publicized as free opportunities for teachers to bring stormwater management experts into the classroom. Through our efforts to engage and train the tri-county region’s citizenry, the GLRC has worked hard to improve the health of our watersheds. Visit our website or follow us on social media to join us in taking simple steps to reduce stormwater pollution and help protect our waters.

Paul C. Pratt

Ingham County Deputy Drain Commissioner
GLRC Chair



ROLE OF THE GLRC



The Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC) is a guiding body comprised of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities within the Greater Lansing region that collaborate to reduce stormwater pollution in the Grand, Red Cedar, and Looking Glass River watersheds.

GLRC MEMBERS

- Clinton County*
- Clinton County Road Commission*
- 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 Township*
- Michigan State University*
- Waverly Community Schools*

ABOUT US

GLRC members have worked to improve watershed health throughout Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties since 1999. The organization is administered by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

WHAT IS AN MS4?

MS4 communities use a network of storm drains, pipes, and ditches to collect and transport stormwater runoff, as it flows into catch basins, curbs, gutters, and storm drains.

This runoff is often untreated and directly discharged into local lakes, rivers and streams. Unfortunately, pollutants like these “hitch a ride” with runoff stormwater, and accumulate in our waters:

- oil
- trash
- fertilizers
- pet waste
- sediment
- pesticides



That’s why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires urbanized MS4s to implement programs and practices to control polluted runoff through the use of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES permits. GLRC members work collaboratively on regional issues to meet permit requirements.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SIX MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT



Providing opportunities for citizen participation in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a stormwater management panel.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluting stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.



ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION



Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Activities include developing a system map and informing communities about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL

Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds.



POST-CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROL



Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques, such as regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch basin cleaning.



To prevent stormwater pollution, GLRC members implement the six “minimum control measures” under their NPDES permit, with a special focus on regional outreach and education. The following committees coordinate and do the work necessary to ensure GLRC maintains permit compliance.

Public Education Plan (PEP) Committee

Guides the overall public education, participation, outreach, and involvement process for the stormwater program. This effort includes evaluation and assessment of public knowledge and activities.

Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) Committee

Guides implementation of the program, mapping guidelines, field-sampling protocols, and how the watershed will be monitored for progress. The IDEP Committee has reviewed pet waste management and septic tank maintenance issues, reviewed IDEP ordinances, and provided staff training.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee

Makes recommendations regarding *E. coli* TMDL requirements for the Grand River, Red Cedar River, and Looking Glass River. The Committee provides education and updates to GLRC members to assist in the development and implementation of TMDL programs.



2025 REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

Fiscal Year 2025 Category	FY 2025 Expenses
Tri-County Administrative Cost/Support Staff	\$118,556
Training	\$1,001
Public Education Plan Projects	\$9,998
Association Memberships	\$600
Printing/Office Supplies	\$932
Travel	\$3,809
Total	\$134,896



GLRC ADMINISTRATION 2025

17 Community Members	12 Committee Meetings	18 Outreach Events
IMPACT		
2,411 Engagements with the Public	122 Attendees at 3 trainings offered	3,387 Educational Materials Distributed



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



A. New “How Lucky Is Your Duck?” activity at the MSU Science Festival.



B. “How to Build a Rain Garden” Workshop presented with MSU Extension in Dimondale.



C. “Lucky Duck” activity at the Grand Ledge Area District Library.

Encouraging behavioral changes to protect our surface waters.

01. Organic Social Media

In 2025, GLRC shared 110 posts. Its Facebook page received over 25,701 views, with 6,045 additional views on Instagram and X, representing a 9% increase in views on Facebook and a 5% increase in reach on Instagram.

02. Paid Social Media

Using educational videos, Meta social media campaigns were conducted to promote the benefits of native trees, rain gardens, and proper lawn care, resulting in 92,626 impressions. New in 2025, Google Ad campaigns on these topics, plus a campaign on keeping storm drains clear, received 147,565 impressions.

03. Educational Materials

To expand educational efforts in the classroom, GLRC created three new lessons plans for elementary, middle, and high school students and developed a poster on the benefits of rain gardens for use in schools and at outreach events.



Excerpt from new rain gardens poster



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



In 2025, the GLRC and Tri-County implemented a grant received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) to launch **ArtStorm 2025**, a 17-mural placemaking project in each member community aimed at encouraging residents to help prevent stormwater pollution.



MACC's Experience Support Grant connected Mid-Michigan residents through art while educating them about protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams. The grant was executed in collaboration with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. An "ArtStorm 2025" Geocaching Adventure Lab was also developed to showcase the murals and enhance education!



Red Cedar River,
Michigan State University Campus

“GLRC’s collaborative model provides consistent and valuable regional stormwater management. The GLRC continues to be a strong, unified group that delivers timely and vital stormwater education that protects our waterways and the health of our communities. It also creatively explores new avenues of outreach and education, working closely with EGLE to ensure MS4 permit compliance.”

Patrick Klein
Environmental Quality Analyst, Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

CONNECT WITH US

This report was produced by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. Follow the GLRC and Tri-County online for updates on regional planning and how to protect our waters!



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