



## Water Week 2008

Water Week 2008, a celebration of Michigan's great natural resource of water, will be held during the week of June 7th, as proclaimed by Governor Granholm. The celebrations are promoted through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), along with the community collaboration of government, environmental groups, businesses, and citizens.

The Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water coordinated through SEMCOG, in partnership with the MDEQ is pleased to announce Water Week 2008. SEMCOG celebrates Water Week annually through organizing local activities and events which recognize and celebrate Michigan's great natural resource of water. Governor Jennifer Granholm has proclaimed the week of Saturday, June 7, 2008 through Saturday, June 14, 2008 as Water Week. Water Week is intended to motivate Michiganders to celebrate, learn about, and enhance the abundant water resources that this state harbors through recreation, education, and stewardship activities. Water Week events will take place throughout Michigan in numerous communities such as Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne Counties.

Some activities will include the Friends of the Rouge [Rouge Rescue 2008](#); the Clinton River Watershed Council's [River Day "S.S. River Day Preserve the Fun"](#); the [St. Clair County River Day](#); the Sierra Club of Rochester [Storm Drain Stenciling](#); the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action "[Green Lunch Series](#)"; the Hawk Woods Nature Center [Annual Father/Son Campout](#); and the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay [Adopt-A-Stream](#); as well as river and stream cleanups, fishing events, nature walks, and river crossing sign installations throughout the region.

Water is Michigan's most significant natural resource, providing our state with economic and social benefits such as tourism, fishing, manufacturing, agriculture, and other imperative needs. Michigan is known for its Great Lakes which together contain one-fifth of the world's surface fresh water. Michigan is also home to some 11,000 lakes and ponds and over 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. Michigan hosts recreation in over 7,000 miles of canoeing streams, 13,000 miles of trout waters, and over 700 access sites for boating.

With the many benefits of preserving Michigan's water, community awareness and education are a means to aid in the conservation of this resource. Community conservation and environmental protection efforts also provide

opportunities for partnerships among government, environmental groups, businesses, and citizens. Through the creation of community partnerships that celebrate Michigan's water, individual communities will have the opportunity to express and share unique approaches to water-related activities.

Every community in Michigan is welcome to sponsor an event during Water Week. If you would like an event publicized through the MDEQ please contact Thomas Occhipinti, [occhipintit@michigan.gov](mailto:occhipintit@michigan.gov) or 517-373-2379. If your event is scheduled to take place in Southeast Michigan, you may also contact Susan Stefanski at SEMCOG, [stefanski@semcog.org](mailto:stefanski@semcog.org) for additional distribution of your event announcement. For more information regarding events in your area, visit the [SEMCOG Website](#).