

# Michigan Areas of Concern

## Project Highlight: River Raisin



River Raisin Fish Passage Phase I | Aug-Nov. 2012

**Project Type:** Restoration  
**Location:** Monroe County



**GLRI Funds:** \$1.2 Million  
**Local Match:** \$100,000

### Project at a Glance

The River Raisin has a rich history and was once renowned for its natural resources like the American lotus, its rich fish populations and



excellent hunting. The river was known as the “Nummasepee” or the “River of Sturgeon” to early Native American inhabitants.

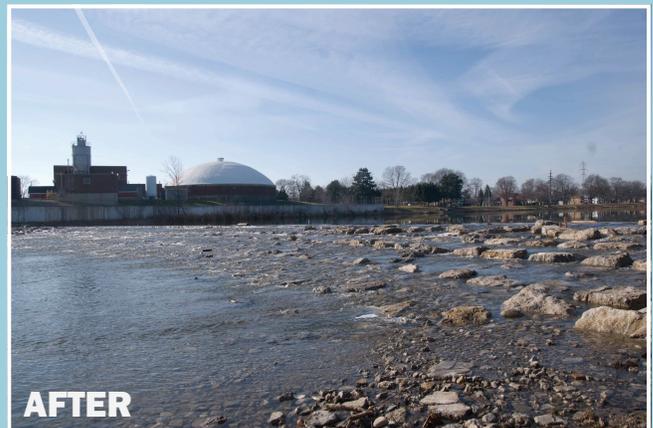
But industrialization brought multiple dams to the lower River Raisin, blocking passage for the sturgeon that lent the water one of its earliest namesakes. But recent, extensive restoration efforts removed two of these dams and installed “rock arch rapids” at two others, allowing the fish to again access the upstream areas of the river.

The Phase I Fish Passage project was completed in fall 2012 and provided fish and other aquatic organisms access to 3.5 miles of river otherwise inaccessible for the better part of the last century.

### Local Perspective

*“Without the financial and professional resources provided through the GLRI program, the River Raisin dam removal, remediation and fishery restoration project would probably never have happened. While this is the most visible GLRI project in our community, there are a number of others which are underway or completed which together will result in tremendous progress in cleaning up the river, restoring its fishery, restoring its associated wetland habitat and overall enhancing its beneficial uses. The increases in historical flora and fauna, the removal of river contaminants and the associated improvement of the river’s reputation as a safe and pleasant place to play, fish, boat and visit, will pay dividends in the physical health of the people and the economic well-being of our community.”*

**-George A. Brown, City Manager, City of Monroe**



While low waters affected flow at the completion of the project, the Raisin will flow more freely this spring.

### Partners:



Department of  
**Environmental Quality**  
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