



Press Advisory:

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Join the Flint River Watershed's #Stewardshipmonth2020 #Quaranclean

Stewardship Day goes virtual in Month-long event to cleanup and beautify our local waterways and natural areas.

Flint, MI. March 31, 2020 – Flint, MI. In years prior, the last Saturday in April saw hundreds of volunteers across Genesee and Lapeer Counties come together to make a big impact in just a few hours in the Flint River watershed. In response to the Covid-19 crisis, the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) is switching gears for our Annual Stewardship day. This year, we're going virtual for the entire month of April!

FRWC Executive Director Rebecca Fedewa states “This cleanup has been an April staple for over twenty years, originating with the Friends of the Flint River Trail. Over the years, many partners have joined forces to now create one of the area's largest cleanup efforts, hosting more than 320 volunteers in 2019 at 22 sites across the watershed. This is important work each spring, and we wanted to provide our amazing volunteers with a fun alternative during these uncertain times.”

How to Participate:

Rather than gathering groups of people to attend to a specific site, this year we encourage volunteers to make a difference #alonetogether in their neighborhoods. What does this mean?

- While maintaining social distancing guidelines and safety measures, regularly head outside to take small or large steps to improve your neck of the woods. It doesn't have to be every day, but you can do as many activities as you like!
- Potential activities: picking up trash while you enjoy a walk through your neighborhood, planting trees or native wildflowers, or connect with your local park to offer assistance in spring cleanup activities. Take on a bigger project such as making a rain barrel or compost bin or repurposing old or broken items at home instead of throwing them away. The sky truly is the limit!
- Log your activities! We want to hear what you've been up to. Join our Stewardship month event on Facebook. Tag your social media photos and post with #Stewardshipmonth2020 #Quaranclean and #FlintRiver. Fill out our online survey at <https://bit.ly/33ZBx4n> so we can tally all the great works completed throughout the month. Or email adarzi@flinriver.org with any updates and pictures of your projects and/or trash collected.
- Regularly check our Facebook and Instagram pages – we'll provide tips and inspiration each day throughout the month, and recognize the amazing efforts of our participants.
- This event is not limited to those living in the Flint River Watershed. Anyone who wants to virtually get in on the fun is welcome to join our effort and is eligible for our fabulous prizes (see below).

Compete to Win!

- All participants will be invited to a volunteer appreciation lunch at a date and location to be determined, where they can claim their thank-you gift.
- Any unique, quirky, unexpected, or outright weird finds will be entered for a chance to win our annual Golden Gloves Award. Items are put to a public vote in January, and the winner is awarded their trophy at the FRWC Annual Celebration at the end of January, 2021.
- New this year, participants also can compete for the *Most Trash Collected* throughout the month of April. So keep track, log your successes in our Google form, and take photos to show off your accomplishments during Stewardship Month.

“With this being the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we’re very excited to see what folks come up with during Stewardship Month,” states Anna Darzi, FRWC’s Community Outreach Coordinator. “This is a great opportunity to get creative while making a difference for our environment.”

Participants can connect with Anna with any questions or to share their successes at adarzi@flinriver.org.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition seeks a healthy, vibrant, and active Flint River watershed for all. We work in partnership to protect, promote, and improve the Flint River and its watershed.

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Executive Director Rebecca Fedewa’s home office “coworkers” participating in Stewardship Month. Photo file available at www.FlintRiver.org