



400 N. Saginaw, Suite 233
Flint, MI 48502
PHONE: 810-767-6490
www.flintriver.org
www.frcalliance.org



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2014

Contact:
Janet Van De Winkle, Flint River Corridor
Alliance Director
586-219-7865
jvandewinkle@frcalliance.org

Flint River Watershed Coalition Receives Grant for the Hamilton Dam Project

The Flint River Watershed Coalition has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network for the demolition of the Hamilton Dam and the construction of a series of rock rapids that will take its place. The Hamilton Dam project is gaining momentum as the Flint River Corridor Alliance and the Flint River Watershed Coalition work together with the City of Flint to raise enough funds for the project. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has deemed the Hamilton Dam a "High Hazard Critical Dam". In replacing the dam with a series of rock rapids, this will ensure critical river levels needed for the Water Treatment Plant upstream. It will also allow for fish passage, as well as the opportunity for water recreation on the downtown stretch of the Flint River for the first time since the dam was constructed.

"The WIN program is excited to make this grant to a project that is critical in the restoration of both the Flint River ecosystem and, at a larger scale, the Saginaw Bay", said Michael Kelly of The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund administers the WIN project. "The Flint River Corridor Alliance and the Flint River Watershed Coalition are taking important steps in restoring the river, while at the same time promoting economic development and the use of the river as a recreational resource. We are delighted to partner with them on this important project", added Kelly.

Janet Van De Winkle, Director of the Flint River Corridor Alliance adds, "This project is very exciting because it is essentially implementing the first phase of the Flint Riverfront Restoration Plan. The dam is in serious disrepair, and this solution will provide flood protection, allow for fish passage and recreation, as well as being more environmentally sound. We thank the Saginaw Bay WIN for seeing this vision, and how this project will positively affect the Greater Flint area."

The Flint River Corridor Alliance is a community-based organization of government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders organized to initiate, support, and sustain projects in the Flint

River Corridor that revitalize the river as a community asset while enriching the quality of life for the area's residents, businesses, and visitors.

As the leading community-based advocate for clean water resources, the Flint River Watershed Coalition promotes efforts to protect, preserve, and improve our area's ecosystem through partnership, public education, scientific projects, and community involvement. The FRWC is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. The FRWC envisions a day when the future of our drinking water is secure and the integrity of the Flint River is protected. The FRWC believes that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities.

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community driven, quality of life initiative, created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region. Key WIN funding partners include: Bay Area Community Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, S.C. Johnson Fund, the Cook Family Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Foundation. More information on WIN is available at www.saginawbaywin.org or by calling 989-892-9171.

* * *

Flint River Watershed Coalition
Flint River Watershed Coalition Receives Grant for the Hamilton Dam Project
NEWS RELEASE
August 19, 2014