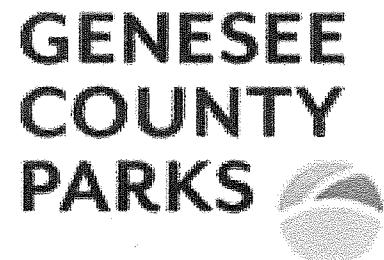
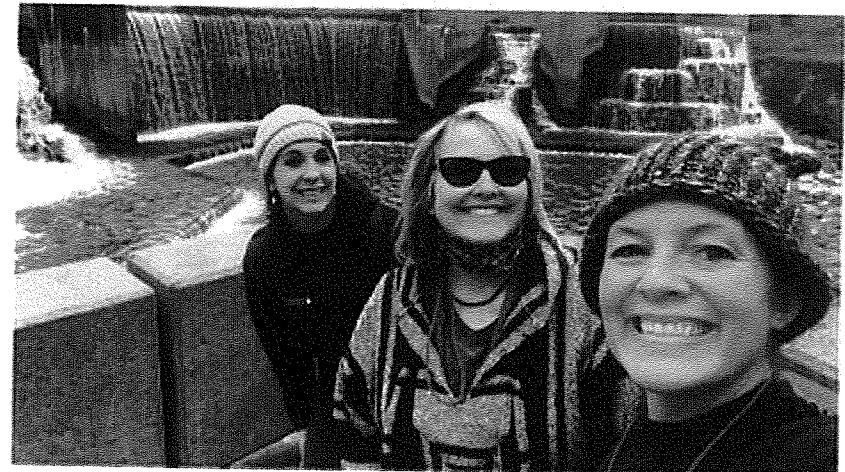


# Proposed program of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission



# Who is the FRWC?

- 501(c)3 Non-profit organization since 1998, acting as the 'Voice of the Flint River', stewardship advocate for the watershed from Lapeer to Montrose
- Established with support of CS Mott Foundation and long-term funding
- 142 miles of National/ State Water trail shoreline, 1,258 square miles, 7 counties, population served 2,109,926

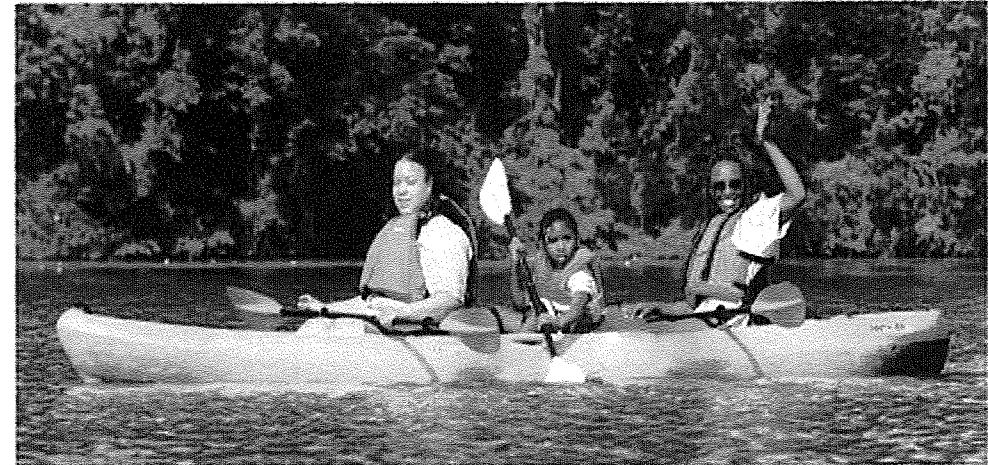


# Who is the FRWC?

- 3 Full time staff including Executive Director, 2 part time staff and seasonal paddle staff. Annual budget \$380k.
- Board includes up to 18 members
- Chapters: Lapeer FRWC, Fli River Anglers, Friends of the Flint River Trail

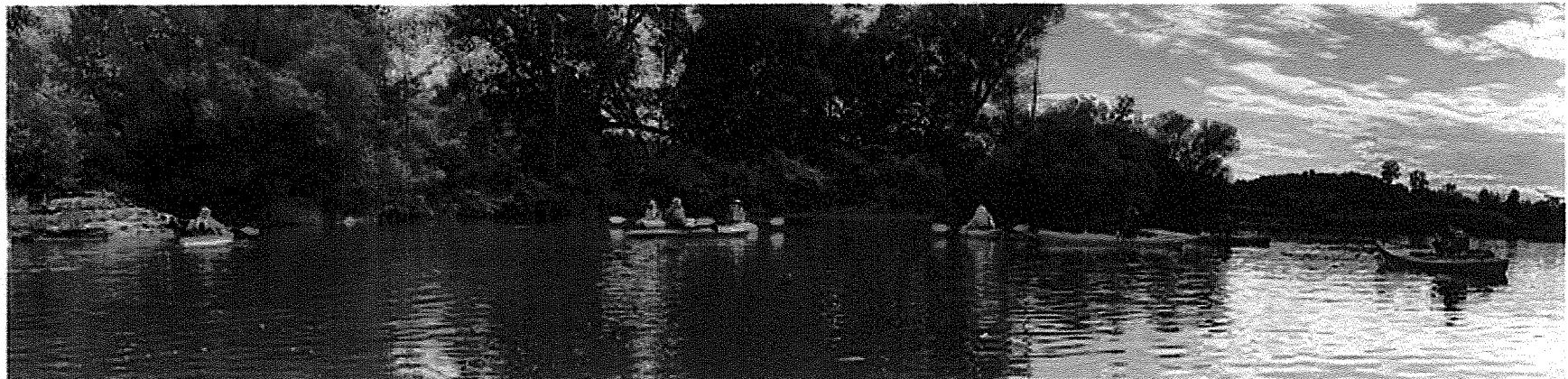


Common Loon, Holloway Reservoir  
March 26, 2024  
Photo credit to Tom Esper



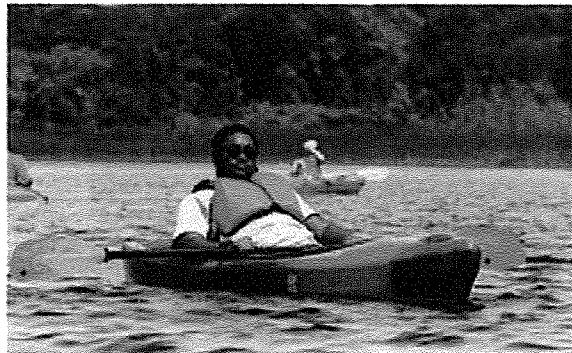
# Why this, why now?

- We are replacing a 3 year federal grant that supported curriculum for over 1,500 middle school students each year and a paddle livery that is disrupted by construction and pollution events that we are battling.
- Replacement of event-based funding (80's in the Hole, Flotilla) - taxed staff in busy season/ weather dependent.
- FRWC as a program of GCPRC allows for increased funding from private foundations



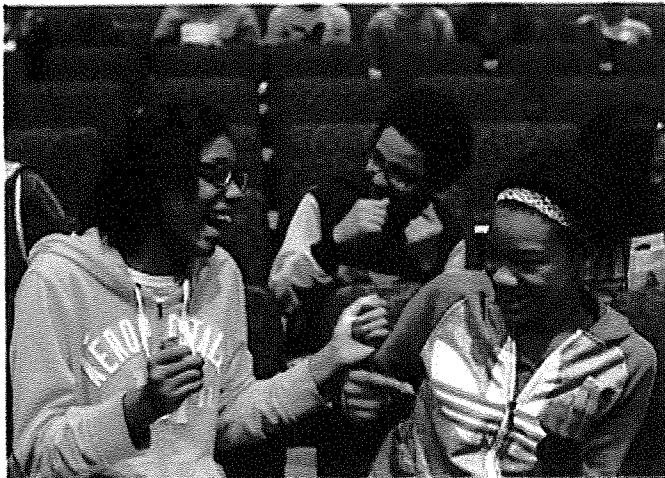
# A shared vision / goals

- Protection, Promotion and Improvement of OUR quality of life (families and business)
- Direct impact on employee attraction/ retention



- Waterways have been the core of communities; FRWC is pivotal leveraging natural resource based economy (i.e., Chevy Commons/Riverfront transition; protecting a \$60M local, state and federal investment)

# This is your Flint River Watershed





# What do we do?

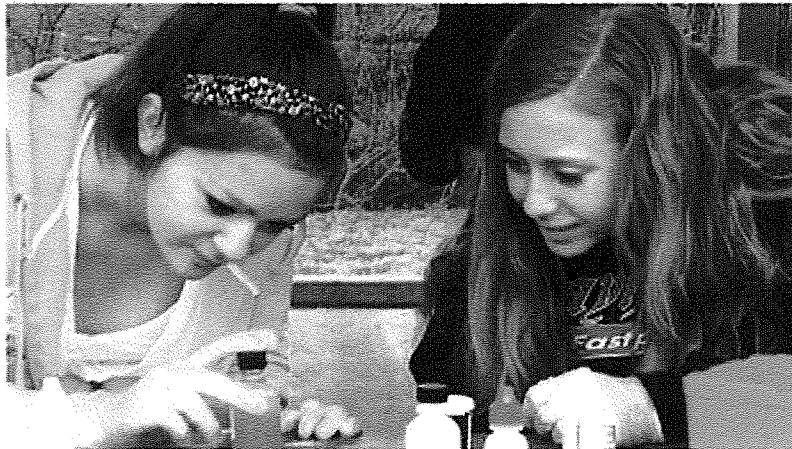
- Youth Education: over 2,000 students engaged in STEM curriculum support direct through schools across the watershed.
- **Flint River GREEN** is Water Quality Monitoring: gauging the health of the river on an annual basis.



# What do we do?

## Youth Environmental Leadership Council

Mentoring youth who develop action projects and carry them out.

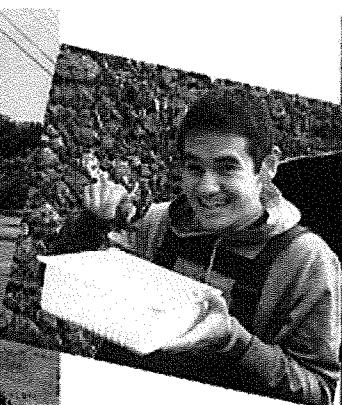


-YELC members planting trees to slow erosion on Gilkey Creek

# What do we do?

Water Quality Monitoring: gauging the health of the river on an bi-annual basis using biological water monitoring

Advocacy for the health of the ecosystem: spearhead spill awareness and response, established funding for increased annual testing with UM-Flint



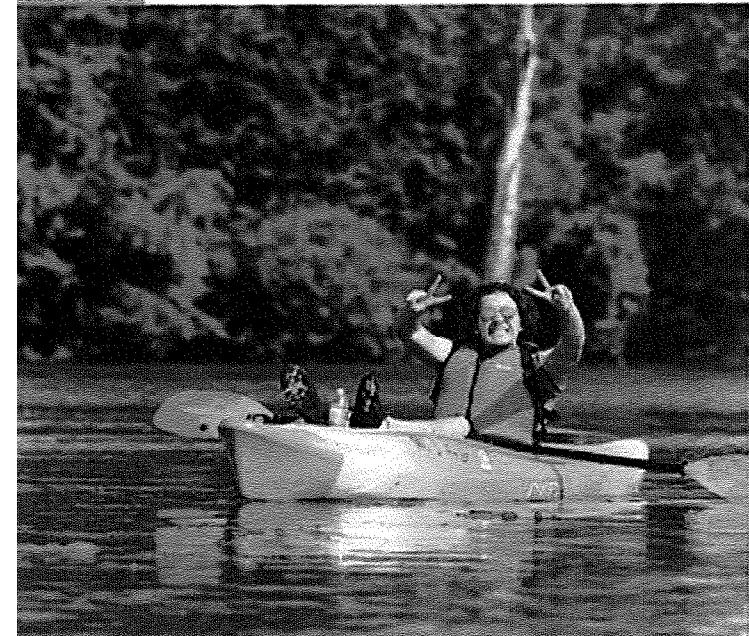
# What do we do?

- Recreation / Eco-Tourism; paddle programs, kayak livery, Ikayak program providing certified instruction for accessible recreation



# Recent Accomplishments

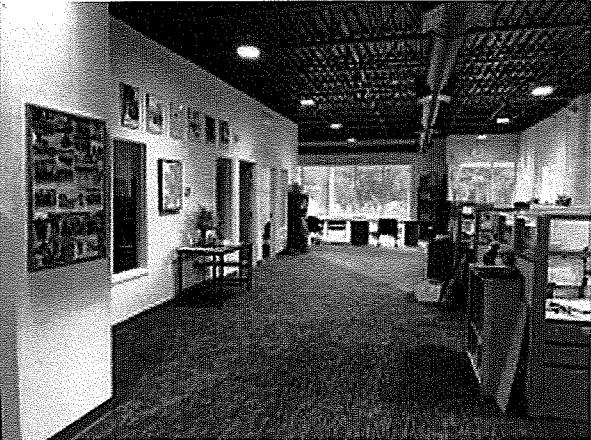
- National and State Water Trail Designation; bringing tourism and \$150k in funding. MOU's with 22 communities along the corridor including GCPRC.



# Recent Accomplishments

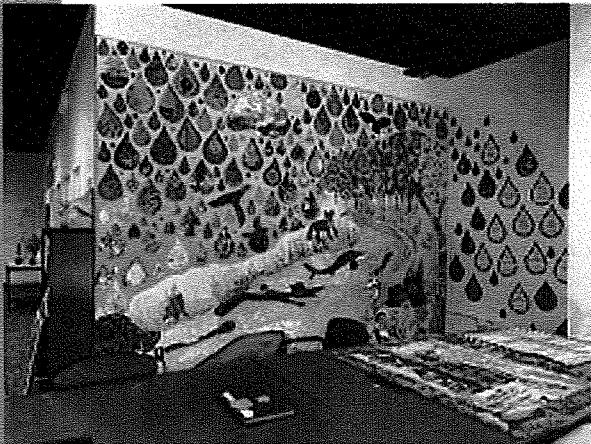
- \$300K in federal grants to create STEM curriculum
- \$100k in funding for annual water quality testing
- \$200k in CDBG grant for improvements to new waterfront office location.
- Sharing office with Keep Genesee County Beautiful





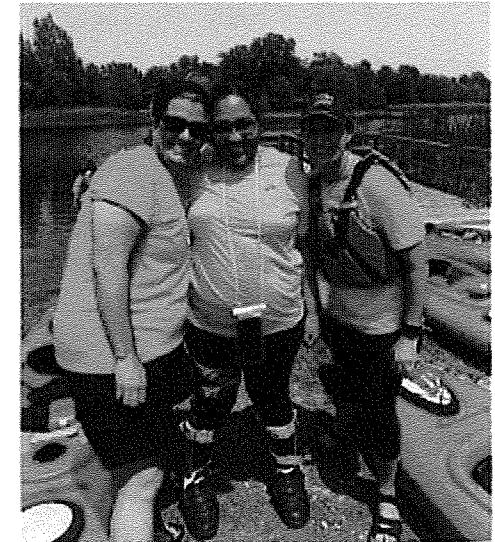
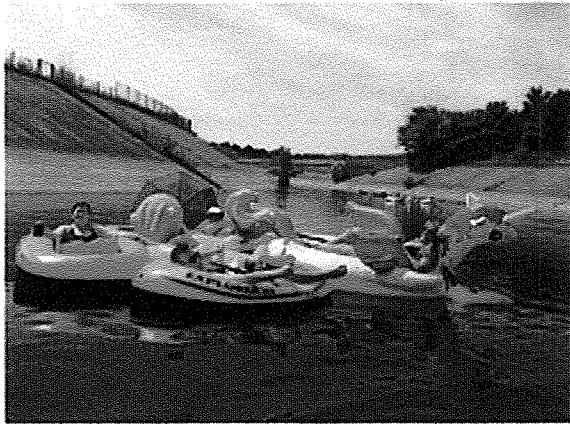
# Recent Accomplishments

- GCPRC sign in progress
- Mural project (4 artists: Mexico, Peru, California, Local)



# Recent Accomplishments

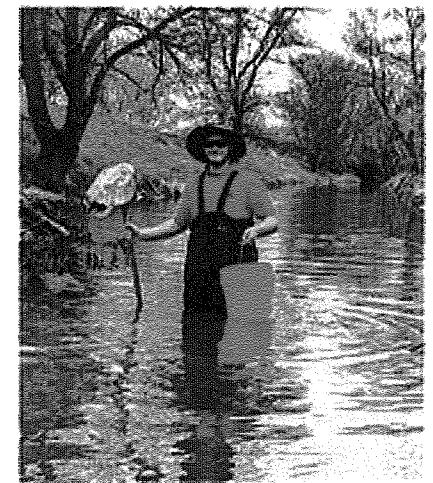
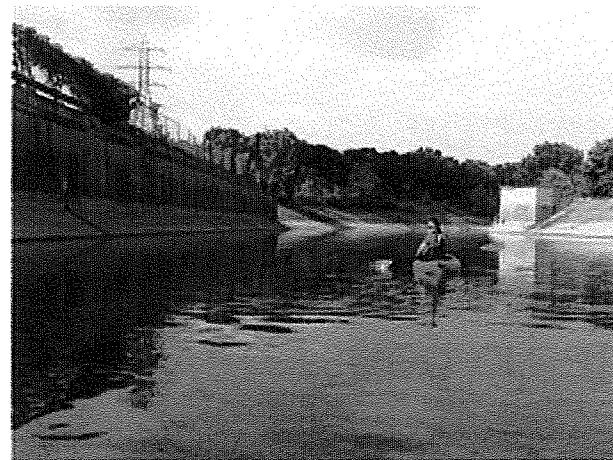
- \$57k in federal Forest to MI Faucet tree planting grant including trees added to Wolverine Campground
- \$450k in MDNR and US Fisheries for accessible kayak launch in Flint in cooperation with GCPRC
- \$60k for Kayak launch in Lapeer, 2022.



TOTAL: over \$1 million direct investment in local economy

# GCPRC benefits?

- Continuing our focus on both land and water based resources that include GCPRC interests



- Advocacy for the health of the ecosystem: spearhead spill awareness and response, established funding for increased annual testing with UM-Flint
- 501 (c)3 Grant partnerships

# Details of the Friends Group

- Friends of the Flint River Watershed created to preserve 501 (c)3 status.
- Maintains lease at 630 W Kearsley and funding support for building maintenance.
- Coordinating support for FRWC program staffing.
- Work with GCPRC on joint grant efforts. Completes current grant funding (US Fisheries, CDBG, Mi Forest to Faucet, etc)

# Timeline

September 26-Oct 9, 2024 county approvals

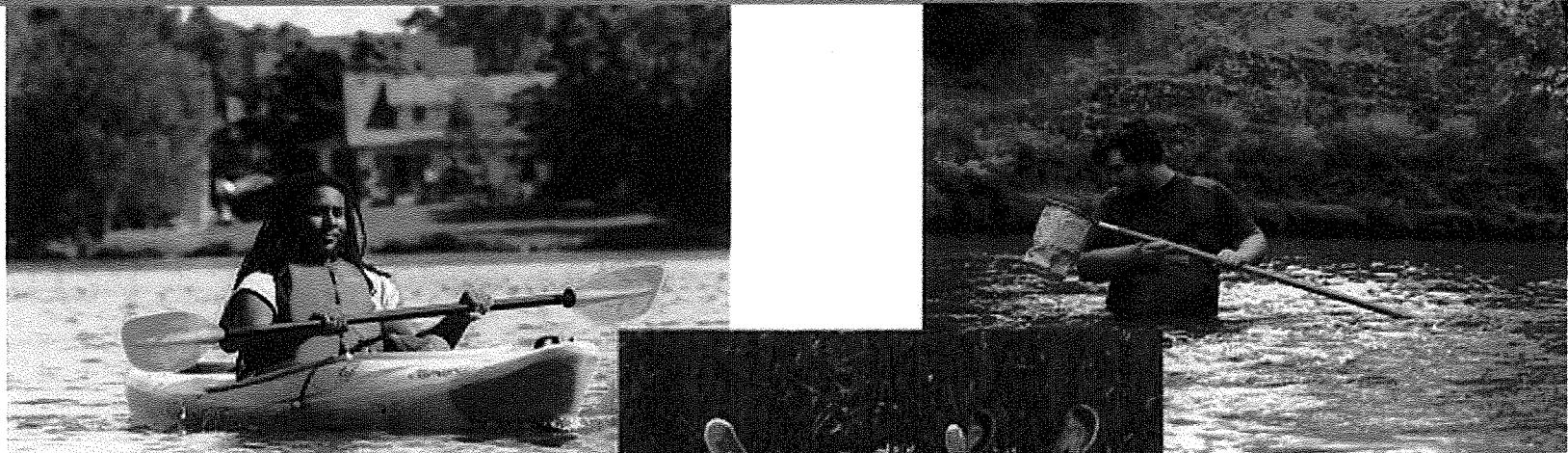
Formal support letter request to C.S. Mott  
Foundation in-process

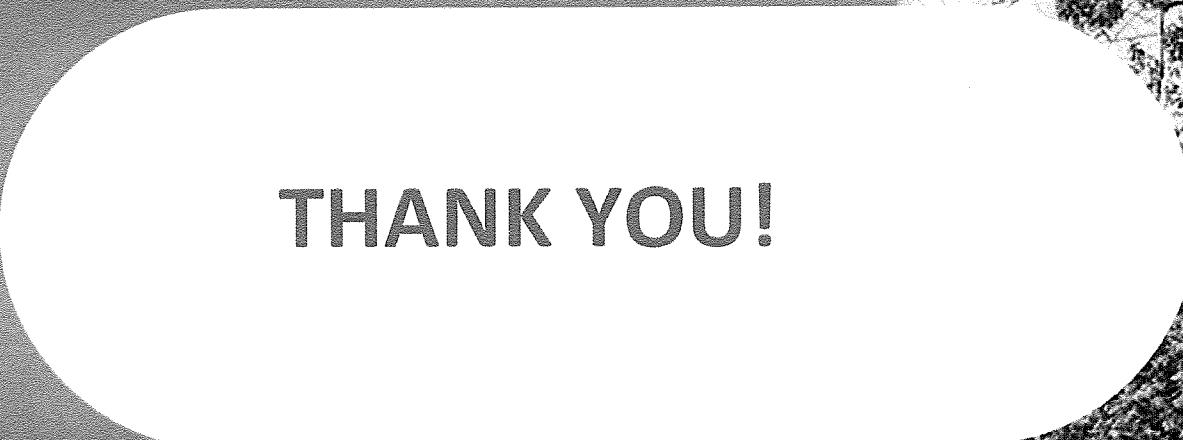
Target for transfer and funding decision December  
2024

Funding for current Executive Director in place till  
May 2025

Current cash-flow projection in the black till January  
2025

# This is your watershed.





THANK YOU!

