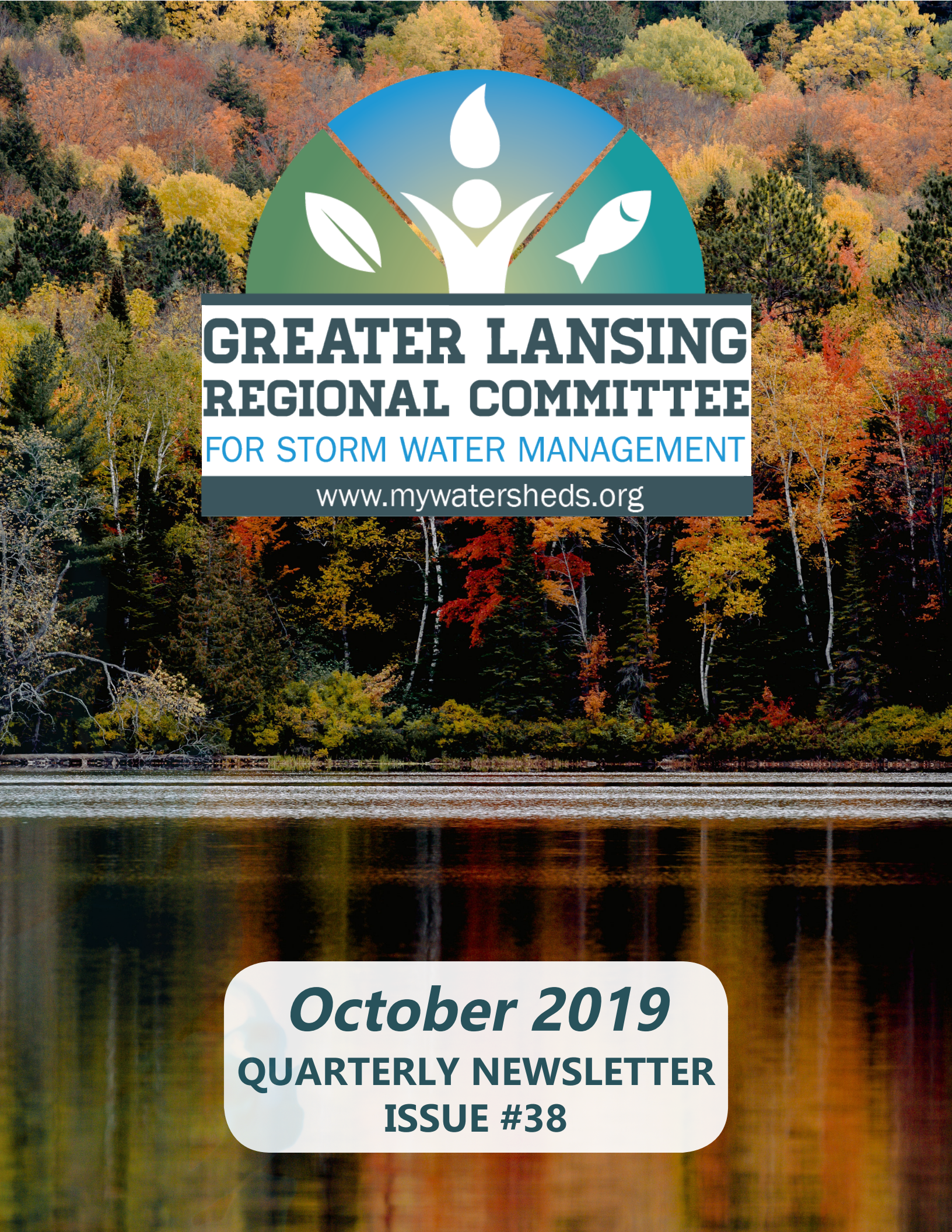


GREATER LANSING REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

October 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #38

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has started issuing MS4 permits to GLRC members. Though some permittees are still waiting, we're anticipating that all members will be operating under the new permit cycle this fall.

The new permit cycle comes with exciting new initiatives for the GLRC. In partnership with the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, we've joined the Great Lakes Commission's Green Infrastructure Champions Mentoring Network. With the help of a GLC-assigned mentor, Mid-MEAC and the GLRC will be performing an audit of the City of Lansing's codes and ordinances to identify (and propose changes to) any codified barriers to green infrastructure. We're also in the early stages of standardizing a regional approach to green infrastructure performance metrics and have recently partnered with a video production company to produce a professional quality video to educate the public about our work.

Want to stay in the loop on these and our other projects? Visit MyWatersheds.org or follow us on Facebook!

2020 CALENDAR CONTEST

It's almost time for the GLRC's 2020 Dog Photo Calendar Contest! This year's contest will be launching soon, so keep your eyes peeled on Facebook and MyWatersheds.org! Twelve dogs will be chosen as monthly features and win a copy of the calendar and a gift certificate to a pet supply store!

Visit www.MyWatersheds.org/pet-waste-management in the early November for rules and submission forms!

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE & WATER QUALITY

Don't Drip and Drive!

Most oil pollution is different than the pictures you see of oil covered beaches or large spills. In fact, poorly maintained vehicles are one of the biggest contributors of oil in our waterways. Leaking automotive fluid goes from car to street, street to storm drain, and from the drain to our rivers, lakes, and streams. With over 250 million cars on the road, small spills add up to big problems.

The fix? Stop the drips!

Check for fluid leaks regularly and fix them promptly. If you maintain your vehicles at home, use a drip pan to collect fluids for proper disposal or recycling. Clean up spills with a rag or absorbent - not water. And if you take your car to a mechanic, ask how they dispose of fluids and make sure they handle them in an environmentally responsible way.

Just one pint of motor oil can create a slick larger than a football field, and it's estimated that Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year. By quickly fixing leaks, you can help protect your ride and our water resources!

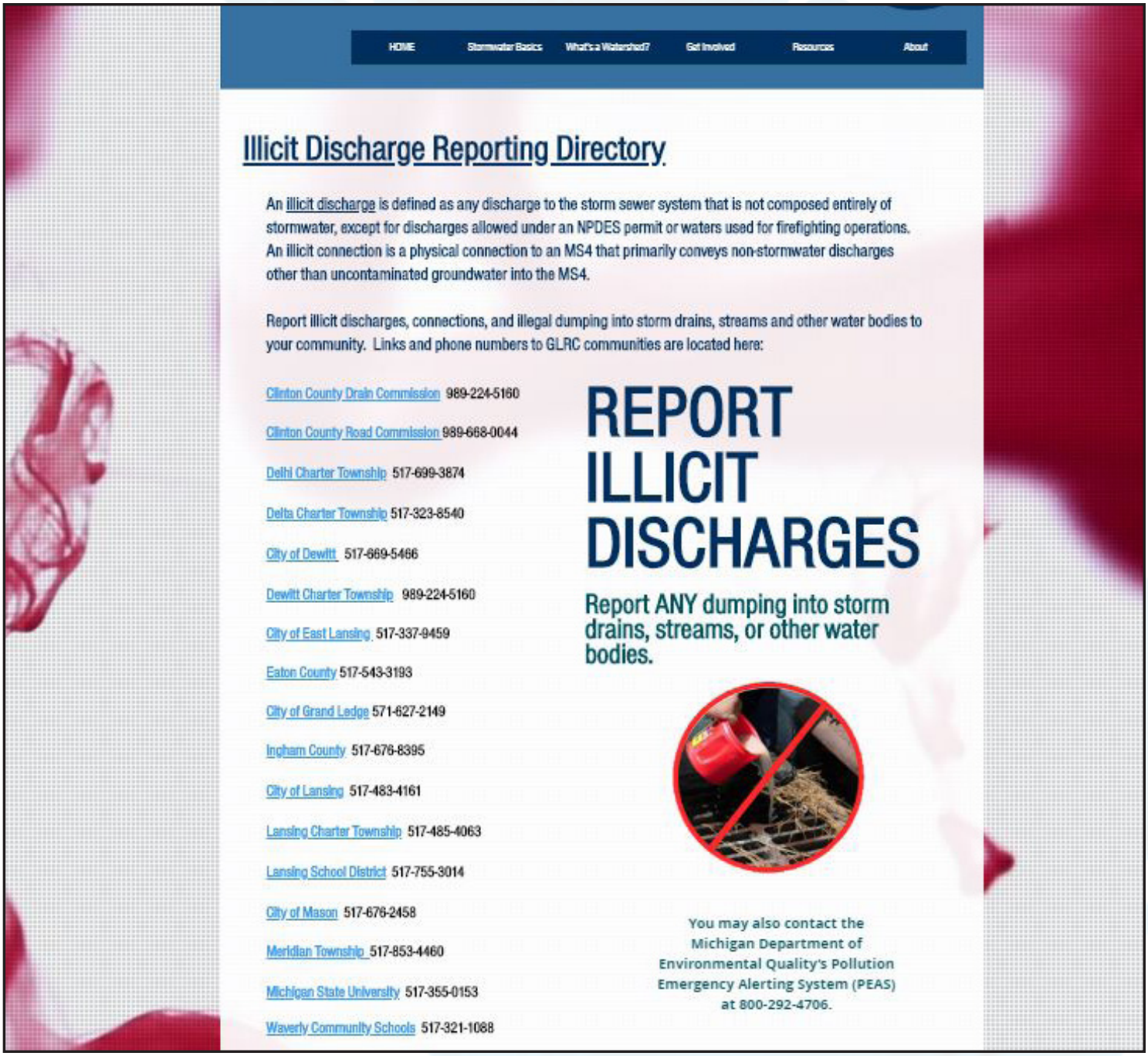
Be stormwater smart! Follow these tips:

- Repair any leaks and drips from your automobile. This includes: motor oil, transmission fluid, anti-freeze/coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, gasoline and other lubricants. Remember, these chemicals are also dangerous to your pets.
- If you choose to change your own oil, do not dump the used oil in the yard, on your driveway, or in a storm drain. Find a local firm that will recycle the used oil.
- Do not use used motor oil to control dust on gravel drives.
- Wash your car on the grass to filter out impurities or take it to a commercial car wash where the water is reclaimed (check local ordinances first).
- Basic automobile maintenance such as tune-ups, proper tire inflation, and efficient driving practices saves on fuel, as well as water and air pollution.
- Abandoned automobiles should be taken to a scrap yard or donated to a local charity. Old cars sitting out in a field will leak oil and fuel

REPORTING POLLUTION

The GLRC has made it easier than ever for the public to report illicit discharges and other pollution. Simply visit www.MyWatersheds.org/REPORT to find contact information, phone numbers, and websites for reporting pollution in each GLRC community.

Not sure who to call? Try EGLE's Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) hotline at 800-292-4706.



FALL YARDCARE TIPS

TO PROTECT OUR STORMWATER

REDUCE

POLLUTION

Clear leaves and debris from on or near catch basins. This helps prevent localized flooding and reduces the amount of pollution entering our local waterways.

REUSE

MULCH

Instead of bagging leaves, you can mulch them into small pieces using a lawnmower and spread them across your yard. The nitrogen and phosphorus serves as a great natural fertilizer for the lawn!

RECYCLE

COMPOST

You can also try composting! Backyard composting of leaves and other organic waste creates natural soil additives for use on lawns and gardens, and can be used as potting soil for house plants.

GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
www.mywatersheds.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MWEA Watershed & Stormwater Seminar

December 3rd, 2019
7:00am
Eagle Eye Banquet Center
15500 Chandler Rd #3
Bath Twp, MI 48808

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2019
8:30am
Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Full Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2019
9:00am
Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Members:

Clinton County
Clinton County Road Comm.
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
Eaton County
City of Grand Ledge
Ingham County
Lansing Charter Township
Lansing School District
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Meridian Charter Township
Michigan State University
Waverly Community Schools

TRI-COUNTY
regional planning commission

Administrative Support:
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing MI 48911
517-393-0342