

Solutions Summary

So... what can YOU do?!

As takeaways, please consider the following:

- ▶ Develop land and streamside protection policies
- ▶ Prohibit building in floodplains
- ▶ Plan new developments to be resilient against frequent heavy precipitation events
- ▶ Ordinances or support initiatives that create or preserve green infrastructure (native plantings and trees)
- ▶ Prevent new production and spread/purchasing of products containing harmful emerging contaminants like PFAS
- ▶ Support funding initiatives that allow upgrades to water treatment plants and clean-up of contaminated sites to adequately remove harmful chemicals (like PFAS), including research into remediation efforts
- ▶ Hold industries accountable for their role in pollution and contamination
- ▶ Support plastic pollution reduction efforts
- ▶ Support state regulations against emerging contaminants and/or polluter-pay legislation
- ▶ Support legislation to ban the sale and distribution of invasive species and encourage use of all native plants in any sponsored projects
- ▶ Address potential invasion points like ballast water from freighters
- ▶ Ensure funding remains for invasive species program efforts, such as through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- ▶ Share at-home remedies to reduce pollution (such as properly disposing of chemicals, repairing leaky vehicles, picking up after pets, using fertilizers with care, planting native plants and trees, reducing the use of road salt, etc)
- ▶ Share opportunities for residents to get involved with river clean-up events, our school-based river education program, and rain garden education
- ▶ Encourage the use of storm drain covers that say “No Dumping/Drains to River” (or similar)
- ▶ Promote legislation addressing the maintenance of septic systems
- ▶ Work regionally to address the serious issue of raw-sewage discharges into the river so that funding and expertise can be leveraged to address this huge problem of combined sewer overflows, and help our underserved communities access additional resources to do so
- ▶ Ensure wetland protection laws are up-to-date and enforced
- ▶ Promote the value of greenspace to quality of life and property values
- ▶ Encourage recreation opportunities along our new Water Trail



Residents planting a rain garden in Detroit

We can work together to combat and prevent pollution in our beautiful state. Please consider including opportunities for your residents to get involved with our numerous initiatives in your newsletters, and reach out to us anytime.