

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
9:30 am—3:30 pm

# The “STATE OF THE UPPER GRAND” Conference

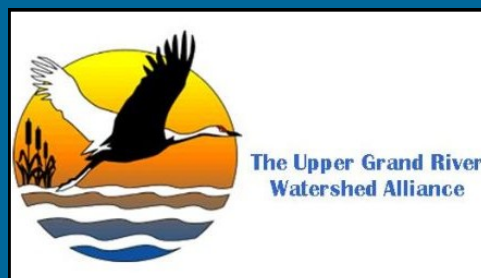
How healthy is the Upper Grand River? What are local organizations doing to protect this unique resource, and how can you get involved?

The Jackson County Conservation District, Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, and their partners invite you to learn more about the state of the Upper Grand River Watershed at this **FREE** conference.

**Commonwealth Commerce Center**  
209 E. Washington Ave. in  
downtown Jackson, Michigan  
*(use Francis St. entrance)*  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Register online now  
at [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org)

Deadline to RSVP is  
Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>



## OPENING PRESENTATION

### Water Quality Data – What do the Numbers Tell Us?

*What does recent data tell us about the health of the Upper Grand River Watershed? How has the data changed over the past 10 years?*

## MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Managing Invasive Species

*What can be done to control invasive plants in our area? Come see how the Michigan Nature Association has been dealing with invasive species on land in our watershed.*

### Managing Stormwater – Using Rain Gardens

*Rain gardens are becoming a more popular method for managing stormwater. Hear how a partnership between the West Michigan Environmental Action Council & Calvin College is engaging citizens to use rain gardens as a tool for watershed protection.*

### Low-Head Dams – Turning a Negative into a Positive

*Why are some Michigan communities taking steps to remove old dams? What are the recreational, environmental, and aesthetic impacts? See what Eaton Rapids is doing to remove a dam and create a whitewater park.*

### Land Use Planning Tools for Townships

*The MSU Land Policy Institute will share practical tools and policies that local governments can use to protect water quality and natural resources.*

## LUNCH PRESENTATION

### Grand River Heritage Water Trail

*What are the steps for creating a water trail? Learn what's being done to establish a 20-mile reach of the Grand River Heritage Water Trail.*

## AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Restoring Our Wetlands

*Join the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for a discussion about how wetlands are being restored in the Upper Grand and what programs and services are available for future restoration efforts.*

### Techniques for Naturalizing Your Shoreline

*Do you live on a lake or stream? Learn about the MI Natural Shoreline Partnership and how to improve your shoreline using native plants and techniques approved by the MI Department of Environmental Quality.*

### Managing Stormwater – Using Porous Pavement

*Did you know that porous pavement is already being used in our watershed? Learn more about this Best Management Practice from the MI Concrete Association and see where it has been installed in our area.*

### Options for Protecting Your Land

*Here's your chance to reach the land conservancies that serve residents in the Upper Grand River Watershed. Bring your questions about how to protect your farmland or the natural areas that are important to you and your family.*

## CLOSING PRESENTATION

### RiverUp!

*Hear how our neighbors in the Huron River Watershed are striving for a vibrant, robust and fully restored river – one that will be a destination for both tourists and residents alike.*

**This event is FREE, but seating is limited and you  
must RSVP no later than February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

## **AGENDA**

<i>9:30 am – 10:00 am</i>	<i>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</i>
<i>10:00 am – 10:45 am</i>	<i>Welcome &amp; Opening Presentations</i>
<i>10:45 am – 12:25 pm</i>	<i>Morning Breakout Sessions</i>
<i>12:25 pm – 1:15 pm</i>	<i>Lunch (Presentation: Grand River Heritage Water Trail)</i>
<i>1:15 pm – 2:45 pm</i>	<i>Afternoon Breakout Sessions</i>
<i>2:45 pm – 3:15 pm</i>	<i>Closing Presentation – RiverUp!</i>
<i>3:15 pm – 3:30 pm</i>	<i>Closing Remarks</i>

Please RSVP online at [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org)  
or by sending in the form below:

## *“State of the Upper Grand” Conference*

### **Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be joining us for lunch?

Check one:  Yes

No

**Please submit form by February 13<sup>th</sup> to:**

Jackson County Conservation District

211 W. Ganson St., Suite 200

Jackson, MI 49201

or Fax (517) 789-7886

For more information about this conference, please contact the

Jackson County Conservation District:

517-784-2800 x5 or [cecilia.govrik@macd.org](mailto:cecilia.govrik@macd.org)