



**RESTORING
OUR BROKEN
LAKE MICHIGAN
RIVERS**



MOMENTUM

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IT STARTS WITH A TRICKLE.





Here: Wildcat Creek's restored stretch through Greendale's Kulwicki Park now provides a richer habitat and cleaner water to Lake Michigan.

Cover: Working with Root-Pike WIN, Joe Smith of Jerry Smith's Pumpkin Farm surveys his field for conversion to cover crops and no tillage — preventing future erosion, reducing flooding, and improving soil health.

Momentum builds. Small streams lead to rivers. Rivers flow to the magnificent, but mistreated Lake Michigan.

Each living thing and delicate process along the way increases its value ... and our experiences. Each natural connection enhances our quality of life – less pollutants, more native plants, recreational variety, and yes, social distancing opportunities. Never has the need to find a balance between the natural and created world been more important. Where there is clean water, everyone thrives. It unites us.

Similarly, Root-Pike WIN came from a trickle of interest. Joined with larger forces, we flowed consistently through a “win-win” approach that benefits both our rivers and communities. From the smallest backyard rain garden to the largest restoration project in the basin's history, we have brought change and attention to pertinent water quality and land management issues in southeastern Wisconsin. Twenty years has passed, and Root-Pike WIN is stronger than ever. Our membership is growing. Our projects are advancing. With your support, our mission is unstoppable.

Today, to celebrate 20 years, we are sharing our proudest moments of the past year and with it, some of the most important events of our history. With the restoration plans advancing, we are optimistic about our vision for cleaner watersheds. Together in this time of uncertainty, we have rediscovered how much our rivers and lakes matter, and how the natural spaces around them soothe our souls. A walk alone along Wildcat Creek, a moment with your child in the prairie at Pritchard Park, or even a search with friends for the elusive Rusty Patched Bumble Bee at the UW-Parkside help us remember the value of our Great Lakes tributaries. We have a duty and mission to restore and protect them. Whether via Zoom or in-person, we'll be here continuing to fix our broken Lake Michigan rivers.

Thank you for the last 20 years. Join us for the next 20...



Root-Pike WIN was formed by the DNR and local stakeholders to better address watershed issues in the Root and Pike River basin.



The Racine Community Foundation (RCF) provided financial and leadership support to enable a staff person to coordinate the start-up of Root-Pike WIN. Allison Werner is named Executive Director.



2002

From 2002 to 2009, Root-Pike WIN funded 78 locally initiated projects in the Watershed-based Grant Program thanks to support from the SC Johnson and E.C. Styberg. One of the first projects that we helped plan and fund was the removal of the Pike River dam residing within the Kenosha Country Club.

2003

Root-Pike WIN helped fund watershed projects for the UW-Parkside, Gathering Waters Conservancy, the City of Franklin, the City of Oak Creek, and the Kenosha Public Museum.

2004

Root-Pike WIN received 501(c)3 status as a federally-certified non-profit organization.

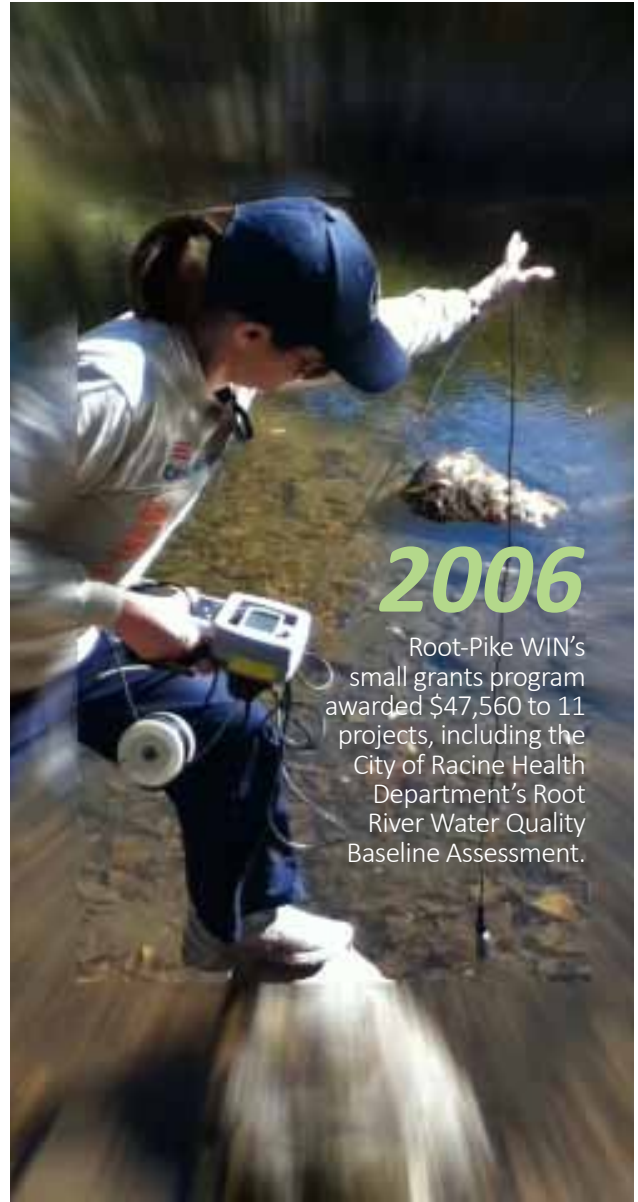
2005

The City of Oak Creek was the recipient of a \$10,000 Root-Pike WIN grant to control bank erosion along Oak Creek in Abenschein Park. Today, native plants stabilize the banks.



2006

Root-Pike WIN's small grants program awarded \$47,560 to 11 projects, including the City of Racine Health Department's Root River Water Quality Baseline Assessment.



2007

Root-Pike WIN hired Susan Greenfield, former elected official and award-winning environmental advocate, as the organization's second Executive Director.

2008

The new *Rain Garden Initiative*, funded by the SC Johnson Fund, E.C. Styberg Foundation, Wisconsin Energy Foundation, Racine Community Foundation and the Olympia Brown Universalist Unitarian Church, built 61 rain gardens in the Root-Pike basin in the first year.

2009

Root-Pike WIN created the *Respect Our Waters* campaign to help municipalities meet their public outreach requirements under the Clean Water Act. "Sparkles the Water Spaniel" was born, and we began teaching communities about storm water through interactive education.



2010

Root-Pike WIN celebrated the move into its first offices in Racine's City Hall Annex. The City of Franklin continues the storm drain marker program with help from our grant program.

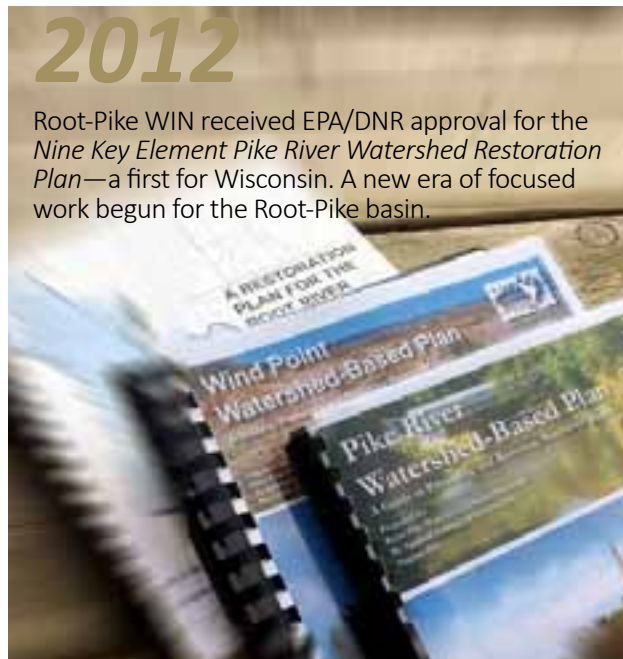
2011

Root-Pike WIN began developing EPA-based watershed restoration plans with significant funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan, SC Johnson, Wisconsin Coastal Management, DNR, NOAA, MMSD and Racine County.



2013

Through 2013, Root-Pike WIN's grant program helped fund more than \$475,000 in locally initiated education, restoration and recreation projects including this prairie restoration at Hawthorn Hollow.



2012

Root-Pike WIN received EPA/DNR approval for the *Nine Key Element Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan*—a first for Wisconsin. A new era of focused work begun for the Root-Pike basin.

2014

Root-Pike WIN received EPA/DNR approval for the *Nine Key Element Watershed Restoration Plan* to help improve the Root River watershed.

2015

Root-Pike WIN's Board of Directors and third Executive Director, Dave Giordano, reoriented the organization to focus on environmental project development and watershed plan-related community outreach. Dave is seen below with our *Respect Our Waters* rain barrel winner from the very popular Mount Pleasant Day.



2016

The Fund for Lake Michigan provided critical operational support to ensure Root-Pike WIN's watershed plans get implemented—starting with Pritchard Park. Now that the native spaces have become richer and more accessible, this Racine County park has become a true symbol of our “win-win.”



2017

Root-Pike WIN received EPA/DNR approval on the *Nine Key Element Watershed Restoration Plan* to help improve the Wind Point watershed.

Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Root-Pike WIN helped Kenosha County secure a \$10M grant to bring flood reduction and habitat improvements to more than five miles of the South Branch of the Pike River.

2018





2019

Root-Pike WIN created the *Wisconn Valley Pathway* concept in 2017 to restore the Lamparek Ditch to a high-quality creek. Two years later, the Village of Mount Pleasant and Racine County have approved the mile-long environmental corridor in and around Foxconn. All three entities are now partners in its development.

2020

Root-Pike WIN moves into our new office on UW-Parkside campus, while helping restore the 210-acre cross country course, as well as more than 50 other parcels in the Root-Pike basin. Pictured here are Dave Giordano, George Stoner, Maddie Kammerer, Dr. Julie Kinzelman, Dr. Dave Rogers and Chancellor Dr. Deborah Ford



photo: Eddee Daniel



RESPECT OUR WATERS

It has been a transformational past year for our Respect Our Waters public education program.

In the latter half of 2019, we completed numerous mailings, social media posts, and face-to-face events in throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Since 2009, the program is stronger and reaches more people every year. With anything, change happens, and we adapted.

Early in November, our matching Department of Natural Resources funding was not renewed. Despite this new challenge, we decided to continue the program with cooperative municipal funding.

By January, 20 of the 21 municipalities had renewed their two-year agreements with us. We were back on track with a streamlined program comprised of traditional media as well as new outreach ideas.

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shook the world. Due to the pandemic, every event we planned was cancelled. While COVID-19 may have stopped us meeting in person, it did not stop our efforts to inform and inspire residents and municipal leaders. We reallocated event funds to sponsor more social media and direct mail campaigns, and began testing mobile apps that reach individuals uniquely.

While our scope and funding has changed, our dedication has not. We continue to bring awareness and action to the issues that plague our Lake Michigan watersheds. We are proud to help municipal partners achieve their storm water permit requirements while inspiring the public to adopt better land management practices. Respect Our Waters is resilient and strong.



Nan Calvert of Root-Pike WIN and Alice Thompson of Thompson & Associates discuss wetland benefits on WGTD's Morning Show.



Marty Melchoir of Inter-fluve explains stream bank erosion solutions to municipal leaders.



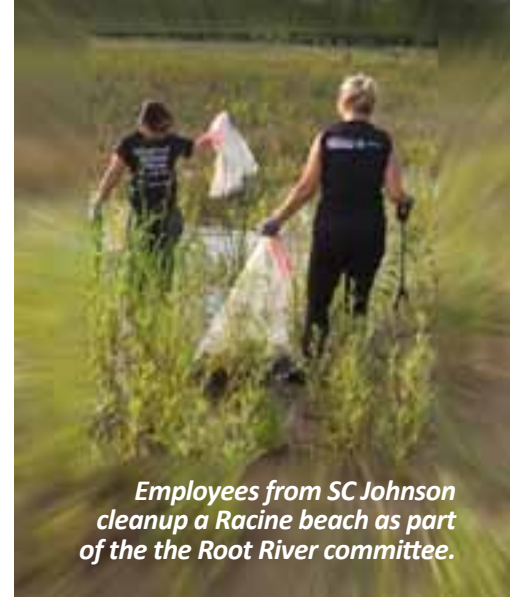
Experiential learning helped students from Mahone Middle School's "Every Last Drop" Summer Learning Camp understand water filtration... and public speaking!

WATERSHED COMMITTEES

Feeling stressed and helpless in this uncertain time? Shake the COVID-19 blues and help us improve our natural spaces for future generations!

Our watershed committees are aimed at getting people involved in local environmental stewardship. Each of Root-Pike WIN's five committees are based on the watersheds we serve. These committees plan, promote and execute a variety of "hands on" volunteer activities. A Board member leads each committee in organizing invasive species removal projects, planting natives, picking up trash, coordinating bike rides, and other events. We strive to make these events meaningful... and fun!

Contact the Board leader for the committees below to get involved today:



Employees from SC Johnson cleanup a Racine beach as part of the the Root River committee.



Dan Meyer
neweyesopenagain@gmail.com



Roger Chernik
rkchernik@gmail.com



Bill Saase
wsasse@wi.rr.com



Pete Rohlman
peterohlman@gmail.com



Josh Sopczak
josh.sopczak@gmail.com



Poerio Park in Kenosha got some much needed buckthorn eradication through our Pike River committee.

adding value at Smolenski Park



SEEDING
prairies

Chelsea, Maureen and Katie
plant milkweed on the Pike
River's North Branch



PROVIDING
opportunities

Mayor Mason of Racine signs the
ordinance to ban the use of PAHs
or coal tar driveway sealants.



BANNING
carcinogens

RECOGNIZING
leaders



Dr. Julie Kinzelman is our
2019 Bee Positive Award Winner.

Families and friends
rediscover recess
at Smolenski Park



RE-DISCOVERING
experiences

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

PLANTING
natives

Chancellor Ford and
other UW-Parkside
stakeholders launch
the Pollinator Patch
Program by planting
native species on the
Cross Country Course.



EXPANDING operations

Our new office at UW-Parkside

Bringing awareness to contractors

EDUCATING violators

FARMING ideas

Working with the Racine Watershed Protection Committee to encourage more farmers to use no till and cover crops to reduce flooding

CREATING friendships

Pre-COVID19, volunteers rally before the attack of invasive species along the Zoo Beach

Racine's Gilmore Fine Arts Elementary school students collect trash along the Root River.

INSPIRING generations

ERADICATING invasives

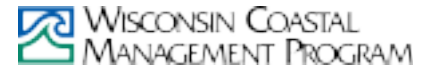
Board member Jim Small takes down some big buckthorn.

RESTORING wetlands

Identifying more wetland potential at Gitzlaff Park in Somers

20-YEAR PARTNERS

Thank you to these partners who supported us from the beginning. We would not exist without them.



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Matt and Rita Andis
Rebecca and Dennis Belmont
Joseph Bill
Maureen Bogdanski
Todd and Kara Brennan
Betty Brenneman
Erik Brooks
Josh Brown
Tony Bunkelman
Nan Calvert
Roger and Suzanne Chernik
Rochelle Connor
Sebastian Coria
Eddee Daniel
Karl David and Elaine Radwanski
Karyn DeConcini
Warren DeKraay Jr.
Harley and Evelyn Dell
David and Ellen Easley
Shawn Erickson
Tom and Linda Friedel
Elizabeth Garcia
Jerry and Susan Greenfield
Kay Gregor
Ellie Haviland
Sandra Halmo
Regina Harders
Joe Heck
Nancy Hennessy
Laura Herrick
Mike Hervat
David Hoffert
Alyson Horton

H. Fisk Johnson
Trevor Jung
Mark and Julie Kilmer
Julie and Peter Kinzelman
Maryann Ortmayer
Debra Koenig
Kay Krause
Barbara Landa
Marv and Esther Letven
Ronald Londre
Mike and Ann Luba
Cherie Lyford
Shirley Mandernack
Melissa Marquez
Frank Martinelli
Kim Masura
Wendy McCalvy
Aaron Menke
Scott Menke
Al and Christina Meyer
Margaret Miller
Scot Mitchell
William Moore
Bernard Osborne
Emily Papara
Cindy Percak
Donald and Linda Peterson
Lou Ann Pitts
Cara Pratt
Helen Pugh
Rafi and June Rafiullah
Emma Reed
Michael and Reva Holmes

David Rhoads and Sandy Roberts
Pete Rohlman
Tye Salinas
Bill and Linda Sasse
Lisa Scott Ptacek
John and Susan Scripp
Lt. Col. Robert Simi (r)
Gregg and Julieann Sinnen
Sharon Snowden-Smith
Allan and Elizabeth Sommer
Joshua and Suzanne Sopczak
Wendy Sorenson
Joann and Peter Specia
Howard Stacey
Mike and Lou Staeck
Richard Kinch and Linda Stengel
John Swallow
Jeffrey Sytsma
Steven Szymanski
Brian Thomas
Barry and Patricia Thomas
Alice Thompson
Alice Thomson
Tina Tripoli
Barb and Joe Vass
Sarah Vincer
Cherry Wardrip
Melissa and Jay Warner
Matthew Welch
Sen. Robert & Mrs. Mary Wirch
Pete Wood
Rose Woodruff
Marybeth Zuhlke

CORPORATE MEMBERS



Hey and Associates, Inc



Racine Dominicans
A Community of Catholic Sisters
and Lay Associates



DIRECTORS

Michael Luba - President
Department of Natural Resources (ret.)

Joshua Sopczak - Vice President
Vice President Business Banking
Town Bank

Jim Small - Treasurer
CPA & Partner
Maller Peterson, LLC

Dan Meyer - Secretary
Project Manager
Retail Fixtures

Bill Sasse - Former President
Director of Engineering (ret.)
Village of Mount Pleasant

John Scripp
Attorney
Private Practice

Roger Chernik - Former President
Community Leader
Root-Pike WIN / River Bend

Pete Rohlman
Consultant
LEAN Operations

Kurt Jorgensen
Consultant / Owner
Jorgensen Partners, LLC

Patricia Kaufmann
Consultant
LEED / Sustainability

POSITION

fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

INCOME

General Donations	\$23,480
Membership Donations	\$9,773
Foundation/Trust Grants	\$80,000
Federal Grants	\$25,200
Local Government Grants	\$63,751
Subcontractor Grants	\$91,637
Special Events Income	\$1,480
Earned Revenues/Interest	\$6,292

Total Income **\$301,613**

EXPENSES

Respect Our Waters	\$65,593
Watershed Implementation	\$88,450
Subcontractor Project Expenses	\$-
Volunteers & Work Days	\$176
Personnel Expenses	\$132,999
Programs & Operations	\$9,338
Occupancy Expenses	\$6,459
Administrative Expenses	\$3,527
Depreciation/Amortization	\$906

Total Expenses **\$307,448**

NET INCOME **(\$5,835)**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Bank Accounts	\$515,664
Accounts Receivable	\$223
Undeposited Funds	\$502
Fixed Assets	\$1,834

TOTAL ASSETS **\$518,223**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$9,408
Credit Cards	\$1,726

Total Liabilities **\$11,135**

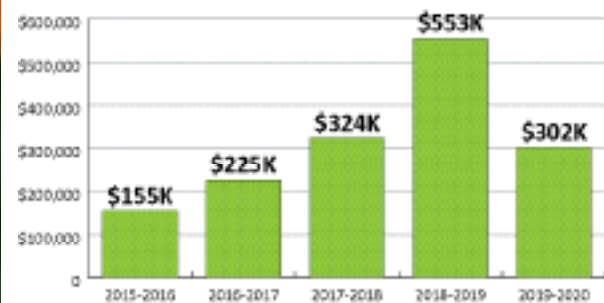
Equity

Retained Earnings	\$512,924
Net Income	\$(5,835)

Total Equity **\$507,088**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$518,223**

TOTAL INCOME



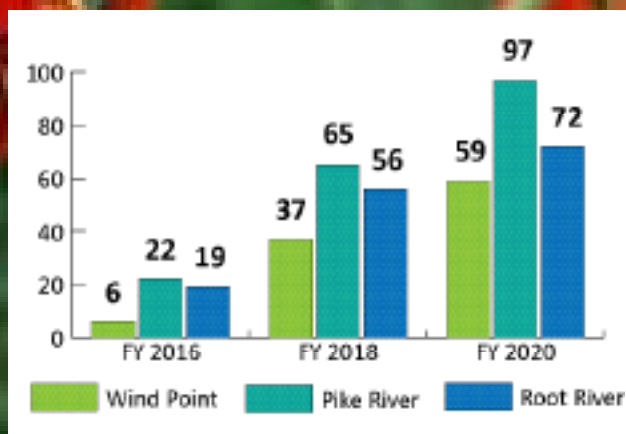
*Pictured here, the Michigan Lily (*lilium michiganense*), a.k.a. "Turk's Cap", makes a stunning return to the restored old growth forest at Pritchard Park.*

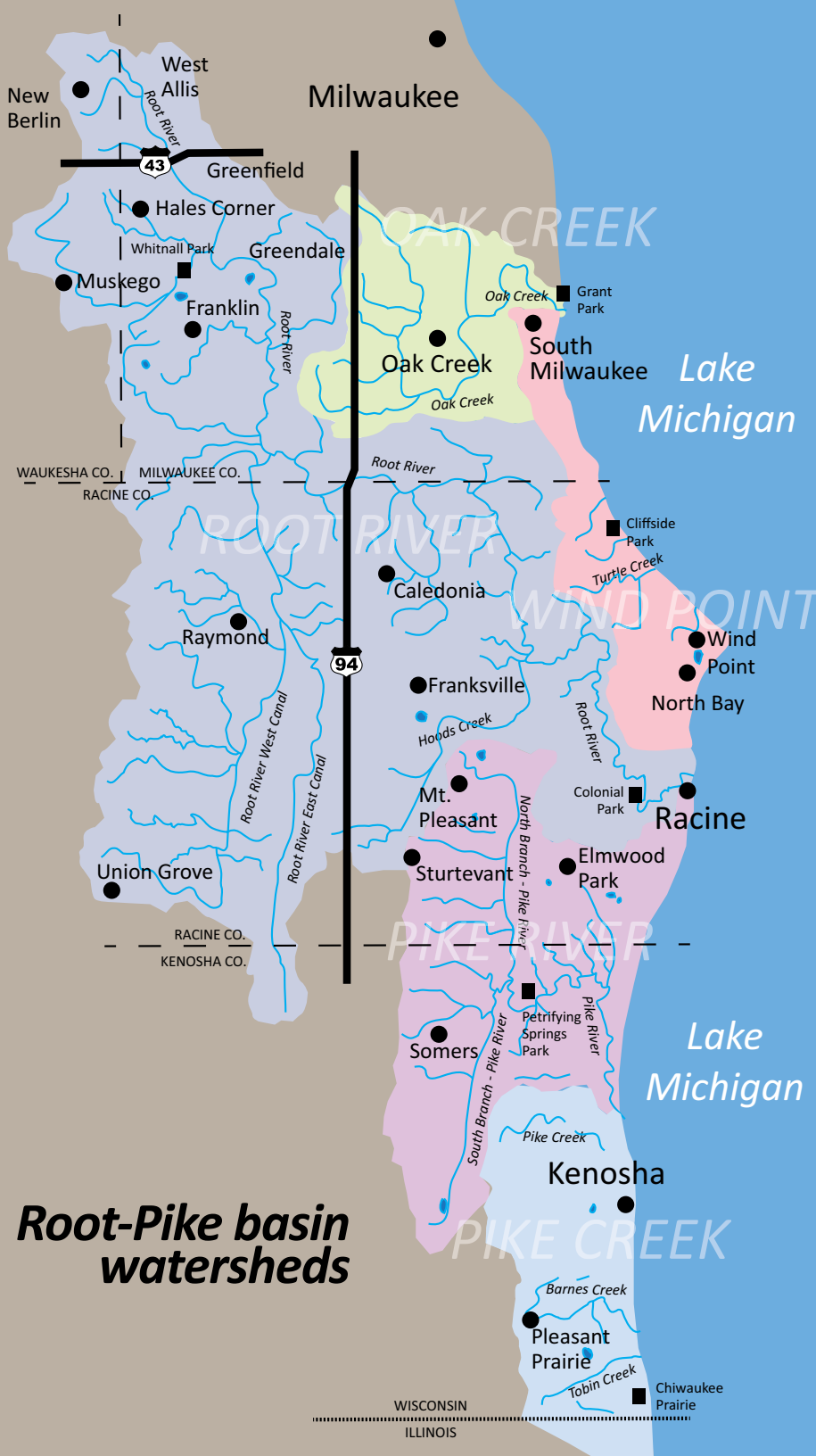
MAJOR PROJECT GRANTS

In the last five years, Root-Pike WIN and our generous grant partners have helped bring almost \$12 million of funding to restoration projects in the Root-Pike basin.

Cliffside Park Wetlands	USFWS- GLRI	\$138K
Coloinal Park Ravine	Fund for Lake MI	\$65K
Coloinal Park Ravine	USFWS	\$20K
Gitzlaff Park Wetlands	Fund for Lake MI	\$50K
Gitzlaff Park Wetlands	USFWS- GLRI	\$75K
Horlick Dam Options	USACE	\$400K
Pike River - North Branch	Fund for Lake MI	\$125K
KR Expansion - RSC	Fund for Lake MI	\$25K
Neumiller Wetland	USFWS- GLRI	\$25K
Pike River South Branch	USACE	\$10M
Pike River Rearing Pond	WI Costal Mgmt.	\$30K
Pritchard Park Forest	Fund for Lake MI	\$65K
Pritchard Park NE Pond	Palmer Foundation	\$35K
Pritchard Park Wetland	USFWS	\$10K
Reck Ravine - RSC Design	Fund for Lake MI	\$33K
Reck Ravine - RSC Const.	Great Lakes Comm.	\$50K
Reck Ravine - RSC Const.	Palmer Fdn.	\$51K
Reck Ravine - RSC Const.	Fund for Lake MI	\$50K
Reck Ravine - RSC Const.	Greater Milw. Fdn.	\$50K
Reck Ravine - RSC Const.	USFWS	\$5K
Smolenski Park - Prairie	Fund for Lake MI	\$50K
Smolenski Park - Prairie	USFWS	\$20K
Turtle Creek - Restoration	Fund for Lake MI	\$50K
Turtle Creek - Restoration	WI Costal Mgmt.	\$30K
UW-Parkside XCC - Ph. 1	USFWS- GLRI	\$54K
UW-Parkside XCC - Ph. 1	The Brico Fund	\$20K
UW-Parkside XCC - Ph. 2	Fund for Lake MI	\$50K
Wisconn Valley Wetland	DNR/EPA	\$240K

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS





Root-Pike basin watersheds

STAFF

Nan Calvert
Program Manager
nan@rootpikewin.org



Brittini Sharp
Office Manager
brittini@rootpikewin.org



Dave Giordano
Executive Director
dave@rootpikewin.org



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