

## Southwest Michigan Clean Water Survey

Please complete the following survey about water issues in Berrien and Cass Counties. This survey is being conducted to measure any increase in awareness of how everyday activities contribute to water pollution in local streams, rivers, lakes and Lake Michigan. This survey is also available online here:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SW\\_Water\\_Quality\\_2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SW_Water_Quality_2024)

Please answer the questions below:

- 1. Do you think the quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams in the community where you live is: (choose one)**
  - a. Getting much worse
  - b. Getting somewhat worse
  - c. Staying the same
  - d. Getting somewhat better
  - e. Getting much better
  - f. Don't know
- 2. How much do you think the way you maintain your home (ex. lawn care, trash disposal, pet care) affects the quality of water in the lakes and streams in the community where you live? (choose one)**
  - a. Great effect
  - b. Moderate effect
  - c. Little effect
  - d. No effect
  - e. Don't know
- 3. Where do you think most stormwater (rainwater) goes after it enters a storm drain or roadside ditch in your community? (choose one)**
  - a. Directly to lakes and streams without treatment
  - b. To lakes and streams after receiving some treatment
  - c. To a wastewater treatment plant
  - d. Don't know
- 4. During the past year, which one of the following do you think contributed the most pollution to the lakes, rivers, and streams in the community where you live? (choose one)**
  - a. Wastewater treatment plant discharges
  - b. Factories/industrial discharges
  - c. Polluted runoff from roads, parking lots and lawns into storm drains and ditches
  - d. Leaking or failing septic systems
  - e. Polluted runoff from construction sites
  - f. Polluted runoff from agricultural fields
- 5. Which one of the following best describes the location where you live? (choose one)**
  - a. I live near a watershed
  - b. I live in a watershed
  - c. I don't live in a watershed
  - d. Don't know/I'm not familiar with the term "watershed"
- 6. What is the name of the closest river/stream or lake to your home? \_\_\_\_\_**
- 7. Is your primary residence in Michigan? (choose one)**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 8. In what county is your home located in Michigan? (choose one)**
  - a. Berrien County
  - b. Cass County
  - c. Van Buren County
  - d. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Not applicable

9. What city, village or township do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_
10. The best place to wash your car and not impact the local water is: (choose one)
- On the street by the storm sewer
  - On your lawn
  - At the commercial car wash
  - In a parking lot
11. Do you have a septic system at your home? (choose one)
- Yes (please answer the following question)
  - No
  - I don't know
12. If you selected yes to question 11, has your household had your septic system checked or serviced during the past five years? (choose one)
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
13. Where does your household typically dispose of materials, such as old oil/fluids from your vehicle, batteries, fertilizers, pesticides, paints, and other household hazardous wastes? (choose one)
- On the ground
  - With my regular trash
  - At a scheduled community collection site or facility that accepts these materials
  - I keep it in a container at my home
  - Down a storm drain or roadside ditch
14. What does your household (or your lawn service) typically do with your grass clippings and/ or fallen leaves? (choose all that apply)
- Leave them on the lawn/mulch into lawn
  - Compost them in your yard
  - Sweep them into the street or into a roadside ditch/stream/wetland
  - Curbside pickup by community
  - I do not have a yard
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. What are the benefits of rain gardens or green infrastructure? (choose all that apply)
- Helps clean the stormwater as it is filtered through the soil
  - Promotes groundwater replenishment in soil conditions that allow for infiltration
  - Native plants used in rain gardens promote native habitat and provide a food source for hummingbirds, butterflies, and honey bees
  - Reduces the amount of pollutants from roofs and hardscape from draining into local creeks
  - Slows stormwater runoff; decreasing peak storm water flows and therefore reducing ditch/stream erosion
16. Is protecting the area rivers and lakes important to you? (choose one)
- Yes
  - No
17. What is the most significant water related issue for you?
18. What is the most significant water related issue for your community?

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!*

Please mail the completed survey to SWMPC, 376 W. Main St, Ste 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 or email scanned or picture versions in pdf or jpg format to: [schragb@swmpc.org](mailto:schragb@swmpc.org)

**Always reports spills, environmental emergencies, and illegal dumping by calling the 24/7 PEAS hotline at: 800-292-4706.**

**For more information about water quality visit: [www.letskeepitblue.org](http://www.letskeepitblue.org)**