



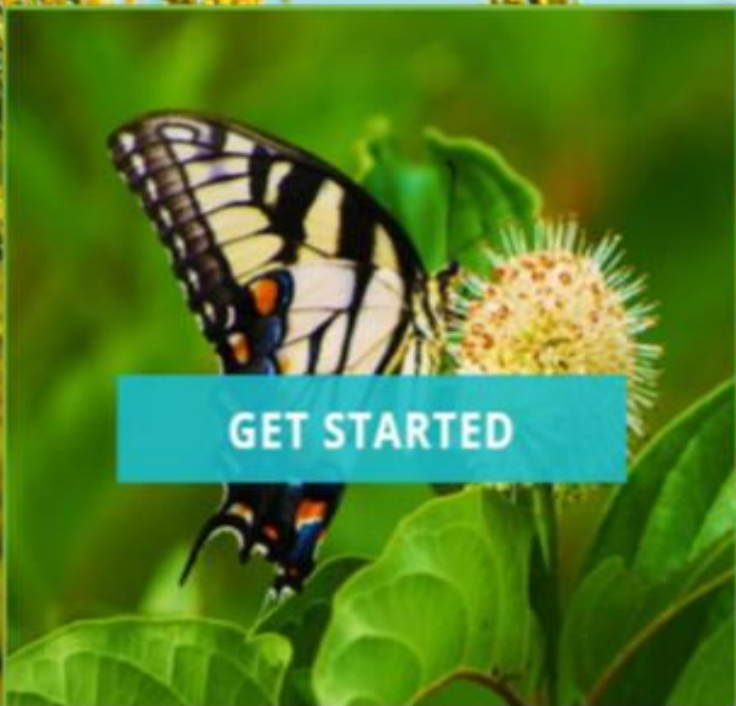
WM provides over 18,000 acres of natural area adjacent to its active and closed landfill sites. Currently 79 sites are certified through WHC with others maintaining natural habitat programs even if choosing not to certify due to certain constraints.



Every act of conservation matters.



OUR IMPACT



GET STARTED



GET CERTIFIED



WILDLIFE
HABITAT
COUNCIL®

October 22 2020

Dear Kathleen Klein:

I am pleased to inform you that the Waste Management – Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility application has been reviewed and the program has met the criteria for WHC Conservation Certification®. This achievement recognizes the specific efforts of your program and your company's commitment to conservation.

Certification tier: Certified Gold
Certification renewal due: 2023

Your program will be recognized at the 2021 Conservation Conference, June 8-9 in Baltimore, where you will receive a certificate recognizing your accomplishment, and have a photo opportunity with WHC leadership. In addition, your successful application makes you eligible for the 2021 WHC Awards to be presented at the Conference.

WASTE MANAGEMENT EAGLE VALLEY IS PROUD TO RECEIVE GOLD STATUS CERTIFICATION FROM WHC.

Eagle Valley's program was designated as Certified Gold, signifying leadership among the over 600 WHC Conservation Certification programs.

Gold certification starts at 262 points. Eagle Valley scored 337 points this round to maintain its Gold status. Programs are given a WHC Certified, a Silver certified or a Gold certified designation.



BLUE BIRD PROJECT

New houses added in SW corner.

Oakland Audubon Observed young blue birds on site in August, confirming local successful blue bird nesting.

New Habitat installs at Triangle Property





For all its challenges, 2020 was the first years we had a successful nesting of blue birds at Eagle Valley...they fledged the end of June, but in August, members of the Oakland Audubon Society observed a juvenile blue bird while we were doing a pollinator survey. Hopefully this indicates that the young blue birds will stay in the area and hopefully we will begin to see successful nesting in future years.

SCREECH OWL PROJECT

Eagle Valley never experienced a successful nesting attempt by a Screech Owl and we weren't comfortable having Six Rivers staff or volunteers climbing the 15 foot ladder to inspect it so this project is being discontinued.



We did have a Screen Owl take up residence at the Orion Center in a Wood Duck house in 2016.

That was part of our 2017 WHC recertification not this current one. Isn't he adorable! 😊



WOOD DUCK PROJECT

Activity yes...

But by the wrong
species...field mice!!!

Boy are they stinky! ☹️

Wood Duck houses are
cleaned out each winter
in preparation for Spring
nesting season.

So far, no successful
broods have been
observed but we have
seen some Wood Duck
activity over the years.



RAPTOR PLATFORM

For this 2020 WHC Recertification Cycle WM added a raptor platform.

WM has participated with the Oakland Audubon Society for their Christmas Bird Count for several years. In recent years Eagle Valley was routinely visited by a mature Bald Eagle. Bald Eagle populations have grown successfully and in the past 10 years of managing this program adults and recently a juvenile Bald Eagle, looking for its own territory, showed up in 2018 so we decided to see if providing a platform in 2019 might encourage nesting activity for juvenile Bald Eagles or some other raptor.

To date there has been no nesting activity and we are reconsidering the placement of this raptor pole. The pole height and placement present some challenges...by the time we had the pole drilled deep enough to stabilize it, it wasn't as tall as a raptor might want...and logistically, it was too difficult to get the drilling equipment closer to the tree line for added shelter from the elements.



In 2017, 2018 & 2019, WM partnered with Six Rivers Land Conservancy to provide nest box monitoring from April through July at Eagle Valley and to complete the certification documentation on-line...that changed in 2020 with the onset of Covid 19...(see next slide)

New partnership with Six Rivers Land Conservancy – interns performed nest monitoring from May through July in 2017 and are beginning in April through July in 2018.

Waste Management and Six Rivers Land Conservancy's partnership is for the birds

Further in support of nature and the environment, this year Waste Management teamed up in a successful partnership with the Six River Land Conservancy. From May through July, Six Rivers provided Waste Management with two summer interns who assisted in monitoring



Site Manager, Scott Rowe, installing blue bird houses.

nest boxes installed at Eagle Valley. Wood duck houses and blue bird nest boxes encourage nesting opportunities for these two species who have seen a decline in natural areas for their nesting activities. Nest monitoring during the active spring/summer reproduction season ensures that invasive species such as European

House Sparrows and Starlings are discouraged. "Partnering with Waste Management has been a phenomenal experience for the interns, as well as staff of Six Rivers," stated Danielle Devlin program manager for Six Rivers' involvement in the project. "This effort shows how important attention to natural areas, even small areas, is to wildlife."



Sparrow Egg



Danielle Devlin, Land Protection Director, with summer interns Anne Leone and Nick Kallabat <https://www.sixriversrlc.org/>

In 2020, for health and safety protocol reasons with the onset of Covid 19, WM had to shift from having Six Rivers employees or volunteers on site to assigning the spring nest box monitoring task to WM employee, Sean Fiorillo. Sean enjoyed the opportunity and did a great job with the weekly monitoring and documentation at Eagle Valley and Orion Center. Employee engagement is greatly encouraged by WHC and we were fortunate to have Sean involved in this activity.





TOURS & EDUCATION

In 2020, on-site tours and off-site presentations have been profoundly affected by Covid 19 but WM continues to provide virtual educational efforts.

WM prides itself on the number of individuals we have educated over the years about how their solid waste is managed and how we can support natural activities adjacent to an active landfill.

In 2017, 2018 & 2019 WM educated over 2,500 individuals in that 3 year period on-site and at off-site educational events.



WM supporting Oakland County Schools Green School Certification programs.



Waste Manage has been committed to educating Orion students and citizens - over 10,000 in the past 10 years.

WM developed a successful relationship with Scripps and Waldon Middle Schools, bringing 8th graders, and then as curriculum changed, 6th graders on annual tours of Eagle Valley Landfill and GM's Orion plant to learn about individual contribution to solid waste, as well as landfill gas to renewable energy.

A visit to a landfill teaches about the need to reduce, reuse & recycle.

The landfill also presented them with real-life examples of the harm that plastic poses to our environment and what each of them can do to reduce their use of plastic:

- 1) Refuse
- 2) Reuse
- 3) Tie knots in plastic bags before disposal so they don't fill up with air like balloons and travel off-site
- 4) Cut handle loops so wildlife don't get tangled in them

Fences help keep fly-away plastic on site where it can be re-collected and disposed of back in the landfill.



WM has noted that the # of individuals receiving this education is declining annually, not because of a lack of effort, but because of growing awareness and mainstream knowledge of this important subject matter.



WATERSHED PRESENTATIONS

Waste Management sponsors and participates in 4 annual local watershed festivals, educating hundreds of third through fifth grade students about their part in protecting and preserving their watershed.

- Lake St. Clair Water Festival (CRWC)
- Clinton River Water Festival (CRWC)
- Cranbrook Water Festival (FOTR)
- U of M Dearborn Water Festival (FOTR)

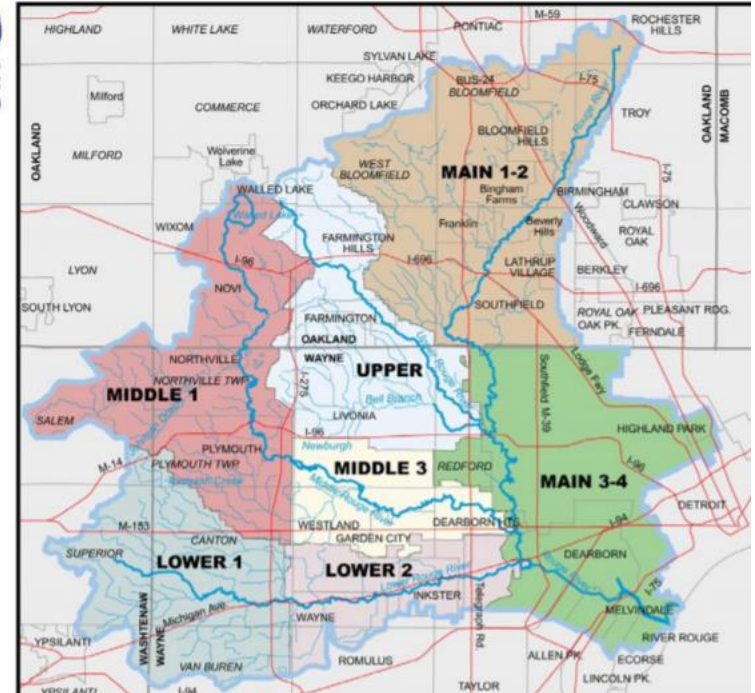


Clinton River Watershed – above, Shiawassee to the NW, Huron to the SW

OAKLAND COUNTY


Rouge River Watershed - right

No matter where we live
We all live in a watershed



Bat Education & Awareness – educating about the importance of and decline of bat populations as pollinators.





WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME
RESPONSE TEAM

HOME ABOUT US PARTNERS NEWS ROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS BLOG CONTACT

What Is WNS? What Are We Doing? What Can I Do? Multimedia and Education

What Is White-nose Syndrome?

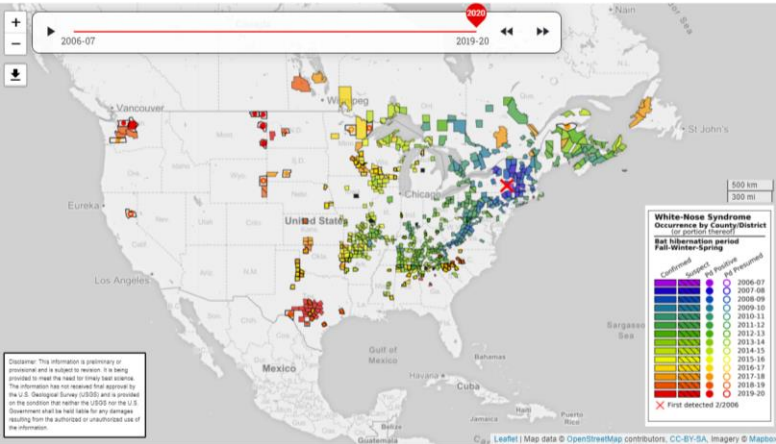


Little Brown Bat; close up of nose with fungus, New York, Oct. 2008.
Credit: Ryan von Linden/New York Department of Environmental Conservation

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease that affects hibernating bats and is caused by a fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, or *Pd* for short. Sometimes *Pd* looks like a white fuzz on bats' faces, which is how the disease got its name. *Pd* grows in cold, dark and damp places. It attacks the bare skin of bats while they're hibernating in a relatively inactive state. As it grows, *Pd* causes changes in bats that make them become active more than usual and burn up fat they need to survive the winter. Bats with white-nose syndrome may do strange things like fly outside in the daytime in the winter.

Roots of White-nose Syndrome

Biologists first saw bats sick and dying from white-nose syndrome in 2007 in caves near Albany, New York. However, cave explorers in that area had taken a photo of bats with a white powder on their noses the year before, so white-nose syndrome has been in North America at least since 2006.



<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

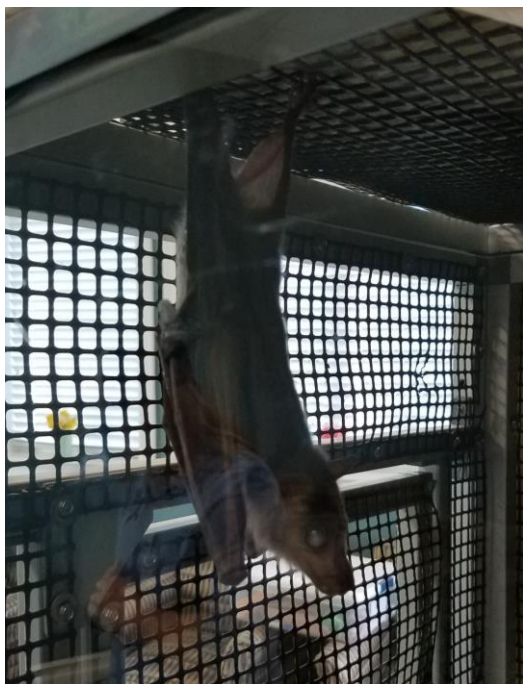




Sponsors the Leslie Science & Nature Center at the annual Orion Township Boo Bash.



Over 200 individuals visit the event and learn about the importance of bats and other creatures of the night.





WM took education & habitat installations off-site to the Orion Center, due to access limitations at Eagle Valley.

This involves spring nest box monitoring and winter habitat cleanout.

Results of nest box monitoring are recorded in the Cornell Ornithology Nest Watch program online, sharing data on nesting activities in SE MI.





Waste Management contracted with Six Rivers Land Conservancy in 2017, 2018 & 2019 to manage the Spring Nest Watch monitoring program at Eagle Valley & the Orion Center.

In 2020, due to Covid 19 restrictions, WM took over monitoring the Spring Next Box program and recording the findings on NestWatch.



A screenshot of the NestWatch website. The header includes 'The Cornell Lab of Ornithology' logo, a search bar, and a 'sign in' button. The main content area features a large image of a robin. On the left, there is a 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE' section with a numbered list: 1. Take the online quiz to get certified, 2. Find nests, 3. Record data, 4. Submit online or with the mobile app. On the right, there is a 'FEATURED CONTENT' section with three items: 'All About Birdhouses' (Construction plans, tips and more!), 'Nest and Egg ID' (Identification made easy!), and 'NestWatch Blog' (Read about the latest research and other happenings). At the bottom right of the featured content is a 'Download the App' button with the text 'Find it on Google Play or the App Store!'.

Individuals can do their own reporting of at-home bird observations to this national data base, contributing to citizen science about bird populations in the U.S.

<https://nestwatch.org/>



OC_BB_Hs_Chickadee_Nest.jpg



OC_BB_West_6_1_20.jpg

Chickadees, Tree Swallows
& House Wrens were
observed at Orion Center
and Polly Ann Trail.



Supporting Pollinator Habitat



— CERTIFIED —
**WILDLIFE
HABITAT**

FOOD WATER COVER HOME

BECAUSE OF THE OWNER'S CONSCIENTIOUS PLANNING, LANDSCAPING AND SUSTAINABLE GARDENING, WILDLIFE WILL FIND QUALITY HABITAT HERE—FOOD, WATER, COVER, AND PLACES TO RAISE THEIR YOUNG.

PROPERTY NAME
Waste Management Eagle Valley
Recycle and Disposal Facility

NO. 225,282
*in the National Wildlife Federation's
network of habitats*

Collin O'Mara
COLLIN O'MARA
PRESIDENT & CEO

UNITING ALL AMERICANS TO ENSURE WILDLIFE THRIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD



Supporting Pollinator Habitat

In 2019, WM became an NWF Certified Pollinator Habitat.

A Pollinator Species Inventory showed an abundance of pollinators at the site.



Milkweed, clover and other natural habitat features provide for important pollinator activity in this area adjacent to Eagle Valley



Supporting Pollinator Habitat



This NWF certification encouraged the need for a pollinator survey. WM made a donation to Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) and a survey was performed by OAS volunteers, Doris Applebaum & Kathleen Dougherty.

Pollinator Survey, Eagle Valley, August 5th, 2020

1. 1 - Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
2. 1 - Spicebush Swallowtail
3. 20+ - Cabbage White
4. 20+ - Clouded Sulphur
5. 9 - Orange Sulphur
6. 1 - Eastern Tailed-Blue
7. 4 - Pearl Crescent
8. 6 - Viceroy
9. 6 - Common Ringlet
10. 1 - Common Wood-Nymph
11. 5 - Monarch
12. 1 - Silver-spotted Skipper
13. 1 - Wild Indigo Duskywing
14. 1 - unidentified duskywing
15. 1 - Least Skipper
16. 1 - Delaware Skipper



11. & 8.

Monarch
Danaus plexippus

Viceroy
Limnitis archippus



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9.



10.



12.



13.



16.



11. & 8.



14.

Doris Applebaum &
Kathleen Dougherty of
Oakland Audubon Society



WHC & businesses committed to habitat restoration in the Huron to Erie Corridor

