

**HARPETH RIVER
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

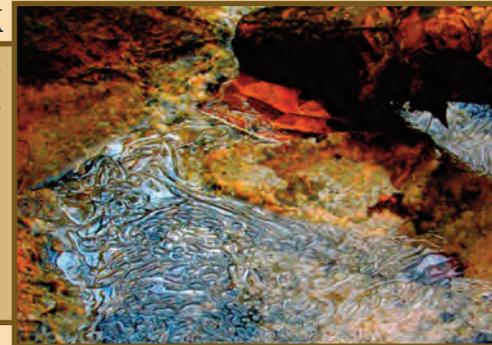
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CONDUCTING RIVER RESTORATION PROJECTS AND WATERSHED EDUCATION

Nearly \$1 million in state and federal funds have been invested around the Harpeth river watershed by HRWA for stream restoration projects on farms, schools, parks, and new developments to demonstrate approaches that protect water quality and enhance economic value. HRWA formed the River Restoration Corp through which nearly 1000 people have volunteered on stream restoration projects, rain garden projects, stream clean-ups, and river studies. HRWA has conducted a wide range of workshops for communities, leaders, farmers, development professionals, and land owners, as well as education workshops with classrooms, scouts, civic and youth groups that have reached thousands of people.

REMOVAL OF INDUSTRIAL CONTAMINATION FINALLY UNDERWAY FOR LIBERTY CREEK



Removal of chemicals contaminating groundwater that is seeping into the Harpeth River and Liberty Creek in downtown Franklin has recently begun over 3 years after the state identified the source, a nearby small pencil coating company called Egyptian Lacquer on Eddy Lane. HRWA organized expert reviews for state public hearings on two earlier proposed clean-up plans that were going to avoid treating the polluted groundwater. HRWA helped neighbors successfully get a clean-up underway this fall that is removing the contaminants before they reach Liberty Creek and the Harpeth as part of a confidential settlement agreement negotiated by Neal and Harwell and co-counsel.

WATERSHED STUDIES TRACK WATER QUALITY AND FIND SOLUTIONS



HRWA has conducted numerous water quality studies, many with trained volunteers, which allow the tracking of the river's health. HRWA has produced watershed plans for specific areas that describe restoration needs and project costs to improve water quality for both developed areas and agricultural areas of the river system. We also fund analyses by outside experts on key issues such as determining how much water needs to stay in the river in the summer to maintain state water quality standards. This work and studies by others provided the basis for the state's first permit issued in the fall of 2007 to the city of Franklin for its drinking water plant on the Harpeth. The state permit has set limits on the amount of water that can be pulled from the river.

SHAPING DEVELOPMENT RULES AND FUNDING DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS



One of the greatest challenges is designing development so that streams and water quality are not degraded. HRWA has helped write and adopt important local stormwater ordinances that set how new development is designed to prevent flooding, stream erosion, and water pollution. HRWA has funded specific projects with local cities and developers to install approaches that help improve water quality, such as "rain gardens" in parking lots, and to use existing tools to design developments and calculate pollution reduction. HRWA works in coalitions and with business leadership to maintain and shape effective state water quality regulations. In 2007, HRWA prevented the removal of the State Scenic River designation of the Harpeth in Davidson County which was proposed to allow the use of the large 17-acre McCrory Lane quarry right next to the river as a construction debris landfill against the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act.

TOP PRIORITIES 2011 AND BEYOND



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The historic 2010 May flood flipped over pedestrian bridge at Bellevue soccer fields



REMOVE LOWHEAD DAM IN FRANKLIN

HRWA, Franklin, and others conducted studies on the feasibility of removing the city's 6-foot high lowhead dam as part of the overall analysis of Franklin's use of the Harpeth River for drinking water. In 2010, HRWA was awarded \$350,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the restoration of the Harpeth River in Franklin that will include the removal of the structure as the city's drinking water withdrawal is modernized. This is a major collaboration project with the city of Franklin and many state and federal agencies that will eliminate the only obstruction to fish movement on the entire river. Once complete, the Harpeth River will be one of the few rivers in the state without any blockages to fish movement.

WATERWAY FLOOD RECOVERY PROJECT

HRWA launched this effort in response to the historic flood in early May that hit middle Tennessee and caused unprecedented damage to our communities and vital waterways. Household debris from hundreds of structures lie in and along the river and 1000s of trees were uprooted for over 60 miles, creating huge streambank erosion problems as well as blockages that can cause flooding in the future. HRWA was able to launch this effort with critical support from Work Force Essentials and the Emergency Response Funds of the Community Foundation of Middle TN. As of the end of October, over 400 volunteers on 15 clean-up projects in 3 counties had removed over 40 tons of debris. This support is nearly over, but significant debris sites still need to be cleaned up to prevent future flooding and remove hazards for paddlers. FEMA and other government agencies have informed HRWA that they cannot fund debris removal on private property even if it is in the water.



REDUCE DISCHARGE INTO HARPETH FROM SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

In the summer, much of the Harpeth River from its headwaters in Eagleville for 90 river miles into Cheatham County does NOT meet state standards because of problems with low oxygen levels in the water that threaten fish and aquatic life. HRWA conducted several water quality studies and funded analyses that show that the discharge of treated effluent from the sewer plants in Franklin and Williamson County are the dominant cause. A watershed based sewer plan is needed to reduce the pollutant input which also causes algal blooms by at least HALF. The state recently tightened the permits for the sewage treatment plants somewhat, and will re-examine them again at the end of 2011. HRWA is part of an effort by the city of Franklin, which has the largest sewer plant on the entire river, to develop a long term sewer and drinking water plan.



EXPAND THE HARPETH RIVER BLUEWAY

The Harpeth River State Park, TN Scenic Rivers Association, and HRWA collaborated to create the Harpeth River Blueway which is a series of public access points no more than 3 to 4 paddling hours apart along the entire river. Focus is now on establishing official river access in northern Williamson County and in downtown Franklin to connect with new accesses downriver in the Harpeth River State Park in Davidson and Cheatham counties. We also need to install river mile markers and canoe access signs along river, bridges, and roads and produce a waterproof map for the Upper Harpeth river access points to go with the 2009 Lower Harpeth River Blueway map.



New canoe access at Williamson County Rec. Center in Franklin