

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING TO DOCUMENT/MARKET RIVER RAISIN

(MONROE, MI) - The City of Monroe's Commission on the Environment (COTE) recently received funding via a grant administered by the Michigan Areas of Concern Program, Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency for River Raisin clean-up activities and continued educational outreach material and initiatives. A portion of the funds from the grant were used to create a high quality video assets that documents the recent work on the River Raisin to delist it as a federal Area of Concern (AOC), which includes removal of dams, installation of fish passages, and reinvigoration of the natural environment.

From this footage, a visual highlight video, featuring high-quality aerial and motion-control time-lapse footage, showcases the natural and recreational aspects of the River from the mouth of Lake Erie inland to Dundee, including fishing, kayaking, etc. Through past grants, the COTE has removed dams and created passages permitting fish to migrate, for the first time in over 80 years, this twenty-three mile stretch of the River. This documentation serves as a model and inspiration to other AOCs and citizens, as well as local and regional stakeholders, showcasing the natural beauty and cultural value of this regional asset.

The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgfCayXzYzY>

The footage will be used as ambient video on the River Raisin Legacy Project website, the City of Monroe web site, and as a basis for future visual outreach materials including public service announcements, electronic press kits, and future planned documentary style videos.

In addition to the grant funding acquired, COTE volunteers served as the producers of this production to assist and project manage the video production recording, coordination, access, and background aspects of the project.

COTE chairperson, Brian James Egen: "The River Raisin has a deep and rich history. From its creation, to the native inhabitants who lived along its shores, to the War of 1812 battle, to the legacy of today, it has a tremendous and unique story that is truly our own. This incredible natural resource ties both ends of our

county together – a life-blood of our community. Together we must preserve and protect this wonderful commodity for our children and future generations for not only as responsible stewards of our environment but also for potential economic growth and opportunity.”

In addition to the above project, COTE will be hosting the annual River Raisin Clean-Up Day on Saturday, July 21, 2018, beginning at 9:00 AM at the Soldiers and Sailors Park Pavilion on East Front Street.

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan’s third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County. Continually moving forward with innovative vision, the City of Monroe is Raisin' Expectations.

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