

# CROSSROADS GROUP

## SIERRA CLUB

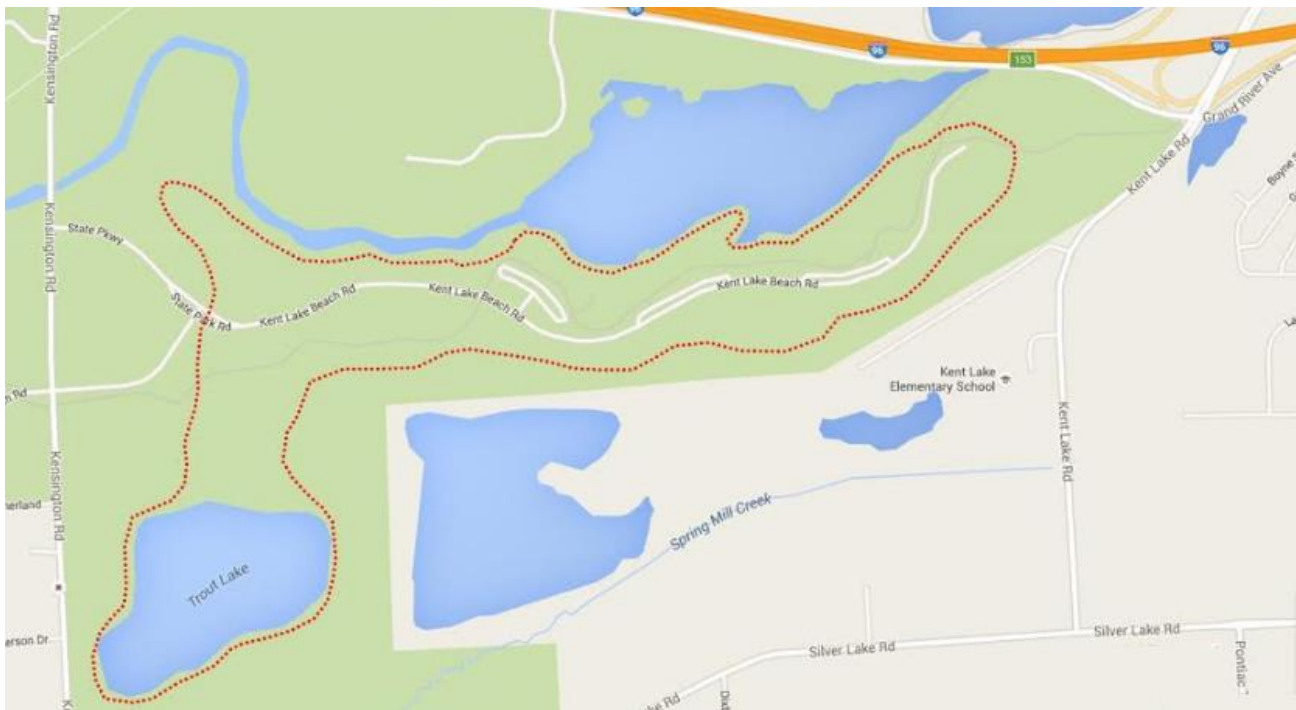
FALL 2016



### New Hiking Trail at Island Lake State Recreation Area

Hosting 1.2 million visitors per year, Island Lake is the 5th most used state park in Michigan. The paved multi-use trails and shared mountain biking and hiking trails are often a bit too crowded. So, when the Friends of Island Lake and the park management thought of creating a hiking only trail, it made sense to reach out to the Sierra Club Crossroads Group for assistance. The Crossroads Group entered a partnership with Island Lake with the "adopt a park" program earlier this year. The trail project has also had the assistance of REI, with their generous \$10,000 grant and volunteer work.

The result is a beautiful 5.5 mile hiking only (also cross country skiing in winter) trail that follows the ridge by the Huron River, cuts through several woods and meadows, and winds along the shores of two lakes (see trail map below). This year started out with just a general idea of where the trail would be, and now with over 300 volunteer hours from the Sierra Club alone, under the leadership of Tony Pitts (Friends of Island Lake), John Wilson (Crossroads Group), and Rick Pearsall (both groups), the trail is nearly finished. The trail will be fully completed next spring with interpretive signs and trail markers, however it is walkable already and we have scheduled our first hike there on October 2<sup>nd</sup> (see our outings calendar, page 4). There is still work that needs to be done (check our website for work days), but it is fun work, and the results will make it one of the best hiking trails in the area. Thanks to all who have participated in building this trail!



The dotted line shows the path of the new 5.5-mile trail at Island Lake.

## Executive Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Lee Burton  
Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly  
cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Julie Griess  
cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org

Secretary: Laurie Mercure  
cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

Chapter Group Rep.: Mary Andersson  
cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

Fundraising: Paul Thielking, Paula Gruszka  
Paul.Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org

Media: Nancy Schneider  
cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

Membership: Pam Medelis  
cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Terry Gannon  
cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings: John Wilson  
crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political: Julie Griess  
cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Programs:  
Mary Novrocki, Andrea McKenzie  
cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Webmaster: Laurie Mercure  
cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org

Conservation: Sue Kelly, Ron Kardos  
cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:  
[www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads)



## Crossroads Group Celebrates 25 Years! Celebrate with us at our picnic September 18th

On March 14th, 1991 a call went out to establish a Sierra Club group in the greater Livingston County area. We were young, enthusiastic, energetic, and filled with enough hope to think we could make a difference. In hindsight, we did.

Today - 25 years later - we look back and take pride in the work we have done and the fun we had. We've hiked, bird-watched, paddled, and learned about mushrooms and butterflies and wildflowers. Many people have learned about new things because we offered free programs to the public, covering topics such as renewable energy, edible landscapes, and snakes. The air in Whitmore Lake is cleaner with our help. The woodlot known as Ladybird Johnson Park is still here because of us. Deerfield Hills Nature Area is a treasured park because we helped acquire the funding to have it set aside. We addressed a fracking threat in Conway Township and hopefully added a strong voice to that effort. And some of our fights were not as successful, but were every bit worth the fight, such as the recalled Woodlands Ordinance in Brighton Township.

To get a little visual taste of our history, watch the slideshow on our website [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads).

There is no sign that we are slowing down. Our outings program is exemplary. Educational programs are offered every other month still covering great topics. We've taken on pipelines, collected signatures to ban fracking in the state, and try to address the environmental concerns that confront our community. All the while meeting new, close, lifelong friends, which really is a pretty great perk.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12pm we will be celebrating our anniversary at a picnic at Island Lake Recreation Area. Please join us! We will have food, games, music, and fun! See details in our outings calendar on page 4 and our RSVP card on the last page of this newsletter.

## Vince Smith Award

The Vince Smith Award, established in 1992, recognizes outstanding contributions to the Sierra Club outings program. This year, our own outings leader John Wilson is the recipient of this award from the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. John became the Outings Committee Chair for the Crossroads Group in 2011. Under John's leadership, our outings program has expanded greatly. For the past 5 years, John has planned and led at least 25 outings each year. Events include hikes, kayak/canoe rides, bike rides, ski outings, and service outings at various Michigan parks. At Island Lake State Recreation Area, John has spent many hours this year helping to coordinate the building of a new hiking trail (see article on page 1). John makes all of the outings fun and educational, with his abundant love and knowledge of nature and outdoor activities. Our members always appreciate John's organizational expertise and attention to detail; he always comes well-prepared with anything anyone could possibly need or want, including his famous chocolate treats shared at every outing! The Crossroads Group is lucky to have John as our outings leader, and we hope he will continue to volunteer in this position for many years to come!

## Fundraising

We did quite well selling lemonade at the Balloonfest in Howell this summer. The weather was good on Friday and Saturday, and only mildly threatening on Sunday. Our profit puts us on a good footing for the next budget year. Thanks to all those who made donations during the 2 lean years, and also to all who worked at our booth.

We are also making an effort to diversify our income so that we aren't totally at the mercy of the elements for all our finances. In particular, in the past year we have developed a sponsorship program for businesses that would like to support us. You may have noticed some of these listed in this newsletter. If you know of any likely sponsors, please contact [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org). And please patronize our sponsors!

Julie Griess, Crossroads Group Treasurer

## Shut Down Enbridge's Line 5!

Line 5 is the 62-year-old double pipeline running under the Straits of Mackinac. It is 12 years beyond its planned lifetime, is located in a place where a leak would have dire consequences for Michigan's coastal communities and poison a large part of our Great Lakes, and poses a great threat to our critical tourism economy. It is owned and operated by the same company that was responsible for the worst inland oil spill in US history so we are not confident that it is being optimally maintained.

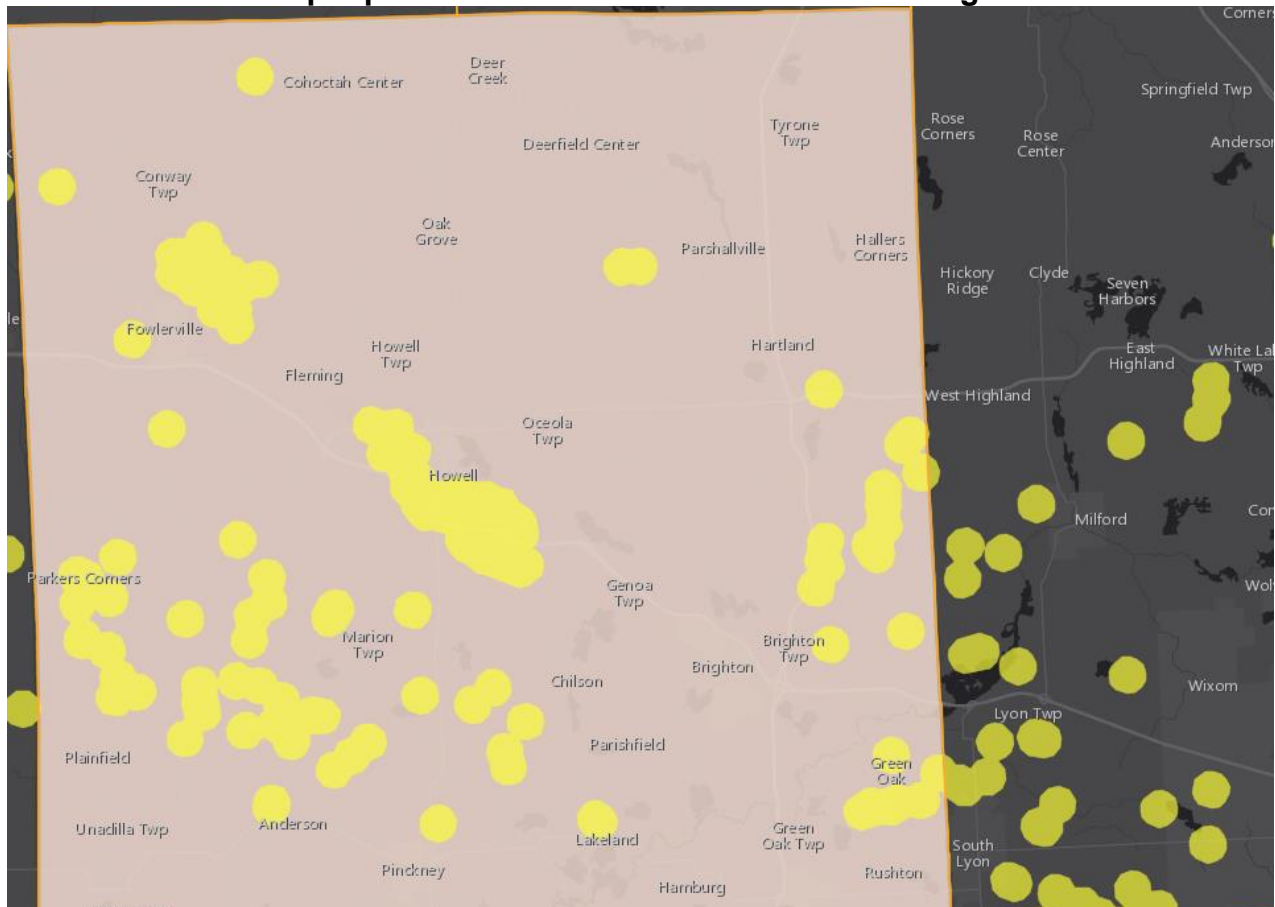
The pipeline has been out of compliance with the original easement agreement since 1953 that states it must have supports every 75 feet. The DEQ is now taking comments about a new request from Enbridge to install the supports. For more information and to submit comments go to the DEQ site at <http://tinyurl.com/zejtd9>.

This year we decided to put our conservation efforts towards assisting in the shutting down of Line 5. As of this writing, there are over 60 municipalities across Michigan who have passed resolutions in support of shutting Line 5 down. We would like Livingston County to join this effort. Our Conservation Committee is actively working on this and will have an update for you in the next newsletter.

## Help Sierra Club Protect Our Democracy!

Do you have 5 minutes to help? If you could complete the simple survey at <http://tinyurl.com/jllw29b> it will greatly assist the Sierra Club in Michigan in our efforts to educate voters about how redistricting has corrupted our political system by letting politicians select their voters instead of voters selecting their politicians.

## Is oil and gas polluting your air? Is your home at risk? 12.4 million people live within 1/2 mile of active oil and gas facilities



Circles indicate Oil and Gas Threats in our Local Community

## Crossroads Group Outings

**Outings are subject to conditions.** To check for cancellations or changes, or to find out more information about any outing, see our website ([www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads)) or contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or [crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org). All outings are open to Sierra Club members and non-members.

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### **Island Lake Recreation Area - Paddle-Pedal 2016** - Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM to 4 PM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meeting details below

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: mild to moderate; family-friendly

Cost: Boat rental (if not bringing your own) - on this day only, Heavners Canoe Rental will offer canoes for \$20 or kayaks for \$10. Or sign up for Friends of Island Lake Recreation Area membership to get a free canoe/kayak rental!

State park entry fee or passport also required.

Join the Friends of Island Lake Recreation Area on a paddling and pedaling day! Here's how it works: drop your bicycle at Riverbend in our attended bicycle storage area. Drive to the Kent Lake parking lot with your boat, or rent one there. Paddle on one of the finest natural stretches of the Huron River Water Trail, 1-1½ hours, to Riverbend. Bike back to your vehicle at Kent Lake on paved trails; variable mileage.

Boat reservations suggested - call Heavners Canoe Rental at 248-685-2379 to put your name on the list (payment due at the event).

### **Sierra Club Crossroads Group 25th Anniversary Picnic Celebration!** - Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM to 4 PM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meet at the Hickory Shelter - after ticket booth, go straight for 1.2 miles, last parking lot in the park

Cost: free (\$5 donations to help cover costs appreciated), requires state park entry fee or passport.

**FREE picnic lunch!** We will have games and activities including volleyball, disc golf, and a scavenger hunt, plus live musical entertainment. Bring the whole family! This is a great opportunity to meet our Sierra Club Crossroads Group leaders and members, members of the Friends of Island Lake, and other nice, friendly, like-minded people!

Come early or stay late to paddle at Island Lake. You can do a 1½ - hour paddle from Kent Lake to Riverbend - canoes/kayaks available from Heavner's Canoe Rental with a \$4 discount.

RSVPs appreciated so we can plan how much food to bring. RSVP with the link on our website

[www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) or mail the card on the back of this newsletter.

### **Mushroom Hunting Hike Highland State Recreation Area** - Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: 5200 Highland Rd, White Lake (park entrance is ½ mile west of this address on most GPSs; look for large Highland State Recreation Area sign on the south side of M-59/Highland Rd between Ormond Road & Bogie Lake Road)

Meet at Goose Meadow parking area – first right after passing toll station, parking lot at end of road; meet at the information sign

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for mushroom hunting with experienced guide Diane Pruden from Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. Enjoy the scenery at this historic park while learning about mushrooms. If edibles are found, we will have a “cook and taste” for anyone interested.

Bring a small knife, a bag and wax paper (for any specimens you wish to take), and a compass if you have one. Wear long pants and closed shoes.

### **Island Lake Recreation Area Hike on the NEW TRAIL** - Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 PM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton;

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot near the boat launch area

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for our first hike on the brand-new, awesome, hikers-only trail that our group has been helping to build all year! The hike is 5 to 6 miles, shorter options available.

**Horseback Trail Ride - Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM**

Location: Brighton Recreation Area Riding Stable - 6660 Chilson Road, Howell

All riding levels are welcome; Cost \$35 for a 1-hour trail ride, plus state park entry fee or passport  
Join us for a 1-hour trail ride led by experienced guides through beautiful fall-colored wooded trails.

Advanced reservations required by Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Limited spots available, first-come-first-served. Minimum age 8 years old; weight restriction 240 lbs max. Reserve by contacting John Wilson (contact info above) or RSVP on our Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group))

Ride is from 1:00-2:00, but we are meeting at 12:30 in order for horses to be selected.

**Brighton Recreation Area Penosha Trail Hike - Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM**

Location: Penosha Trail, Bishop Lake parking lot, off Bishop Lake Rd, Howell; see our website or contact our outings leader for specific directions to the trailhead parking lot.

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. The trail is 5 miles, approximately 2 ½ hours, through woods and meadows. A great hike near our own backyard!

**Kayaking/Canoeing for Cranes at Deerfield Hills - Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM**

Location: Deerfield Hills Nature Area, Green Rd & Cohoctah Rd, Fenton; meet in the parking lot

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free

A kayak/canoe outing to view close-up migration of Sandhill cranes. Join us for an evening of viewing these magnificent birds as they gather to their migration staging area on islands in Bennett Lake, in preparation for their 1,000-mile southward journey. It is also possible to view the birds from a vantage point a short hike from the launch area. Bring a kayak/canoe, binoculars, and warm clothes.

**Annual Winter Ducks Outing at Kensington Metropark - Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM**

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton;

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us to witness one of nature's amazing shows - the migration of ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter. Bring binoculars or viewing scope. The outing will be led by experienced Audubon leader, Dan Minock.

**Pinckney Recreation Area Crooked Lake Trail Hike - Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM**

Location: Pinckney Recreation Area, 8555 Silver Hill Rd., Pinckney; meet at the Silver Lake trailhead parking lot

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a 5 mile fall hike on one of Michigan's premier trail systems. The area is covered with glacial moraines, kettle lakes, and swampy lowlands. Meet at the trailhead parking lot for the Silver Lake, Potawatomi, and Crooked Lake trails.

**Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1 PM**

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Ski Center

Skill Level: novices to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us for an afternoon cross country ski outing. Ski and boot rental available. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. Heated warming shelter and indoor bathrooms available. We will ski on shorter and longer distance trails depending on experience levels. Celebrate the New Year early! We will hike if there is no snow.

**Annual Owl Walk and Potluck Dinner - Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM**

Location: Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves, Brighton

Difficulty: easy; Cost: free

A fascinating way to spend a winter evening in Michigan, hosted by our Crossroads Sierra Club leader Lee and his wife Roberta at their home in Brighton. We will begin with a potluck dinner and drinks and an introduction to owls and owl calls. At about 7:00 we will venture into Brighton Recreation Area - just a short walk from the house - and call for screech owls and great horned owls, both of which will be nesting at the time. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. For more information and directions see our website or contact Lee at 810-231-9045 or [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org).

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## Crossroads Group Programs

Crossroads Group Sierra Club presents these free programs, open to the public:

**Politics of the Environment - Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm**  
Brighton District Library 100 Library Dr, Brighton



Our Chapter Political Chair Richard Barron and Chapter Political Director Mike Berkowitz will give us a view of the 2016 election relating to environmental issues. This detailed program is a good chance to invite your friends who may wish to learn more about how our votes can affect the environment for years to come. The information will be non-partisan, focused only on issues we all care about. Mike and Richard are incredibly well informed, and can handle a dynamic discussion.

**Wild Super Powers: Adaptations - Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 7 pm**  
Brighton District Library 100 Library Dr, Brighton



What do Batman, Spiderman, and Cat Woman have in common? Their super powers are based on amazing animal abilities. This mixed animal show examines the “super powers” that enable these creatures to survive in the wild. Presented by Howell Nature Center.

**Thank you to our sponsors!**



Thanks to Island Lake  
Recreation Area for their support!



We would like to extend our thanks to Mark Hagerty and Michigan Solar Solutions for their support of the Crossroads Group. MSS installs solar electric systems using domestically made solar panels. They also help customers with other energy saving applications to reduce energy usage. Their financial sponsorship supports the ongoing activities of the Crossroads Group.

We believe that the awareness that the Sierra Club brings to the community is very important. Breathe Salon believes in those same ideals, and we're confident that our sponsor gift will help to promote needed education for our environment, which greatly affects the future of our children.

Breathe Salon is a full service salon where dedication to our customers' experience is what we're all about. From being the friendliest and most fun atmosphere to providing you with the best hair, nail, and skincare possible, our team is ready and excited to provide you with a customized day at the salon. We like to give the community a chance to try us out, so we offer **50% off of any one service your first** visit with us.



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**Newsletter E-Delivery:  
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**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event  
October 15<sup>th</sup> Howell**

The event is held on Saturday between 9 am and 12 noon.  
Please call 517-545-9609 for a REQUIRED appointment and to confirm location.  
*Materials for Kitchen and Bath, Workshop and Garage, Garden and Outdoor*  
See [www.livgov.com/dpw](http://www.livgov.com/dpw) for more details about what is accepted.



Sierra Club—Crossroads Group  
P.O. Box 306  
Brighton, MI 48116

Thanks to our friends at Big PDQ printing for their support. 810-229-2989 <http://www.bigpdq.com/>



***YOU'RE INVITED!***

***CROSSROADS GROUP SIERRA CLUB 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
PICNIC CELEBRATION!***

Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM, Island Lake Recreation Area  
FREE picnic lunch! (\$5 donations to help cover costs appreciated)  
Games, music, & fun!

More details in our outings calendar on page 4

**RSVPs appreciated so we can plan food, etc.**

RSVP with the link on our website [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads)

or

mail this card to: Crossroads Group Sierra Club, PO Box 306, Brighton MI 48116

\_\_\_\_\_ is planning on attending \_\_\_\_ # people in your party

\_\_\_\_\_ contact e-mail and/or phone number