

## Hundreds of Volunteers Gather for Local Watershed Clean-Up

submitted by Patricia Jarrett, Co-Coordinator, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly



During August 2022, hundreds of volunteers came together to take part in an environmental clean-up effort—the Muskegon River Trash Bash. This is the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly's largest volunteer event that encourages the

protection and preservation for one of the most beautiful waterways in Michigan. "It's one of the easiest, most fulfilling, and fun initiatives that MRWA does," said Patricia Jarrett, Trash Bash co-coordinator. "We get more and more volunteers every year from all over the watershed. They truly make a positive difference for the people that enjoy the river – and the plants and animals that live in it."



**Ice Mountain's Water Wizards Team**



**Lume's Fireflies Team**

A total of 38 teams and over 280 volunteers, traversed and gathered the garbage in and along the river and its tributaries. Items found in the watershed included plastic bottles, tires, railroad ties, metal cages, clothes, and cell phones. According to Trash Bash survey data, over 270 bags of trash were collected. Lume's Riverside Fireflies was the largest team with over 35 members.



**Riff Raff Crew**

A few of the updates this year included a prize-window and bringing back the "bash" to the Trash Bash after a long absence due to the pandemic. This not only helped spread the word about the volunteer effort – but, paid homage to the original birth place of the river wide clean-up event – Ewart, Michigan. "We had such a great time fixing up a dreary, storefront window, on Ewart's Main Street, into a wonderful prize showcase that became the 'talk of the town'," expressed Jarrett. "We are so grateful for people like Todd Bruggema (DDA) and Kathy Fiebig (City of Ewart) who literally and figuratively opened doors to make it all happen".

The Trash Bash sponsors also played an integral role that allowed coordinators to really make this year special. This was all thanks to donations from B103.9, Cargill, DTE Foundation, High Profile, Consumers Energy, Green Gold Diner, Ice Mountain (Partner), Lume (Grand Prize Sponsor), Republic Services, The Rotary Foundation of Big Rapids, River Stop Café, and Wisner Canoes.

For more information about the Muskegon River Trash Bash, go to: [mrwa.org/trashbash](http://mrwa.org/trashbash).



**Trash Bash Coordinators** - Sarah Himes, Left; Patricia Jarrett, Right

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