

# The 16th annual Grand River Cleanup

## What is the River Cleanup?

The river cleanup is an annual even in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in which hundreds of people work together to cleanup the beloved Grand River. The event is put on by the mayor, **Rosalyn Bliss**, and a nonprofit known as **WMEAC**. The event will occur on Saturday, September, 14, starting at 8:30 am. After everyone is done volunteering, they are invited to celebrate with drinks, music and lunch. The event is predicted to bring in around 1,000 people and cleanup around 20,000 ponds of trash. Ericka Popovich, a communications and community engagement coordinator for **WMEAC** says that, "It really speaks to how many folks have realized the value of the Grand River and supporting community efforts".

## The Importance of the River Cleanup

The Grand River is an iconic part of West Michigan. It inspired the namesake of the second largest city in Michigan, Grand Rapids. The Grand river also provides many people with great fishing opportunities. However, according to *WMEAC*, all of the trash and pollution collecting in the river is harming the plants, fish, and other animals that consider the Grand River home. It is important to clean the river as a community since it does so much for the people who live close to it. The cleaner the water is in the Grand River, the cleaner West Michigan's drinking water will be, since the Grand River empties into Lake Michigan.