

RIVER CURRENTS



MONITORING FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

An emerging contaminant is anything in our rivers and lakes that we do not typically monitor, but that could adversely impact the health of our water. These compounds are not traditionally removed by our current water treatment processes, and therefore, are discharged back into our waterways through treated water. Common classes of these compounds include personal care products, prescription and recreational drugs, pesticides and herbicides, as well as many others. To better understand what type of emerging contaminants are making their way

into our rivers, Milwaukee Riverkeeper launched a monitoring program in 2017 to search for a “laundry list” of pollutants from river sites within the Milwaukee River Basin. This program is a collaborative effort between several organizations including UW-Milwaukee’s School of Public Health and School of Freshwater Sciences, The Urban Ecology Center, and Carroll University.

Water samples for this project are collected in two different ways. First, the Urban Ecology Center has been taking

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Feature Story:
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Spring Cleanup
Page 4

Riverkeeper Watch
Page 6

Disposable Lifestyles
Page 7

Advocacy in Action:
Estabrook Dam Update
Page 7

WELCOME



Jennifer Bolger Breceda | Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Rivers,

We have some BIG news to share! After more than twenty years, we have updated our look and logo! You will start to see our new look everywhere, like when we are out in public, on our website, and on social media. The new look, including new colors and fonts, updates and refreshes our brand and better matches where Milwaukee Riverkeeper is today and how we have grown since 1995. As the VOICE OF THE RIVER, we are so excited about our new look and logo.



In our new logo, three flowing rivers are depicted within a bold shield representing how Milwaukee Riverkeeper staff and supporters, like YOU, help to protect the Milwaukee River Basin. The heroic interpretation was chosen because it illustrates our unique position as the only science-based advocacy organization working for swimmable, fishable rivers in the Milwaukee River Basin.

The shield clearly demonstrates what we do:

PROTECT - This shield shape was chosen because it represents both defense & offense in battle – in our case we defend the health of our rivers and protect them for future generations. It embodies strength and empowerment.

RESTORE - The three flowing lines represent the organic, spiritual meandering of our three free-flowing rivers (Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic). Not contained or restricted, but restored and free.

CONNECT - The varied colors and dimensions of the rivers reveal the coming together of different people and communities for a unified and singular outcome - healthy rivers and eco-systems.

ADVOCATE - The shield shape is representative of offense in battle – which is symbolic of our advocacy work.

We hope you like our new logo and new look. We worked hard to find the right fit for us and we are thankful for all of those who helped us get here, including Monarch Creative, our branding consultant, our dedicated Board of Directors and the expertise and guidance of the best Fundraising and Marketing Committee east and west of the Mississippi.

To healthy, flowing rivers,

Jennifer Bolger Breceda
Executive Director

Look what we have been up to!



— River Defenders Advocacy Training



— Senior Water Advocates Tour Of Restoration Projects



— Road Salt Monitoring

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Vogel
President

Lilith Fowler
Treasurer

Joseph Cincotta
Michael DiStefano

Beth Handle
Demaris Kenwood

Mike Sauer
Brian Spahn
Peter Thornquist

Chris Daood
Vice President

Brian Lambert
Secretary

Mustafa Emir
Jessica Ginster

Patti McNair
Catherine Mercuri

Emerging Contaminants (cont. from page 1)

weekly samples from their Riverside and Menomonee Valley locations. These data points will help us better understand how emerging contaminant levels vary over time. Second, our team mobilized volunteers to collect water samples from several locations in the Milwaukee River Basin and on the Root River. These sampling “events” occur three times a year; once in the Spring, Summer and Fall. These data points will tell us more about the spatial variation in the levels of emerging contaminants in our rivers. To learn more about the most up to date results of our program, check out our data map (<https://bit.ly/2pJB2lb>) and graphing application (<https://bit.ly/2IVvEu7>).

Our most recent event, “The Emerging Eighteen Sampling Day”, took place on Saturday March 24, 2018. On this day, we mobilized 14 volunteers to 18 different river stations. The samples were then

brought to Dr. Todd Miller at UW-Milwaukee for processing. Once we have the results from this event, our river sites will face off in a March Madness Style Tournament: “The Emerging Eighteen” (see below). Sites were placed in first or second stage matches depending on the watershed to which they belong. For each “match,” the concentration of every compound analyzed is compared. The site with the higher concentration for any given compound will receive a point. The site with the most points will advance to the next round of the tournament. The site that has the worst overall water quality will be crowned this year’s Emerging Eighteen Champion!

Sign up to become a volunteer for our Emerging Contaminants program at our website (www.milwaukeekeeper.org/protect/emerging-contaminants-monitor-signup/).

Join Our Water Quality Monitoring Team

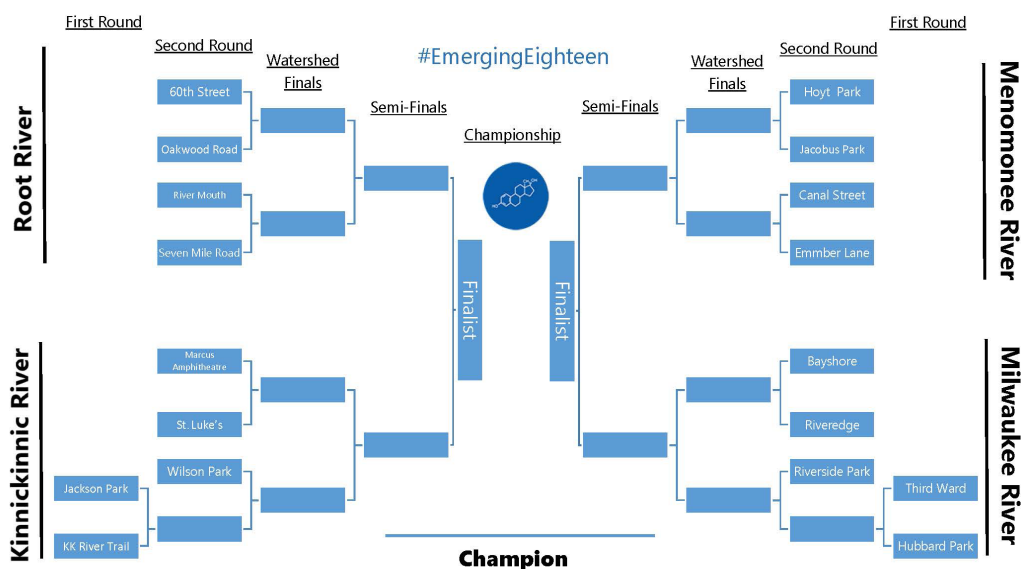
Water Quality monitors visit an assigned station once per month between May and October. While at the assigned monitoring station, the monitor will collect data on several different water quality parameters including temperature, dissolved oxygen, stream invertebrates, water transparency, and stream flow. To participate, monitors are required to attend a six-hour training. Our training will take place at Riveredge Nature Center on May 5th from 9am to 3pm.

To sign up for a site and the training, browse through our online site map to find a site that works for you (<https://www.milwaukeekeeper.org/protect/water-quality-monitor-signup/>). Click on a point on the map, and follow the sign up link. If you have any questions, contact Zac Driscoll (zac@milwaukeekeeper.org or 414-287-0209).



2017 Water Quality Monitoring Training

2018 Emerging Eighteen Water Sampling Event Bracket



STAFF

Jennifer Bolger Breceda, J.D.
Executive Director

Cheryl Nenn, M.S.
Riverkeeper

Zac Driscoll, M.S.
Water Quality Specialist

Rose Alvarez
Cleanup & Event Coordinator
Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps

Christina Taddy, M.P.A.
Development & Operations Manager

Anna Urban
Education Coordinator
Trinity Fellow



23RD ANNUAL MILWAUKEE RIVERKEEPER

60 LOCATIONS • 3 R

When: Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9:00 am - Noon.

Where: Choose any one of our 60 locations throughout the Milwaukee River Basin. See our list of sites or the map on our Spring Cleanup website (bit.ly/MRKcleanup23).

How: We provide the bags, gloves, and FREE T-SHIRTS and YOU provide the hands and energy to pick up the interesting and sometimes bizarre pieces of garbage that find their way into our beautiful river system. Grab a bag and let's clean some river! Bring a reusable water bottle!

Register: Visit bit.ly/MRKcleanup23.

After-Party: Celebrate the success of the Spring Cleanup with music, food, and more at [Rock the Green!](#) Join us for an afternoon of sustainable fun, featuring local food vendors, on-site eco-education, and the music of Evan Christian playing on a pedal-powered stage! Estabrook Park, Picnic Area #8 from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

Become a River Rockstar: Join us on April 21, 2018, but don't stop there. To be a River Rockstar collect pledges for every bag of trash you collect during the Spring Cleanup. Send pledge form with your collected pledges and personal contact information to Milwaukee Riverkeeper by May 5, 2018. If you raise (or give) over \$100 you will be entered to win a ride on the Milwaukee Riverkeeper boat for you and five of your friends with your very own tour guide, our Riverkeeper, Cheryl Nenn!

Show Us Your Trash: What trash will you find during the Spring Cleanup? If you find anything unique or unusual, post a picture of it on social media to be entered in our Show Us Your Trash Contest! Include the hashtags #MRKCleanup23 & #ShowUsYourTrash in the photo post, and Milwaukee Riverkeeper Staff will reply with #swimmablefishablerivers. Staff will vote to determine the top 3 most unusual items and contact the winners. Happy cleaning!

2018 Cleanup Sites

Kinnickinnic River

1st & Lincoln – South of Lincoln Ave and east of 1st St on the KK River Trail. Meet in the Pre-PAC parking lot. (107 E Lincoln Ave)

3rd & Orchard Neighborhood – Meet outside Hope House. (209 W Orchard St)

Holler Park – Meet in the Holler Park parking lot. (5151 S 6th St)

Jackson Park (Milwaukee) – Meet at the Jackson Park Community room adjacent to the park and Kinnickinnic Parkway. (3500 W Forest Home Ave)

Jackson Parkway–Meet at W Jackson Park Dr at S 51st St.

Kinnickinnic River Trail (Rosedale Ave.) – Cleanup along the Kinnickinnic River Trail west of S Chase Ave along W Rosedale Ave.

Lyons Park – Meet at the Lyons Park Pavilion.

Pulaski Park – Meet in front of the pavilion.

St. Luke's Medical Center – Meet at the picnic tables.

Washington Street Bridge – Park along E Washington St and meet at the bridge at E Washington St & S Water St.

Menomonee River

All Hands Boatworks – Meet at the entrance to the boatyard, which is located in the northwest corner of the Emmer Lane Bridge.

Hart Park – Meet at the Park Administrative Building.

Honey Creek – Meet at the CH2M parking lot off of I-94/84th St. exit in the Honey Creek Corporate Center.

Hoyt Park/Hansen Park Golf Course – Meet at picnic area #1 in the TOSA Pool parking lot.

Jacobus Park – Meet behind the pavilion near the flag pole, just off of N 68th St.

Krueger Park – Meet in the parking lot.

Little Menomonee River Parkway – Meet at the intersection of W Appleton Ave and Bobolink Ave.

Menomonee River Parkway: Capitol to Hampton– Meet at W Congress St near the Oak Leaf Trail.

Menomonee River Parkway: North Ave – Meet at the intersection of N Menomonee River Pkwy and W North Ave. (2300 N. Menomonee River Pkwy, Wauwatosa)

Silver City Neighborhood & Three Bridges Park– Meet at the Urban Ecology Center - Menomonee Branch.

DEEPER SPRING CLEANUP ON APRIL 21ST

IVERS • 1 COMMUNITY

Menomonee Valley & Hank Aaron State Trail

Hank Aaron State Trail Extension at Dickinson – Meet at the intersection of S 65th St and Dickinson St, just south of W Main St and between 70th St and Hawley Rd.

Hank Aaron State Trail 121st St. – Meet at Kelmann Corporation. (12001 W Dearbourn Ave/Wauwatosa)

Hank Aaron State Trail near Underwood Creek – Meet at Kelmann Corporation. (12001 W Dearbourn Ave/Wauwatosa)

Lakeshore State Park – Meet at the west side of Discovery World by the flagpoles.

Miller Park – Meet just south of the Klements Sausage Haus, east of the stadium.

Menomonee Valley Stormwater Park – Meet at 3700 W Milwaukee Rd.

Milwaukee River

Caesar's Park – Meet at the entrance to the park off of Warren Ave. (1939 N Warren Ave.)

Estabrook Invasive Removal – Meet at the parking lot by Picnic Area #5 MUST PREREGISTER.

Estabrook Park – Meet at the parking lot by picnic area #6.

Gordon Park – Meet at the parking lot by the pavilion building.

Havenwoods State Forest – Meet at the Havenwoods State Forest Nature Center.

Hubbard Park – Park in the parking lot on Morris and walk through the tunnel. Meeting spot is to the left down the hill.

Kern Park – Park on the street along N Humboldt Blvd or E Singer Cir then walk toward the center of the park and down the hill. Meet at the tree line of the bluff on the river.

Kletzsch Park – Meet at the pavilion on the east side of the Parkway.

Lincoln Creek – Meet at Oholiab's Visual Arts Gallery (5350 N Green Bay Ave / Milwaukee) Off-street parking available in Eastbrook Church Parking lot, west side of N Green Bay Ave.

Lincoln Creek: 34th to 35th – Meet at N 35th & Congress St (4400 N 35th St. / 4 blocks north of Capital Dr. / Milwaukee).

Lincoln Creek: N 51st St – Meet at the footbridge near N 54th St and W Lincoln Creek Dr (Approximate address: 5400 W Lincoln Creek Dr/ Milwaukee 53218) Parking is available along W Parkway Dr.

Lincoln Creek: N 60th St – Meet at the southeast corner of N 60th St & W Parkway Dr. (Approximate address: 6000 W Lincoln Creek Dr/Milwaukee 53218). Parking is available along W Parkway Dr. **CLEANUP IS APRIL 29.**

Lincoln Park – Meet at the Blatz Pavilion. (1301 W Hampton Ave)

Lincoln Park (on the water) – Meet at the boat launch along the parkway. (4949 N Milwaukee River Pkwy) NOTE: Canoe needed. MUST PREREGISTER.

Locust Street – Meet in the Riverside University High School parking lot, northwest corner. Park in the middle section of the lot. We will clean up north of E Locust St (1615 E Locust St / Milwaukee).

North Avenue East – Meet at the intersection of E North Ave & Cambridge Ave by the Cambridge Commons Residence Hall.

Pleasant Valley Park – Meet at the Friends Meeting House parking lot.

Additional parking in Gaenslen School lot.

Rite-Hite Family YMCA – Meet and park in the back parking lots behind the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center. (9250 N Green Bay Rd)

Riverview Residence Hall – Meet at the intersection of E North Ave and N Humboldt Blvd.

UWM Park & Ride Lot – Meet in the parking lot on N Humboldt Ave, off of E Capitol Dr behind the WTMJ building.

Northern Watershed

Brown Deer Rd – Meet at the intersection of Upper River Rd and W Brown Deer Rd. Launch from the west side of the river, paddle from Brown Deer Rd to Kletzsch Park while picking up trash. (8800 N Upper River Rd/River Hills) NOTE: CANOE REQUIRED, MUST PREREGISTER.

Lime Kiln Park, Grafton – Meet at the top parking lot in Lime Kiln Park.

River Hill Park, Kewaskum – Meet at the pavilion building in River Hill Park.

Rotary Park, Menomonee Falls – Meet by the pavilion building near the parking lot.

West Bend – Meet at the Washington County student parking lot. (400 University Dr/ West Bend)

Riverbend Conservancy – Meet at Riverbend Conservancy. (766 Hwy 33 / West Bend)

Fellenz Wood – Meet at Fellenz Woods. (1630 Decorah Rd. / West Bend)

Kratzsch Conservancy – Meet in the Kratzsch Conservancy parking lot. (6670 Lovers Lane Rd/West Bend)

Need More Information?
Visit milwaukeekeeper.org or
call 414-287-0207.



Riverkeeper Watch



Cheryl Nenn | Riverkeeper

Challenge Against Dairy Business Group, a Win for Clean Water

Last year, Milwaukee Riverkeeper joined a legal action with several other state partners, represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA), to intervene in a lawsuit that the Dairy Business Association (DBA) filed against DNR. That lawsuit was quickly settled by the parties before a judge could rule on our petition to intervene.

The settlement agreement between the DNR and DBA weakens DNR's ability to address runoff from calf hutch facilities and vegetated treatment areas from large Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and conflicts with state statutes and rules. It also limits DNR's authority under current law to stop water pollution, putting our rivers and water quality potentially at risk. We believe the settlement agreement went too far and constrained DNR's authority. It was necessary for public interest groups to push back to defend DNR's authority to protect our health and our environment.

Late last year, MEA challenged the settlement on our behalf, and DNR filed a motion to dismiss our case soon after. On March 19, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge William Pocan agreed that our concerns warrant judicial review of DNR's quick settlement with DBA, and he denied the motion to dismiss, thus allowing our lawsuit to go forward.

Foxconn's Water Diversion Proposal Could Set Bad Precedent for Great Lakes Compact

The City of Racine submitted a formal request to the DNR under the Great Lakes Compact process to divert 7 million gallons of water from Lake Michigan to the proposed Foxconn facility that will lie partially outside of the Great Lakes Basin.

On March 7th, DNR hosted a public hearing on this proposal and Milwaukee Riverkeeper and over 300 other people showed up to speak out against the proposal.

We have several major concerns about sending Great Lakes water to Foxconn. First, the Great Lakes Compact bans diversions from the Great Lakes with limited exceptions for straddling communities and communities in straddling counties. Instead of Mount Pleasant applying for the diversion as a straddling community, Racine is applying as an in-basin community with excess water capacity. Because Racine would not have to apply for a larger withdrawal from Lake Michigan, this scenario is creating a third exception under the ban on diversions whereby water-supplying communities within the Basin could send water to private companies outside the Great Lakes Basin.

Second, the water delivered to Mount Pleasant will not be diverted for public consumption, as required by the Great Lakes Compact, but rather to a private, foreign corporation.

Third, the Foxconn proposal says that nearly 40% of the 7 million gallons would be lost to the manufacturing process, and not returned to the lake. Another key tenant of the Great Lakes Compact is that water taken must be returned, less consumptive use. But when does consumptive use, not related to public use, become so great that it has a cumulative negative impact on the Great Lakes? The DNR has decided it does not need to assess this. What happens when we have 20-30 Foxconn's around the Great Lakes failing to return water at such high levels? This is precedent setting and concerning, and we feel that Regional Review by the other Great Lakes States and Canadian Provinces is warranted. Currently, DNR is not planning to seek Regional review.

DNR will decide whether to approve or deny this application in the coming weeks,

and we will keep you updated on this and other issues relating to implementation of the Great Lakes Compact.

Federal Budget is a Victory for Clean Water and the Great Lakes

Thanks to widespread public and bipartisan support, the U.S. House and Senate passed the fiscal year 2018 budget in late March. This budget retains strong funding for many of our Great Lakes, water quality, and national restoration priorities. The budget maintained \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), as well as strong funding for many of the federal agencies that help implement this and other important water quality programs. In fact, the budget for the EPA was increased by \$763 million from the FY2017 budget, and significant budget increases were provided for the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey.

In addition, \$300 million was added to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs, which provide cost-share funding to states to disseminate for infrastructure upgrades of sewage treatment/conveyance and drinking water systems, respectively.

The budget also provided \$1.85 million for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, aimed at finding permanent solutions for Asian carp and other interbasin transfer of aquatic invasive species, and \$16.7 million for ongoing operations and management of the electric barriers in the Chicago Shipping and Sanitary Canal system.

Unfortunately, next fiscal year budget (FY 2019) contains many proposed draconian cuts to these important programs and others, making it even more critical that we all continue to send messages to Congress to support strong budgets for the GLRI, and our federal agencies and programs that help ensure clean water and healthy communities.

Disposable Lifestyles

Litter is a source water pollution. In the United States, on average, one person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day, or 1,460 pounds per person, per year. Some of that is recycled, incinerated or landfilled, but a portion of that ends up uncontrolled and in our waterways. According to the US EPA, studies support that 80% of trash is generated on land and then transported to a receiving water body. In Milwaukee, especially after the winter and once the snow melts, trash is notable and seems to be stuck along tree lines, fences and streets. A considerable amount of that litter finds its way into our rivers and lake from flowing rainwater, blowing wind, sloping geography and through storm drains.

Litter harms fish and other wildlife and negatively impacts our community and water quality. It is unsightly and it can cause vehicle accidents and injuries, smother plants, start fires, and harm or kill animals. It also attracts rats, breeds harmful bacteria, and can clog stormwater drains and cause flooding. In Milwaukee, 1.3 million people rely on Lake Michigan and its tributaries for drinking water. We need to protect and restore our precious resources, and reducing the amount of trash we create is a good place to start.

There are several ways you can help to prevent trash at the source. "Unpackage" your life: use reusable water bottles, grocery bags, lunch bags/containers; switch from plastic wrap to bees wax wrap; skip the straw; use/buy glass instead of plastic containers; tell your grocer to stop using plastic containers and encourage reusable ones. Other ways include, recycling regular household waste and recycling/disposing of toxic/hazardous, medical and electronic waste in the right way. Milwaukee Riverkeeper is part of the Take Back Your Meds Coalition, and through this coalition's work it is increasingly easier to turn over unused drugs. Visit our website to learn about more ways you can help.

One final way to make a collective, visible difference is to join over 4,000 volunteers remove over 100,000 pounds of trash from our waterways on April 23rd at our Annual Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup. Details and registration information on page 4.

Advocacy In Action

Estabrook Dam Demolition Update - the River Runs Free Through the Spillway!

After more than ten years of contentious public meetings and several lawsuits, the 81-year old Estabrook Dam is finally coming down and we could not be more excited! Removal of the Estabrook Dam is a win-win for the Milwaukee River and the community, as well as for many of our supporters that have attended countless meetings, sent many emails, and made many calls over the years. Dam removal will improve water quality and fish passage, and restore natural ecological function to this portion of the Milwaukee River. Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) is leading the dam removal, and has hired Terra Engineering and Construction out of Madison to conduct the demolition for \$844,421. In addition to demolition, MMSD has committed \$1 million to engineering, design, and planning around restoration of the streambanks and former impoundment area created by the dam. In addition, efforts are also underway to envision and design fish passage for Estabrook and Kletzsch Park Falls. MMSD has received a total of \$2.3 million in grants that will fully pay for dam removal.

Deconstruction of the dam was slightly delayed due to the early spring thaw and resulting high water levels in early March; however, work is now proceeding quickly. Contractors have finished dredging contaminants and removing a sand cap upstream of the dam "serpentine spillway" on the south bank of the river, which was placed as part of the DNR-led PCB removal projects upstream over the last 5 years. Asbestos and electric that was part of the gated section of the dam has also been removed. Contractors are currently removing the spillway, and the river is running free along the south bank for the first time in over 81 years! Crews will move to demolishing the gated section of the dam in the coming weeks. MMSD hopes to have the demolition completed by the end of April, weather permitting. Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements in the next few weeks regarding a celebration of the Estabrook Dam removal in May, as well as opportunities to get involved in future work to help envision a more natural, free-flowing, and healthy Milwaukee River in Estabrook and Lincoln Parks.



Removal of Estabrook Dam



1845 N Farwell Ave, Suite 100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
www.milwaukeekeeper.org

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit # 3679

Join Us for a Spring Event!

23rd Annual Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 21 | 9 am - Noon

60 Locations

Come volunteer, get outdoors, and help us achieve swimmable, fishable rivers. Join us afterwards at Estabrook Park for our FREE celebration with Rock the Green! More information and details on page 4.

"The Beaver Believers" Film Screening & Discussion

Wednesday, May 9 | 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Milwaukee Public Museum

Join us for a viewing of "The Beaver Believers" and a discussion with filmmaker Sarah Koenigsberg!

Barrels & Beer Rain Barrel Workshops

Sunday, May 20, 2018 -or- Sunday, June 3, 2018 | 11 am - 2 pm

Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Lakefront Brewery for an afternoon of creatively decorating rain barrels awhile enjoying the relaxing view.

For more information, registration, and other events please visit:

www.milwaukeekeeper.org/connect/events



**MILWAUKEE
RIVERKEEPER®**
SPRING CLEANUP

www.milwaukeekeeper.org

