

# ST. MARYS RIVER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN NEWSLETTER

October, 2025

*Get Ready To Be Involved*

## WELCOME OCTOBER

As crisp mornings settle in and the river carries the colours of fall downstream, October invites us to slow down and reconnect, with nature, with community, and with the work still ahead. The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) continues to guide restoration efforts along the St. Marys River, and this month we're highlighting upcoming events, seasonal tips, and ways you can stay involved as the seasons shift.



## JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE

We're planning a Fall Open House to celebrate progress, share updates, and connect with our community. You can expect interactive displays, local art, and meaningful conversations about the remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) and how you can get involved in restoring the St. Marys River. Whether you're new to the RAP or have been following along for years, there will be something for everyone. Stay tuned, we'll share the date and details as soon!

## NEXT MINI CHALLENGE

Read page 3 for more information.



## GARDEN TIPS FOR OCTOBER



**Leave healthy perennials untrimmed to provide shelter for birds and overwintering insects.**

**Plant spring bulbs like tulips and daffodils before the ground freezes for a burst of color next year.**



**Mulch garden beds with fallen leaves to retain moisture, insulate roots, and reduce runoff.**

**Water trees and shrubs until the ground freezes to help them handle winter stress.**



**Remove diseased foliage, but leave seedheads for birds to enjoy through the colder months.**

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Our second mini challenge is to **Leave the Leaves!** This October, we're encouraging residents to let fallen leaves stay where they land, in gardens, under trees, or in compost piles. Why? Leaves act as natural mulch, protect plant roots, and provide habitat for overwintering insects like pollinators and beetles.

Snap a photo of your leaf-friendly yard and tag us with [#RAPChallenge](#) and [#LeafLogic](#) for a chance to be featured!



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We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, including the Ojibwe of the Garden River and Batchewana First Nations. This land is part of the Robinson-Huron Treaty and has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We honour their enduring connection to the land, water, and all living things.





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Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for weekly updates, Wild Wednesday species spotlights, and behind-the-scenes looks at restoration work.

Do you have a river memory or old photo? We're collecting historical images to help tell the story of the St. Marys, especially those showing environmental changes over time. Email us at [stmarysriverrap@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysriverrap@gmail.com) or message us directly to contribute.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep the momentum going this fall!



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