SENSE OF PLACE

People benefit from their connections to the places they frequent. Place is a foundation for who we are and what we do; it encompasses the terrain, habitat, wildlife, and cultural attributes that make it unique. A thriving sense of place, with the benefits it brings, can attract visitors, retain residents, and enrich lives. A sense of place is a partnership that returns in proportion to what we put into it. Our goal is to deepen our connections to the land and to one another, fostering a vibrant and resilient sense of place within a dynamic Jackson Interlobate Eco-Region.

The region is the headwaters of seven river systems in southern Michigan, flowing both east and west. These include the Raisin, Grand, Huron, Kalamazoo, Clinton, Flint, and Shiawassee Rivers. The elevated topography means that the region is "looked up to" by its surroundings. Many sensitive ecosystems and notable species thrive in this area. These include fens, vernal pools, and other wetlands that protect clean drinking water sources downstream.

NOTABLE SPECIES

White Lady Slipper Orchid
Grows in wet prairies

Dickcissel Song Bird
Requires open prairies

Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly
Endangered

ABOUT US

The Grand-Raisin Conservation Community was established in 2002 as a local affiliate of The Stewardship Network. Our member community includes over 20 different partner organizations. We offer opportunities to interact with and learn from the natural habitats surrounding us.

We have two main areas of focus:
1) On the ground conservation planning and action
2) Educating community members in conservation issues, techniques, and related topics

We offer unique educational opportunities through events, workshops, activities, and online networking, enabling the greater community to share ideas, information, skills, and resources, thereby increasing its capacity to care for local land and water.

Grand-Raisin Conservation Community | The Stewardship Network Member Communities

https://stewardshipnetwork.org/communities/grcc

Michigan Natural Features Inventory
Discover. Define. Deliver.

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory made significant contributions to the development of this brochure

https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu

More information on Eco-Regions in Michigan can be found at this website

https://www.nrs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/other/gtr-nc178/index.html

DO YOU KNOW THESE HILLS AND HEADWATERS?

A GUIDE TO THE JACKSON INTERLOBATE ECO-REGION

A Project of the Grand-Raisin Conservation Community

The Stewardship Network
Member Communities

V 1.0 December 2025

THE JACKSON INTERLOBATE ECO-REGION

GEOLOGIC HISTORY

A regional landscape ecosystem is defined by its unique combination of climate, bedrock, landforms, soils, plants, and animals. The Jackson Interlobate Region was formed by the lobes of glaciers that covered the area over 10,000 years ago. When the ice receded, it deposited unique landscape features. This includes course-textured till and outwash sand. Some glacial features that create the signature topography of the area are highlighted below. The region is the headwaters of several river systems.

END MORAINE

Large hills formed where glaciers paused

Watkins Lake State Park

UPLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Oak Savanna and Oak Forest

MacCready Reserve

LOWLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Swamps, Marshes and Fens

Goose Creek Grasslands

ICE CONTACT TERRAIN

Landforms created by glacial meltwater (kettles, kames, and eskers)

Hidden Lake Gardens

HUMAN HISTORY

The indigenous Anishinaabe people historically used fire to maintain the productivity and diversity of the fire-adapted ecosystems. The Sauk Trail was a well-traveled route that bordered forested and grassland ecosystems, which was developed into US 12.

Since European colonization, the area has become popular for recreation and respite, with an abundance of parks and preserves. The land has also been used for agriculture. It is home to many high vistas and viewing platforms like the Irish Hills' Twin Towers.

Lansing
Williamston
Flint
Lapeer
Fenton
Clinton River
Pontiac
Milford
Walled Lake
Brighton
Huron River
Detroit
Eaton Rapids
Grand River
Leslie
Pinckney
Portage River
Huron River
Chelsea
Ann Arbor
Kalamazoo River
Albion
Jackson
Saline
N. Branch Kalamazoo
River Raisin
Manchester
St. Joseph River
S. Branch Kalamazoo
Brooklyn
River Raisin
Hillsdale
Adrian
94
96
127
52
12

Legend

- Public access land
- Water bodies

10 Miles