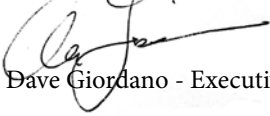


## Who Will?

Much like riffles add oxygen to water and increase habitat, these bits of progress we are sharing add energy and enthusiasm to what we are trying to accomplish. It's exciting, and together, we're making progress. If Root-Pike WIN doesn't advance these restoration plans with cooperative partners, the implementation of the Nine Key Element Plans we worked so hard to compile is unlikely. So, we formed "Riffles" to give you a snapshot of what's happening with the Plans for the Root-Pike Basin. The value we are providing the communities in which we live, work and play is clear. We're the catalyst for awareness... and action. Please support us and stay involved.

Who will? We will!



Dave Giordano - Executive Director

## Root River Plan

**Everybody Loves Raymond:** We are working with a landowner in Raymond to restore stream banks on the Main Branch and convert existing farmland to wetland.

**Lease Is More:** There are more than 10 projects that have been completed or put under conservation lease agreement through the Racine County Land Conservation Department and USDA/NRCS.



**Spawning Ideas:** Working with the City of Racine and Inter-fluve, we've submitted a grant proposal to design a restored ravine, which is currently eroding and depositing sediment into Colonial Park's floodplain. With some work, that same wetland could be spawning habitat for northern pike.

**Hope Floats:** We're working with Racine County to explore how Midwest Floating Islands and their sustainable product might reduce phosphorus and nitrogen – and the algae on the beach they generate – at Quarry Lake Park.

**Diversions Tactics:** Root-Pike WIN has publicly stated our disapproval of the Waukesha Diversion return flow option into the Root River, and voiced new restoration and monitoring requirements that should be incorporated if the diversion occurs.

## Pike River Plan

**Back to School:** Together with RA Smith, Root-Pike WIN will be managing the design of an oak savanna and ravine restoration of a critical stretch of the School Tributary.

**Common Corps:** Working with Kenosha County, we have engaged the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin exploring possibilities for the restoration of common interest areas of the South Branch.

**Good "Clean" Fun:** Root-Pike WIN helped sponsor the Pike River Cleanup where volunteers picked up tons of trash and significant log jams were removed in order to prevent more streambank erosion and increase fish passage. What fun!

**On the Job Training:** We're working with Carthage College to formulate an internship program that helps conduct water quality testing for specific projects to gauge before and after results to help build stronger cases for restoring this watershed.

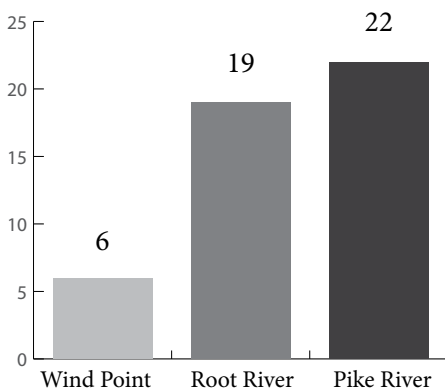


**Diversity Training:** On a tour with UW-Parkside professor David Rogers, Both the Cross Country Course and Natural Area adjacent to the UW-Parkside campus were assessed for their impact on the Main Branch. We're looking at restoring some highly-eroded ravines feeding into the Main Branch and enhancing the plant diversity.

**Beneficial Barriers:** Working with the USDA/NRCS and Kenosha County, we are moving options forward on a 100-foot riparian barrier restoration along a mile long stretch of the School Tributary.

## Projects in Progress

Nine Element Projects in the Awareness, Design or Implementation Phases



## Want to Help? Need Help?

Contact: Dave Giordano  
Executive Director  
262-496-2199 dave@rootpikewin.org



## Wind Point Plan

**Point Taken:** The completed Watershed Restoration Plan was submitted this year to the DNR and EPA... and we're optimistic that approval occurs later this fall. Even without a formal approval, Root-Pike WIN is moving Wind Point projects forward...

**Cliff Notes:** With Racine County, we are in the early stages of planning for Cliffside Park – a wetland and ravine restoration that would reduce erosion and pollution loading that makes its way into Lake Michigan.

## Oak Creek Plan

**Meeting of the Minds:** In cooperation with SEWRPC, two stakeholder meetings have already been held as part of the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Planning process. More than 100 people have participated so far. Contact us if you want to get involved!

## Pike Creek Plan

**Up a Creek:** We've begun fund-raising to ultimately produce an EPA Nine Key Element Watershed Restoration Plan for the Pike Creek watershed, which includes Pike Creek, Tobin Creek, Barnes Creek and the Chiwaukee Prairie. Help us move this planning forward!

## SE WI Clean Water Network

**Got Projects?** A workshop was held to help identify key projects that are now "critical" in each participating municipality. Working together with these stormwater experts, we are moving projects forward faster.

**Got Wetlands?** Tallgrass Land Conservation presented on the new demand for wetland banking programs and their benefits to landowners and municipalities. If you have more than 15-20 acres of property in the floodplain, this could be a lucrative option to have it restored back to wetland.

## Meet Our Staff

### DAVE GIORDANO Executive Director

Dave has been committed to the watersheds of Southeastern Wisconsin since his Board involvement in 2011. He has also been a marketing leader for a number of organizations in a variety of industries



including construction management, events and environments, insurance, infrastructure and software. He has held a variety of director-level roles, which focused on strategic planning, sales operations and marketing communications. He has also been involved with non-profit organizations such as the Trout Unlimited, Safe & Sound, Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation Association, UW-Milwaukee Minority Mentor program, Ovation Awards and the Pike River Revival. Giordano grew up a frequent visitor to the Pike River as a biker, hiker, runner, canoe paddler, and fly-fisherman.

"The Pike River, Pike Creek, Root River, Oak Creek and Wind Point watersheds define our home, history and heritage. It's time to restore them." A Kenosha native, Giordano graduated from Bradford High School and earned a BA in graphic design from The Savannah College of Art and Design. Dave also earned a MS in technology management from American Intercontinental University (Atlanta, GA), and attended UW-Parkside and Georgia Tech briefly. Dave and his wife have five children and reside in Somers on the South Branch of the Pike River.

### ALLISON THIELEN Program Manager

Allison has been committed to environmental leadership in Southeastern Wisconsin for a number of years, first serving two years as Program Manager for Root-Pike WIN and subsequently as executive



director of the Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center. Over the course of her time with Root-Pike WIN, she led the development of the Wind Point Watershed Restoration Plan, a nine element watershed plan currently in the review process with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She has a proven community outreach record while managing the Respect Our Waters program, a media and outreach campaign designed to educate residents on stormwater runoff pollution and actions we can all take to help keep our waters clean.

A Racine native, Thielen graduated from Walden III High School and earned a BS in ecology and field biology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Allison has also completed the Nonprofit Leadership Certificate program at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and recently attended Gateway Technical College for three semesters of Graphic Communications courses. She enjoys running, hiking, native plant gardening, arts of all kinds, and has two young children. She resides in Racine just three blocks from the Root River.



Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to restoring, protect and sustaining the Root-Pike basin.

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