



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GREEN MAPS

| MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, USA

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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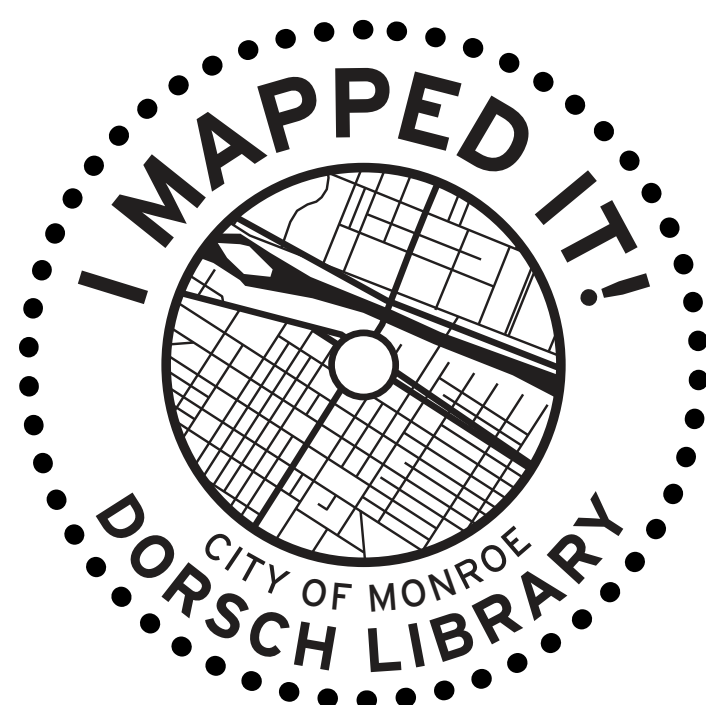
RIVER RAISIN INSTITUTE + MONROE COUNTY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

Located on the edge of Lake Erie, within the Great Lakes—the largest fresh water system in the world—Monroe, Michigan is an agricultural community that suffers a surprising disconnect between its local residents and fresh local food. Food deserts—limited access to fresh foods that constitute a healthy diet—exist for many low-income residents. Local non-profit organizations were searching for ways to inform the public of local food resources, while simultaneously educating them on green living practices (which directly impact the Great Lakes).

A partnership between Kelly Salchow MacArthur and the River Raisin Institute (RII) led to the Resilient Monroe Green Map System. It introduced green mapping—the practice of locating and plotting often overlooked green living, natural and cultural resources in an area—to the local community by focusing on fresh, local food resources. The system is interactive on both a personal and public level, designed to engage young and old. The success of the initial green map system led to additional partnership with the Monroe County Opportunity Program, and subsequent development of the Fresh Opportunity Green Map, which identifies food deserts, food pantries, and other resources. The maps utilize the international resource (and database) of the Green Map® icon system, which as greenmap.org notes, “has engaged over 950 communities in 65 countries.” Each piece was produced as environmentally-responsibly as possible. Maps were printed locally with soy-based ink on 100% post-consumer recycled stock (milled locally with hydro-power). Wooden medallions were lasercut locally. Woodless pencils were provided with the children’s mapmaking passport booklets. Rubber stamps were created (instead of stickers) to acknowledge mapmaking milestones. And 800 reusable grocery bags, made of 100% recycled plastic water bottles, were provided to the community.

The system was developed towards impacting and fitting appropriately within the community, from a grassroots approach. The initiative was launched on Earth Day 2018, and has been disseminated through local schools and organizations, teaching residents about green mapping and local healthy food, and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards as part of RRI's Climate Literacy Program. The system instigates active participation, pride, health, inclusivity, learning, and connection in the community and natural environment.



resilient monroe
GREEN MAP

MONROE TOWNSHIP

Legend:

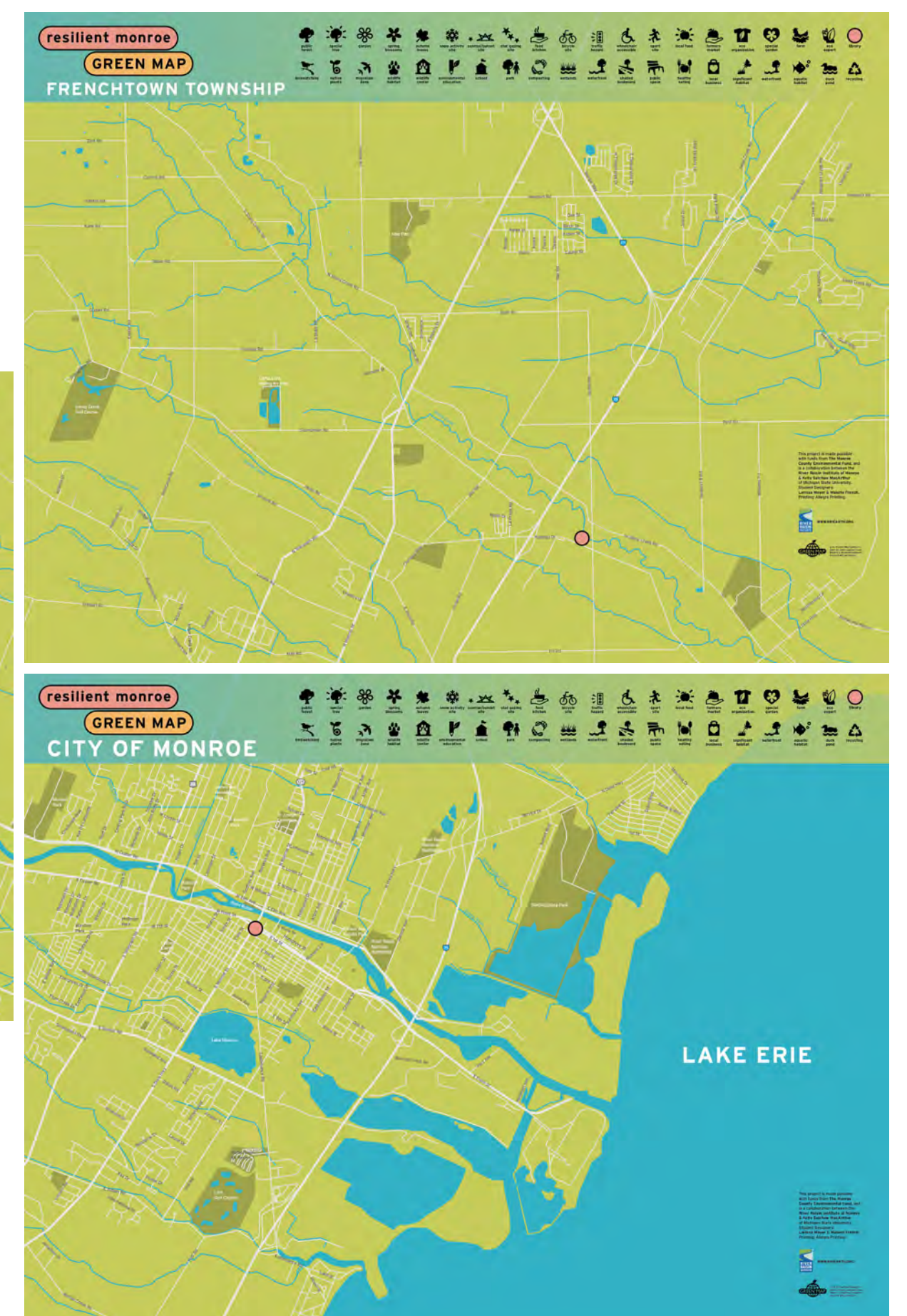
- Park
- Trail
- Water Body
- Other Landmark

Scale: 0 to 1 mile

North Arrow

Map Details:

- Map of Monroe Township, New Jersey, showing roads, water bodies, and green spaces.
- Key features include the Raritan River, various ponds, and several parks.
- Legend includes icons for Park, Trail, Water Body, and Other Landmark.
- Scale bar indicates 0 to 1 mile.
- North arrow is present.



Left: Laseretched wooden medallions to attach to a backpack, keychain, jewelry, or apparel as a low-tech way to aid in project dissemination.

Above: Large format maps were displayed separately at each public library, prompting community members to contribute to their neighborhood green map. Top legend bars show the stickers available on site for individuals to place on maps. Each library had a unique stamp to add to participants' My Green Maps Booklet to log their participation.