

EPISODE  
CLOSED CAPTION  
SCRIPT



**RIVER REBORN**  
DAM REMOVAL AND RIVER RESTORATION

*Birds chirping*

Dave - Oh I see dinner over there.

Anna - okay, I haven't been in a river in a long time, I love kayaking!

Dave - Hey check out this river over here it's beautiful. This reminds me of hanging out with my family. Ohhhh, I hope you guys get some trout.

Anna - When you think about it, a river is like an artery that feeds life blood to all of the ecosystems that it nourishes along its path.

Devyn - It makes sense, right?

Dave - So what happened to all the ecosystems and their creatures when one species pinches the flow of an artery for a hundred years?

Waskwane - What might happen if that one species decides to reopen the artery?

Anna - Well that's what's happening here, on the Boardman river, it's an awakening of sorts.

Waskwane - Back to a time when this river was called the Ottaway.

Dave - Grab your gear and join us as we explore -

Anna - The story of what happened in this river valley and what's still about to happen.

*Birds Chirping*

Dave - Kind of makes you wonder, who were the first people to call this place home?

Native Language

John bailey - Then we migrated over here maybe twelve hundred years ago. So, this area was, is like a garden of Eden. The Boardman river was our life really, it gave us food, transportation all the way to helping with our housing, our living, our foods, everything. The different animals that we could get, the beaver the furs from them. And so, the river itself provided everything that we needed.

Arlene - It provided us water to drink, it provided us water to take care of our clothing, to bathe in, the moisture for all the trees and the plants that are here, all the animals that come here that we may have used the deer, the rabbit to eat off from. So, everything is connected to this water that we used and kept us balanced and helped us survive.

Anna - Like most places, European settlers displaced native Americans and built cities in the best spots, usually at the mouths of rivers.

Tom - There wasn't a lot of people here, settlers, but as soon as they started using the Erie canal then all of a sudden people from Europe, Finland, and all over Ireland were coming directly to Michigan. So, all of a sudden in the 1850's there was an explosion of population of people that were here.

James Gurr - Europeans settling into Michigan, they knew what was going on, native Americans who saw it arrive in their neighborhood simply did not have a clue what they were up against.

John Moore - And the Indians also never felt that land was owned by anybody, it was for everybody or the one who possesses it, they don't own that land and it's for their use to maintain a livelihood.

John Bailey - We know and have always followed the rule that we treat everything as a relative and if you don't you make that relative suffer. And when we saw the immigrants, the way they behaved begins with the water even dirtying the water when they didn't mean to. They knew that they were doing this for their gain at the suffering of everything around them. We had to leave, the pressure got so great, people came in and actually chased us away from where we were living. So, we had no choice in the matter.

Brett - Tribal communities were taken advantage of because they probably couldn't explain the depth and breadth of connection to the natural world that human beings have and should respect and honor. And then we came in and we just walked right over them and dismissed their beliefs, dismissed their teachings because it wasn't written down, it wasn't proven by some scientific method.