



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant
Tracking code: 2008-0011



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North Branch Clinton River Watershed Plan

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The Clinton River North Branch watershed is approximately 200 square miles and consists of 50% active agriculture, 21% single family residential, 17% woodland and wetland, 7% grassland and shrub, and 5% other land uses. Due to urban sprawl the North Branch is experiencing significant growth that is impacting water resources. Since the North Branch watershed is over 25% of the Clinton River watershed, it has a major impact on the main branch of the river. The impacts of urbanization are already apparent in some reaches of the subwatershed, with water quality exceedances leading to the establishment of four Total Maximum Daily Loads designed to restore system health--three for pathogens and one for dissolved oxygen. This project created a 319 approved watershed management plan designed to resolve current water quality problems and head off future difficulties. Conducting social surveys of residents and farmers, along with field surveys developed by the Center for Watershed Protection, provided valuable information for defining the stressors and impacts of the watershed. By accurately defining these issues, specific actions were developed to effectively protect and restore the North Branch Clinton River Watershed.

Grant Amount: \$ 200,000.00
Match Funds: \$ 64,600.00

Total Amount: \$ 264,600.00



Watershed Goals Summarized:

- Make progress towards achieving water quality.
- Stabilize the hydrology.
- Protect and restore habitat.
- Protect and restore natural features.
- Maintain, protect and enhance greenways.
- Preserve rural character.
- Preserve and enhance recreational opportunities.
- Cultivate an aware and engaged public.
- Institutionalize a collaborative approach to achieve goals.

Partners involved:

- Macomb County
- St. Clair County
- Local Communities
- Farm Bureau
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Michigan State University- Extension
- Lapeer/St. Clair/Macomb Conservation District
- Oakland County
- Lapeer County
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy





Upland surveys were performed throughout the North Branch Clinton River watershed using the Center for Watershed Protection's *Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance* manual.



Stream surveys were performed on watercourses throughout the North Branch Clinton River watershed using the Center for Watershed Protection's *Unified Stream Assessment* manual.



Woody debris was noted as a common problem during the stream surveys.



Stream bank erosion was also noted as a problem during the stream surveys.



The farming industry comprises approximately 60% of the land use in the watershed.



Protecting and enhancing the 'green corridor' was determined to be of importance to the watershed stakeholders.