



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
Tracking Code: 2003-0047



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Upper Macatawa - Geerlings Easement Project

February 23, 2005 through August 31, 2007

The Macatawa River is a relatively small watershed in central West Michigan that is impacted by farming and growing residential development in the Holland - Grand Rapids transportation corridor. This project greatly improved the water quality of the river and downstream Lake Macatawa and nearby Lake Michigan by eliminating a large acreage of tilled and grazed land that put a significant phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment load into the system. This project also improved the river corridor's ability to accommodate seasonal flooding and re-established a natural riparian wildlife corridor and vegetative buffer. The property is now the centerpiece of Ottawa County's Upper Macatawa Natural Area and the developing Macatawa Greenway.

Grant Amount: \$ 735,703
Match Funds: \$ 500,000

Total Amount: \$1,235,703



Best Management Practices:



- Permanent conservation easement on 325 acres of previously farmed and grazed land adjacent to the river.
- Easement and match provided for 2 miles of river corridor to be re-vegetated with riparian forest plantings, filter strips, and other plantings of native species. Shallow-water ponds and wetlands were created and meanders were put back in a section of the straightened stream.

Annual Load Reductions:

- Sediment load reduced by 22 tons
- Phosphorus load reduced by 87.75 lbs.
- Nitrogen load reduced by 942.5 lbs.

Partners involved:

- Ottawa County Parks & Recreation
- Macatawa Greenway Partnership
- Macatawa Watershed Project
- Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett

