



Galien River Transition/Implementation I

August 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005

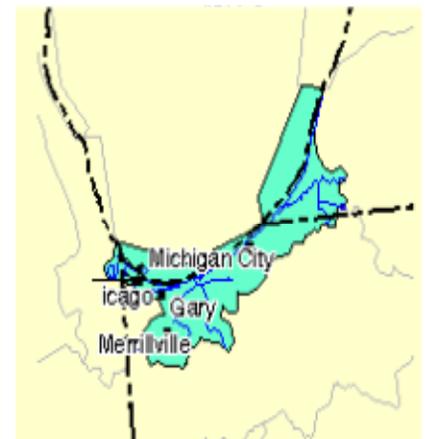
The Galien River winds through southwestern Michigan in Berrien County and northwestern Indiana, emptying into Lake Michigan at New Buffalo, Michigan. The entire basin contains 112,222 acres, the majority of which (82,665 acres) lies in Michigan. The Berrien County, Michigan section of the watershed, which is the focus of this project, houses a mix of land uses, with 62% rural and agriculture, 23% forest, and 5% urban with the remaining land in lakes, streams and wetlands. The goals for this project were to improve water quality by reducing *E.coli* contamination resulting from failing septic systems, build the community's understanding of the water quality challenges and upgrade the Galien River Watershed Management Plan to include the nine required United States Environmental Protection Agency elements (EPA).

Grant Amount: \$ 99,000
Match Funds: \$ 21,000

Total Amount: \$120,000

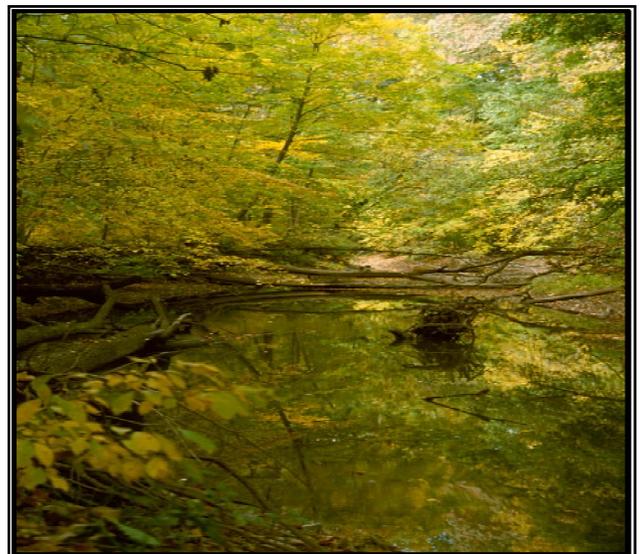
Partners involved:

- Berrien County Planning Department
- Chikaming, Three Oaks and Weesaw Township Boards
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber
- Galien River Conservation District
- Planning and Zoning Center
- Southwestern Michigan Commission
- Harbert Community Church



I&E Activities:

- Watershed Short Course held
- 9 Galien River Presentations given to civic groups
- 19 Press Articles on the Galien
- "Pump it-Don't Dump it" float in Three Oaks Flag Day Parade
- Three Oaks Elementary 4th & 5th grade placed drain markers and distributed door hangers to residents
- Galien River exhibit at Chikamingle - a Chikaming Township event



Project Accomplishments

- Galien River Watershed Management Plan Addendum with EPA's 9 elements included
- Galien River Watershed Management Plan and Addendum posted on Southwestern Michigan Commission website: www.swmicomm.org
- Stream cleanup at critical location along the Galien River
- Three Oaks Township considered ordinance changes
- Chikaming Township passed ordinances allowing a Michigan Department of Agriculture approved Farmland Purchase of Development Rights Program
- Chikaming Open Lands was awarded a \$590,312 grant to implement the Galien River Watershed Management Plan and Addendum
- Southwestern Michigan Commission presented ready-to-hang planning map sets with critical features identified to all 5 watershed townships as a resource for planning commissions and township boards
- CD published by Southwestern Michigan Commission with GIS planning maps for the Galien River
- Three Oaks Elementary School 4th graders did an embeddedness project to learn about siltation in Kirktown Creek
- Galien River Conservation District held Field Days on topics of buffer strips, farmland preservation and the Wetland Reserve Program



The Galien River Steering Committee previews the planning map sets created by Southwestern Michigan Commission for watershed townships.



Students from Three Oaks Elementary learn about siltation in Kirktown Creek.