



Lower Grand River Watershed Planning Project
July 22, 2002 - September 30, 2004

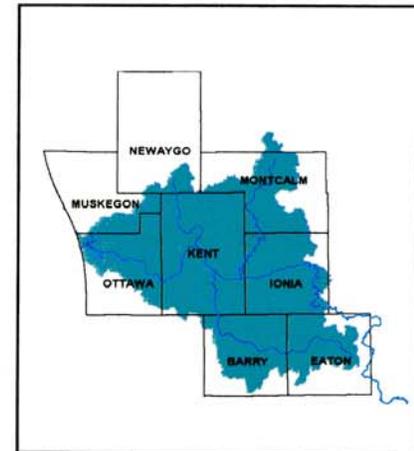
The Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) Planning Project was awarded to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council who contracted with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. and GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute to complete the two-year project. The goal of the LGRW Planning Project was to develop a watershed management plan outlining strategies and recommendations to effectively reduce nonpoint source pollution. A Steering Committee provided oversight and direction to the project while several subcommittees addressed the urban, rural, technical, information and education, and visionary aspects of the management plan. Additional management plans were created for two pilot project areas: Sand Creek and Buck Creek Watersheds. Several interactive tools and two guidebooks were created in addition to the management plans to assist subwatersheds in their individual watershed planning efforts. A LGRW provisional organization was formed to provide basin-wide oversight, implement regional and watershed-wide initiatives, and prioritize water quality concerns. Access <http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/lowgrand/wit/index.htm> for more project details.

Grant Amount: \$ 248,791
Match Funds: \$ 149,985
Total Amount: \$ 398,776

Best Management Practice (BMP)

Recommendations:

Project subcommittees identified structural and vegetative BMPs to reduce sources of pollutants from both urban and rural areas. A spreadsheet of these BMPs was categorized into practices of pretreatment, detention/retention, vegetated treatment, infiltration, filtration, and agricultural. A similar spreadsheet was developed for managerial BMPs and was categorized into practices of agricultural, zoning ordinance/land use policies, recycling/composting, turf management, operations and maintenance, and municipal operations.



Partners involved:

- Ada Township
- Algoma Township
- Allendale Charter Township
- Alpine Township
- Barry Conservation District
- Barry County Drain Commissioner
- Byron Township
- Cannon Township
- Cascade Charter Township
- Center For Environmental Study
- Chester Township
- City of East Grand Rapids
- City of Ferrysburg
- City of Grand Haven
- City of Grand Rapids
- City of Grandville
- City of Wyoming
- City of Grand Haven
- City of Hudsonville
- City of Ionia
- City of Rockford
- City of Walker
- City of Kentwood
- Coldwater River Watershed Council
- Courtland Township
- Eaton Rapids Township
- Frey Foundation
- Fruitport Charter Township
- Gaines Charter Township
- Georgetown Charter Township
- Grand Rapids Charter Township
- Grand Haven Charter Township
- Grand Rapids Charter Township
- Ionia County Conservation District
- Jamestown Charter Township
- Kent County Board of County Commissioners
- Kent County Road Commission
- Kent County Drain Commission
- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- Maple Row Dairy
- Montcalm Conservation District
- Office of the Kent County Drain Commissioner
- Ottawa Co. Conservation District
- Ottawa County Drain Commission
- Ottawa County
- Ottawa County Road Commission
- Plainfield Charter Township
- Robinson Township
- Sand Creek Watershed Partners
- Sparta Township
- Spring Lake Township
- Tallmadge Township
- The Nature Conservancy
- Thornapple Grand Conservation District
- V3, Inc.
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Wright Township

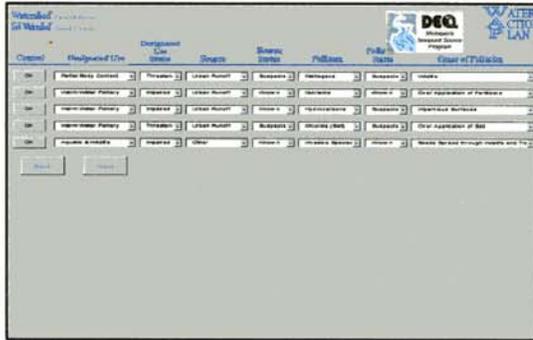
Information & Education (I&E)

Recommendations:

An I&E strategy was developed to help motivate the Lower Grand River Watershed's (LGRW) stakeholders, residents, and decision-makers to take the actions necessary to protect and improve the water quality and environmental conditions in the watershed. This I&E strategy outlines the target audiences, messages, delivery methods, and evaluation techniques needed for an effective outreach campaign in the LGRW. An I&E Guidebook was also created to assist communities with their individual outreach campaigns.



Watershed Action Plan (WAP)



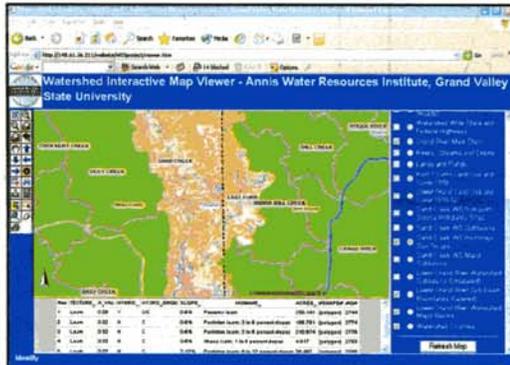
The WAP was designed to help watershed managers prioritize water resource use, pollutants, and pollution sources and select the most appropriate system of BMPs. The WAP provides links to information about designated uses, hydrology, BMP characteristics, and land preservation techniques and leads the user through the watershed planning process.

Watershed Assessment Matrix (WAM)

Watershed ID Number	Major Watershed	Subwatershed	Surface Water Quality Assessment Surveys	Last SWQAS Study	Stream Search Results 2003
Date Revised	5/18/04	5/18/04	5/18/04	5/18/04	5/18/04
14_100	Grand River	Sand Creek	25300, MI/DEQ/SWQ-00039	1996	Not Assessed
14_101	Grand River	Grand River	001502, 003920, 25300	1981	Not Assessed
14_102	Grand River	Deer Creek	25300	1999	Not Assessed
14_103	Grand River	Grand River	001502, 001670, 25300	1970	Not Assessed
14_104	Grand River	Bass Creek	25300	1968	Not Assessed
14_105	Grand River	Bass River	25300	1968	Not Assessed
14_106	Grand River	Grand River	001502, 001670, 25300, MI/DEQ/SWQ-00095	1999	Not Assessed

The WAM is a data management program that organizes the abundance of research and water quality data by the 136 subwatersheds of the LGRW. The data in the WAM have been linked to the other interactive planning tools such as the Watershed Action Plan (WAP) and Watershed Interactive Map (WIM).

Watershed Interactive Mapping (WIM)



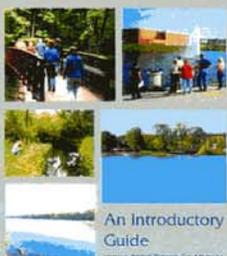
The WIM provides online access to a variety of mapping layers for the LGRW. Using ArcIMS enables the user to integrate local data sources with Internet data sources for display, query, and analysis. Accessible data range from base information (hydrology, roads) to soils, land use/cover, and imperviousness.

Watershed Interactive Tool (WIT)



The WIT is a web-based interactive tool that provides the following information regarding the LGRW: watershed management, natural history, interactive mapping, general watershed concepts, lesson plans for watershed education, government resources, and local water issues.

Developing a Watershed Management Plan in the Lower Grand River Watershed



The LGRW Guidebook was developed for communities of the LGRW and outlines the steps of the watershed management planning process. It was adapted from a similar document produced by the MDEQ and tailored for the LGRW. The Guidebook provides tips on how to use the interactive tools, examples from the LGRW, and identifies the new 319 minimum elements for watershed planning. **The I&E Guidebook** was created to assist LGRW communities with their individual outreach campaigns. The guidebook provides information on target audiences, messages, delivery methods, and evaluation techniques.

Lower Grand River Watershed Project Information and Education Guidebook

