



Stony Creek Watershed Management Plan

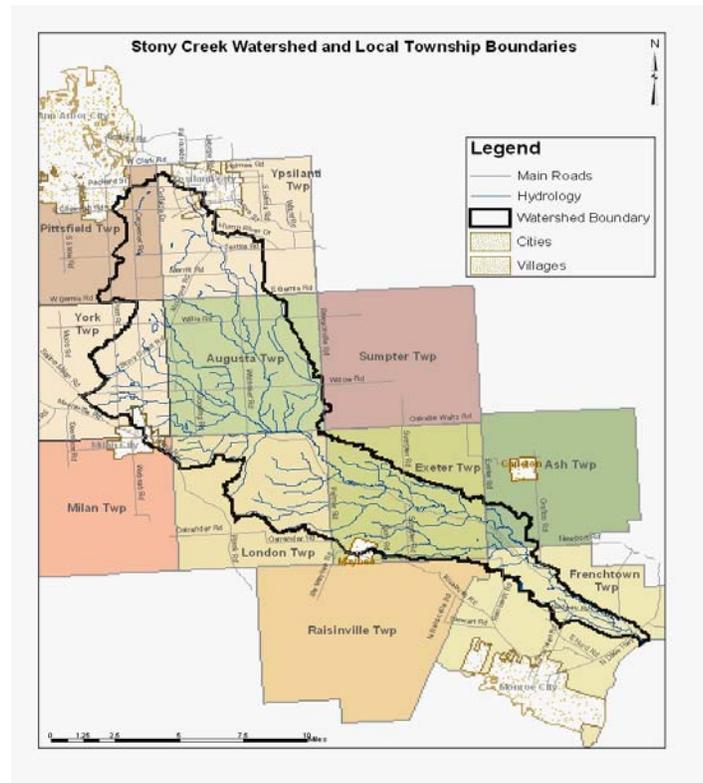
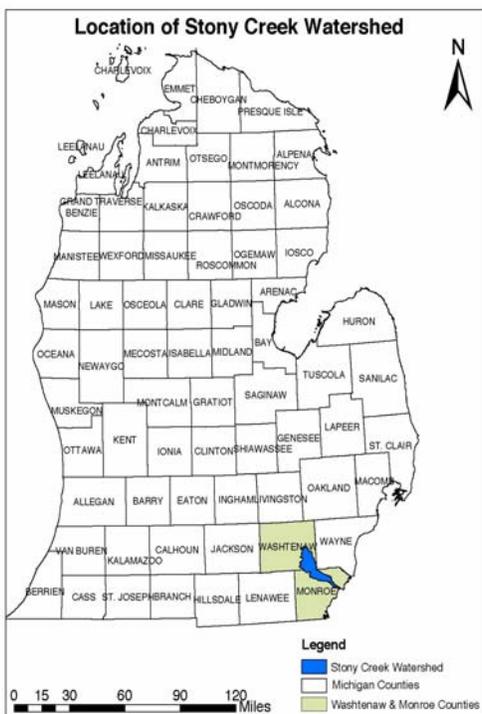
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The Stony Creek Watershed

The Stony Creek Watershed lies within Washtenaw and Monroe Counties in Southeastern Michigan and contains portions of Pittsfield, Ypsilanti, York, Augusta, Milan, London, Exeter, Ash, and Frenchtown Townships, and very small parts of the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Milan, and the Village of Maybee. Sandwiched between the larger Huron River Watershed and the River Raisin Watershed, the Stony Creek Watershed, including Paint Creek and a number of smaller tributaries, is a long, narrow watershed (about 32 miles long and 8 miles at its widest) that is oriented northwest-southeast and tapers as it drains toward Lake Erie in Frenchtown Township just north of Monroe, MI.

The upper portion of the watershed is developed, with significant residential, commercial and industrial land uses, and the pace of development has quickened, contributing to pressures on and problems in the watershed. Land uses in the Monroe County portion are largely agricultural, with pockets of residential development at the northern tip and lower end of the watershed.

This project resulted in the development of a CMI-approved watershed management plan for the Stony Creek watershed.



Grant Amount: \$ 180,000
Match Funds: \$ 36,330
Total Amount: \$ 216,330

Project Goals: The goals of the project were to:

- Establish a Stony Creek Watershed Steering Committee to oversee development of a watershed management plan.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Stony Creek watershed, including water quality testing and examination of road stream crossings; and
- Develop an approvable watershed management plan for the Stony Creek watershed to provide a comprehensive long-term strategy for maintaining and enhancing water quality in the two-county creek system.

Project Partners

- Monroe County Drain Commissioner's office
- Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office
- Washtenaw County Road Commission
- Ash Township
- Augusta Township
- Exeter Township
- Frenchtown Charter Township
- London Township
- Pittsfield Charter Township
- York Township
- Ypsilanti Charter Township
- Huron River Watershed Council

Project Implementation

The Institute for Community And Regional Development at Eastern Michigan University served as grantee, submitting the 319 application in collaboration with leaders from a dozen area communities throughout the Stony Creek watershed. Project activities were guided by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from those same communities. Two faculty members served as project staff and co-investigators:

Dr. Joe Ohren, Professor of Political Science, who facilitated Steering Committee meetings and guided decisions, monitoring and reporting throughout the project; and

Dr. Kevin Gustavson, Professor of Geology, who provided the scientific expertise, conducted the water quality testing and the assessment of road stream crossings, and drafted much of the Management Plan.

Project Evaluation and Impact

The goals of the project were achieved. More importantly, a number of critical partnerships have been established and important ground work has been laid. The Management Plan identifies the critical water quality challenges facing the creek system, spells out goals and objectives, and identifies strategies for addressing those deemed most important by the Steering Committee. Through the work of participating communities and project staff, including public forums, news coverage, dissemination of water quality materials on the Stony Creek website, and other public information and education activities, we have raised the visibility of the water quality challenges facing the Stony Creek Watershed. Members of the Steering Committee have continued discussions about organizing a Watershed Council and beginning implementation efforts, as recommended in the Management Plan.