



Federal Clean Water Act  
Section 319 Grant  
2003-0036



City of Pontiac  
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## Pontiac Creek Transition/Implementation

August 10, 2004 through July 31, 2007

The Pontiac Creek Watershed is a tributary of the Clinton River that drains a substantially urbanized area and includes much of the City of Pontiac. The watershed is approximately 10 square miles and includes natural, open channel flow, and drainage districts owned and managed by the Oakland County Drain Commission. The watershed also includes a short section of the Clinton River in Pontiac. A Watershed Management Plan was developed for the Pontiac Creek Watershed in 2003 under the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant. This project updated the original Watershed Management Plan to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Nine Minimum Elements of Watershed Planning. The updated Pontiac Creek Watershed Management Plan was approved by the MDEQ on February 17, 2006. In addition, the City of Pontiac constructed a rain garden at the City of Pontiac Public Library as part of the implementation of the watershed management plan. The rain garden was implemented to reduce and delay storm water runoff from the parking lot as well as provide a highly visible demonstration and educational opportunity for community members on the benefits of a rain garden in reducing the amount of surface water and pollutants discharged to the local rivers.

Grant Amount: \$ 97,468

Match Funds: \$ 10,835

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Total Amount: \$ 108,303

### Best Management Practices:

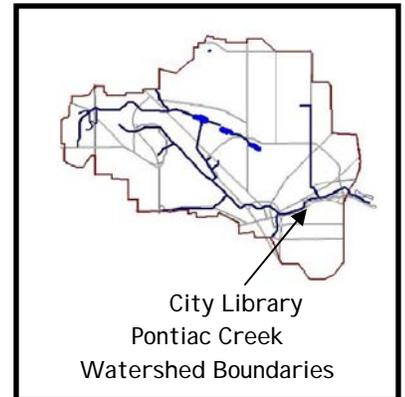
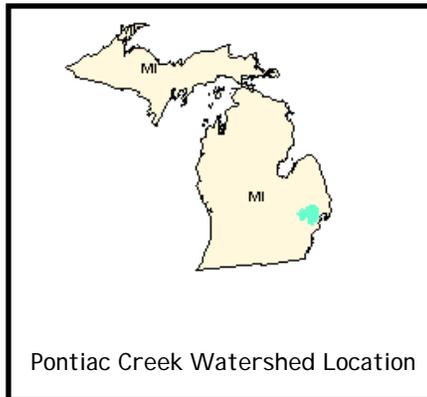
- Rain Garden (Volume = 1,000 cubic feet)
- Drainage area = 1/6 acre
- Includes native plants and stone weirs

### Annual Load Reductions:

- Sediment 177 pounds/year
- Nitrogen 1.7 pounds/year
- Phosphorus 0.14 pounds/year

### I&E Activities:

- An interpretive sign was placed in the rain garden for community members to view. The sign educates the viewer on the uses and benefits of a rain garden as well as the types of native plants that can be used in a rain garden design.
- A brochure was developed from the interpretive sign contents which is available for distribution to community members in the City Library.



### Partners involved:

- City of Pontiac
- NTH Consultants, Ltd
- WH Canon Company
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality





City of Pontiac Public Library Before:  
An existing swale collected runoff from the grounds of the library and parking lot. Storm water discharged directly to the storm drain.

City of Pontiac Public Library During:  
Construction activities included excavation of existing soils with replacement of a mix of 20 percent organic matter, 50 percent sandy soil, and 30 percent topsoil to allow for maximum water infiltration and plant establishment.



City of Pontiac Public Library During:  
River rocks and stone weirs are used in the rain garden to direct storm water runoff to the infiltration area and retain the water for infiltration.

City of Pontiac Public Library After:  
The rain garden includes over 15 species of native plants and shrubs. Once established, native plants require little supplemental water or nutrients because their deep root system allows them to withstand dry periods. Thus, native plants are incorporated for optimal infiltration and low maintenance.