



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
2005-0118



St. Joseph County Conservation District
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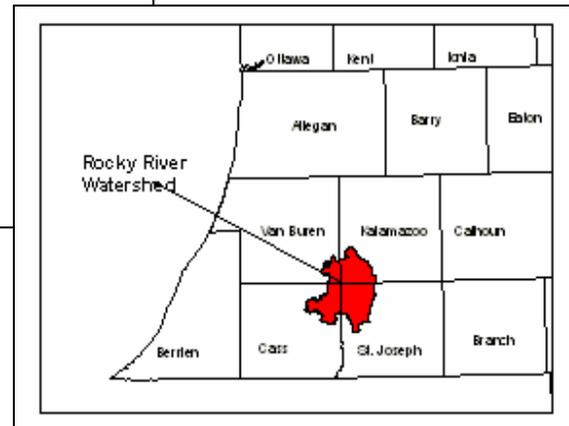
Rocky River Watershed Implementation Project

October 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009

The Rocky River Watershed is located in the southwestern corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and is a sub-watershed of the St. Joseph River Basin. The Rocky River Watershed is a high quality system threatened by pollutants common to rural communities; sediment, bacteria, and nutrients. The goal of the Rocky River Watershed Implementation Project was to: maintain the high quality status of the water system by enacting recommendations of the management plan; reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the system; provide long-term protection through land use policies and conservation; and increase stakeholders understanding and awareness of nonpoint source pollution, watershed issues, and pollution prevention. Through partnering with landowners, agencies and municipalities, the project was able to implement Best Management Practices to reduce pollutant loads, promote conservation planning, and conduct an extensive education and outreach campaign.

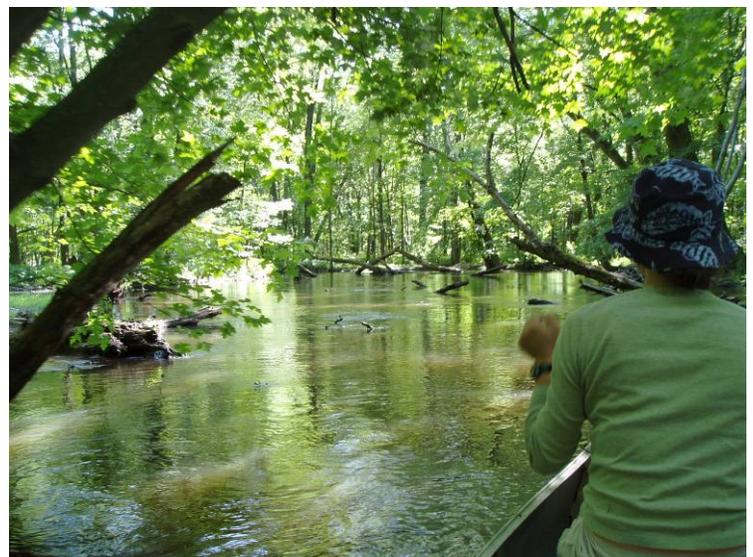
Grant Amount: \$ 204,284.17
Match Funds: \$ 96,461.86

Total Amount: \$ 300,746.03



Partners involved:

- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Potawatomi RC&D
- Michigan State University Extension
- Boy Scout Troop 414
- St. Joseph County Commission
- St. Joseph County Road Commission
- St. Joseph County Land Resource Centre
- City of Three Rivers
- Village of Marcellus
- Prairie Ronde Township
- Marcellus Township
- Flowerfield Township
- Fabius Township Citizens' Coalition
- Three Rivers Commercial News
- Marcellus News
- Sturgis Journal
- Cassopolis Vigilant
- NRCS
- Pheasants Forever
- Michigan DNR
- Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce
- Sturgis Bank and Trust Co.
- Wal-Mart
- Indiana Michigan Power
- Great Lakes Commission
- Three Rivers Water Festival Committee
- Native Connections
- Cass County Conservation District
- St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner
- MDEQ



7/31/2009

Best Management Practices:

- Eliminated 1 livestock access site to the Rocky River
- Stabilized 1 Road Stream Crossing
- Secured 1 permanent conservation easement
- Converted over 100 acres from active agriculture to conservation cover and/or riparian buffers
- Renovated a petting zoo with a bioswale, gutters, fencing, and stabilized slope.
- Installed one aqua-swirl concentrator
- Conducted water quality master planning with three townships

Annual Load Reductions:

- 577.6 tons of sediment
- 786.27 pounds of phosphorus
- 1,225.8 pounds of nitrogen



I&E Activities:

- Smart Growth for Water Resource Protection Workshop
- Managing Rural Wastewater and Maintaining Environmental Quality Workshop
- Restoring Your Lands- Conservation Options for Landowners Workshop and Field Day
- Managing Your Shoreline for Lake Ecology Workshop and Watershed Tour
- Land Protection Workshop
- Storm Drain Stenciling Project
- Citizen Planner water quality session
- Created and distributed educational brochure, "Recreation on the Rocky River Watershed: A Guide for Happy Users and Happy Waters"
- Rocky River Stewardship Celebration
- Created Scidmore Park Petting Zoo "Native Plant Identification Guide"
- Created Water Quality and Bioswale sign for



Before: St. Joseph County Livestock Access to Rocky



After: St. Joseph County Livestock Access to Rocky

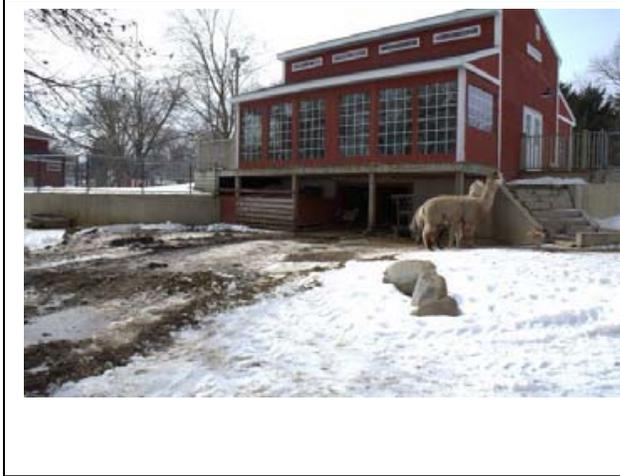


Before: Rocky River- Null Road Stream Crossing



After: Rocky River – Null Road Stream Crossing

Before: Scidmore Park



Building without gutters.

After: Scidmore Park



Building with gutters installed.
Connected to bioswale.



Showing animal area with access to direct drainage to the Rocky River.



Bioswale – after planting. Showing new fencing that keeps animals out of area that directly drains to the Rocky.