



Gun River Greenbelt and Wetland Restoration Initiative

January 1st, 2009 - November 30th, 2011

The Gun River Greenbelt and Wetland Restoration Project developed many new partnerships with local conservation groups in order to successfully implement this project. The Project partnered with: 1) The Gun Lake Improvement Board and the Gun Lake Protection Association to address residential riparian water quality concerns and successfully installed eight riparian filter strip and bio-seawall sites within the watershed. 2) The Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement a "door-to-door" wetland restoration strategy utilizing the MDEQ wetland functional assessment tool. The Project successfully funded three wetland restoration sites through the Wetland Reserve Program totaling over 177 acres. 3) The Gun Lake Tribe of Indians and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council to provide educational seminars on wetland restorations providing over 110 participants with water quality knowledge. An interactive Google mapping tool was developed for residents to view a virtual Greenbelt Tour online.

Grant Amount: \$ 168,354.15

Match Funds: \$ 40,295.95

Total Amount: \$ 208,650.10

Best Management Practices:

- Three wetland restoration sites enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program totaling over 177 acres including \$708,000 in wetland conservation easements!
- One demonstration bio-swale project, Gun Lake County Park
- Three riparian buffer strip/soft seawall projects
- Five residential riparian buffer strip projects
- One conservation nutrient management plan, EQIP
- Two EQIP conservation plans
- 22 HEL determinations and conservation plans
- Live-stock exclusion fencing 680 lf with a total of 3900 linear feet of pasture fencing
- Conventional farm field conversion to pasture 31.7 acres
- 2 public educational signs at best mgt. practice sites
- Gun River Wetland Functional Assessment

Annual Load Reductions:

Sediment: 1,165.6 tons/acre/year

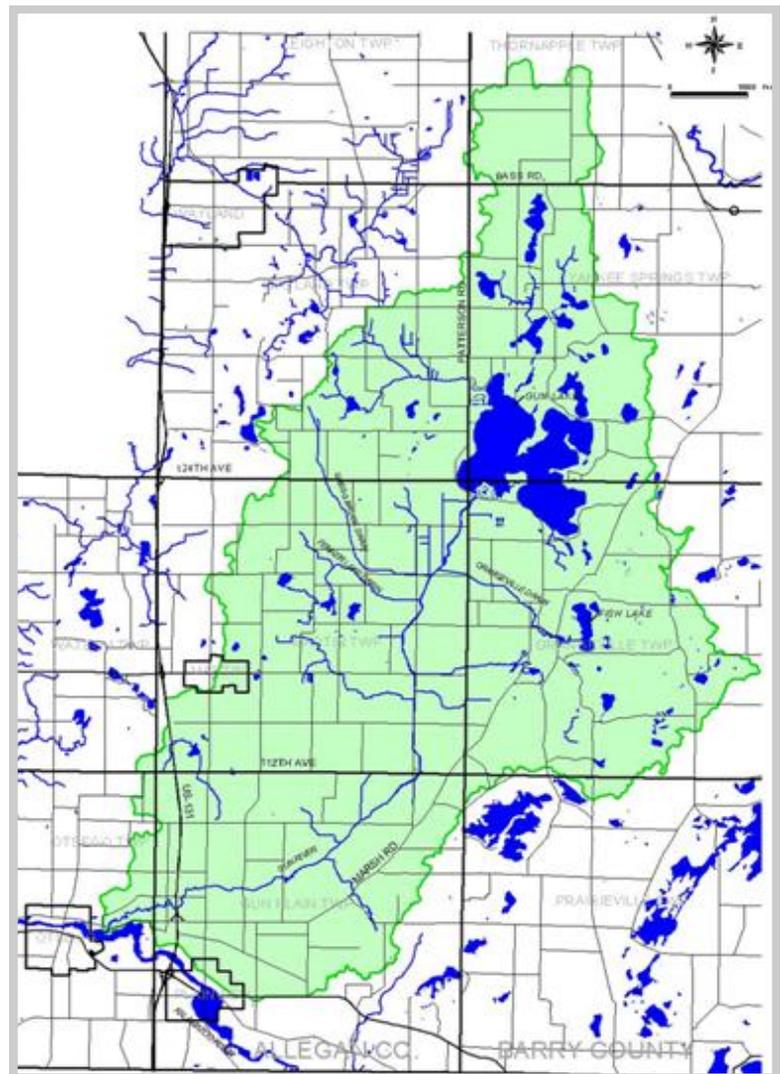
Phosphorus: 239.06 pounds/year

Nitrogen: 418.33 pounds/year

I&E Activities:

- Interactive Google Map to explore riparian greenbelts installed by the project. Website: <http://g.co/maps/vwhmz>
- Interactive Google Map to explore wetland restoration sites
- Wetland Restoration Outreach Program
- Water Quality on the Water Program defining lot by lot riparian vegetation and shoreline conditions

Gun River Watershed



Partners involved:

Allegan County Drain Commission • Allegan County Road Commission • Gun Lake Improvement Board • Gun Lake Protections Association • Kalamazoo Downstreamers Canoe Club • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Allegan County Parks Commission • Ducks Unlimited • Gun Lake Tribe • US Fish and Wildlife Service • Progressive A/E



Before: Gun Lake County Park. Conventional lawn to edge of lake, with an eroding bank.



After: Installed coir log seawall and native buffer strip. Installed educational sign discussing the benefits of soft seawalls vs. conventional seawalls.



Before: Riparian residential lawn to lake edge, resulting in nutrient introductions from fertilizers and runoff.



After: Installed native buffer strip to reduce nutrient loads from conventional turf grass.



Before (above). Riparian residential lawn to lake edge, resulting in nutrient introductions from fertilizers and runoff. After (right) Installed native buffer strip to reduce nutrient loads.

