



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant
Tracking code 2007-0137**



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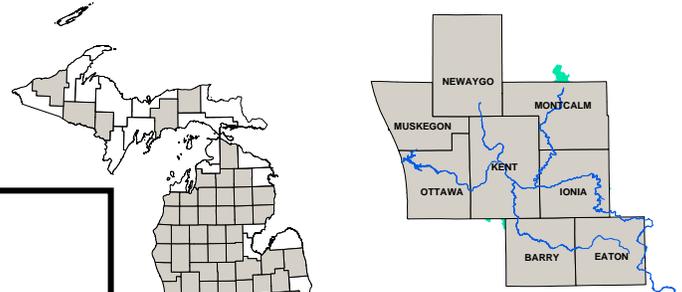
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Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds Initiatives Project

February 1, 2008 - December 31, 2010

The Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) is the lower portion of the Grand River starting by the City of Portland and ending at Lake Michigan within the City of Grand Haven. The watershed has a drainage area of 2,909 square miles and encompasses large portions of seven counties. Most of the Watershed is covered by residences, urban centers, forests, and agricultural. The major pollutants of concern are pathogens, sediment, and nutrients. The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) was formed to work with West Michigan communities in restoring, protecting, and enhancing water quality in the LGRW. Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, on behalf of LGROW, was awarded the LGROW Initiatives Project grant. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute, Center for Environmental Study, Alex Nesterenko and West Michigan Environmental Action Council were contracted to assist in completing the project. The goals of the LGROW Initiatives Project were to: 1) Update the Lower Grand River WMP to include the EPA Nine Elements; 2) Create tools to assist watershed stakeholders to restore, protect and enhance water quality of the Grand River; 3) Build awareness about the Grand River, nonpoint source pollution, opportunities to incorporate best management practices into people's lifestyle, and LGROW as an organization; and 4) develop organizational sustainability.

Grant Amount: \$ 372,618
Match Funds: \$ 137,316
Total Amount: \$ 509,003



Lower Grand River Watershed

Tools/Products Created:

- Updated Watershed Management Plan to meet EPA 9 elements.
- Created an interactive map to illustrate priority sites to integrate low impact development practices.
- Developed a Functional Wetland Assessment within LGRW.
- Developed recommendations for updating the Kent County Storm Water Model Ordinance for channel protection.
- Created a social profile.
- Developed extended detention rating curves for Michigan's 10 climatic zones.
- Conducted an accomplishment survey.
- Created Water Quality Monitoring Decision Making Tool in a Power Point format.

I&E Activities:

- Developed LGROW logo.
- Conducted a watershed survey (Kent County).
- Distributed 3 Grand Rapids Press inserts (all Kent County zip codes residents receiving the Grand Rapids Press, and Grand Haven residents receiving the Grand Haven Tribune).
- Purchased and prepared four traveling displays for the four active sub-watersheds groups and a set of four banners for watershed outreach events.

Key Partners involved:

- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.
- GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute
- Cannon Township
- Center For Environmental Study
- Cities of East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Wyoming, Walker, Grand Haven
- Sub-watersheds: Coldwater River Watershed Council, Thornapple River Watershed Council, Sand Creek Watershed Partners, Plaster Creek Watershed Stewards, and Rogue River Watershed Council
- Frey Foundation
- Kent County and Ottawa Drain Commissioners
- Ottawa County Conservation District
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Herbruck Farms
- Calvin College
- Grand Rapids Press
- Grand Haven Tribune
- Alex Nesterenko, Ph.D.

Coordinated 4-Banner Exhibit



LOWER GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION of WATERSHEDS

Your watershed needs your help!



We strive to protect the watersheds where we live, work and play.

Join us!



WHERE'S YOUR WATERSHED?

You live in a watershed, the area of land that drains to a single body of water.



Lower Grand River Watershed
12,545 square miles

Grand River Watershed
5,572 square miles
The Grand River is Mississippi's longest at 209 miles.



Help Prevent These Sources of Pollution:

Keep farm runoff on the farm.



Your local storm drain goes straight to the river!
Only rain down the drain.



Pick the right fertilizer and use it with care.




Keep Your Watershed Clean by Going Green!

Your agricultural buffer soaks up farm runoff before it reaches the water.



Save your rain for a sunny day! Green roofs and rain garden help manage rain where it falls.



Your landscape makes a difference. Native plantings are easy care and need little to no fertilizer.




EPA 9-Element Approved WMP

