



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Nonpoint Source Grant**
2007-0116



Shiawassee Conservation District

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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance

October 1, 2007, through December 31, 2008

The purpose of Michigan's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is to reduce sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen loads entering the surface waters in watersheds that have intense agricultural land use. The goal is to improve water quality, sources of drinking water, and wildlife habitats. This project provided technical assistance to promote and assist landowners enrolling in CREP in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. CREP technicians were located in the following conservation districts: Arenac, Huron, Isabella, Sanilac, Shiawassee and Tuscola. The Saginaw Bay Watershed covers 5,573,000 acres, of which 46% is agriculture, 29% forested, 11% open land, 8% urban, 4% wetlands, and 2% water. CREP improves water quality, enhances fish and wildlife habitat, and enhances nesting for upland forested and grasslands birds and waterfowl. With a goal of enrolling 90,000 acres, Michigan's CREP will be the largest voluntary conservation program in the state. Sediment and nutrients are the primary pollutants addressed by CREP practices, with secondary pollutants being bacteria and pesticides. Additionally, as the Great Lakes make up 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater, protecting water quality in this important area is a primary focus of all Michigan CREP partners.



Grant Amount: \$300,000

Match Funds: \$380,000

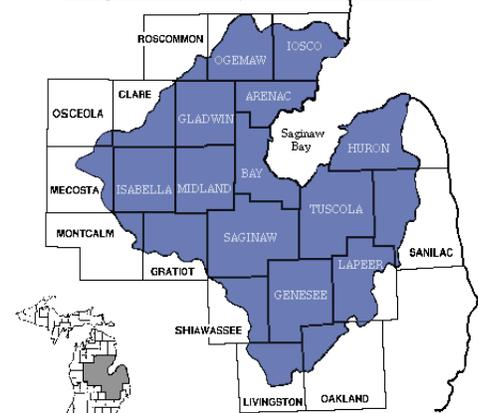
Total Amount: \$680,000

Best Management Practices:

271 contracts were written encompassing 2,107 acres of land enrolled in eligible CREP practices, including filter strips, wetland restorations, field windbreaks, riparian buffers, grass plantings and sediment retention control structures.



Saginaw Bay Watershed



I&E Activities:

- 4,650 contacts were made as a result of ongoing outreach efforts to inform and educate landowners of the benefits of CREP
- 16 Technical Advisory Committee Meetings were held
- 167 status reviews were conducted to assist landowners in establishing and properly maintain their CREP practice(s)
- Technicians promoted CREP by participating in numerous workshops, meetings and display events
- 49 articles were written and 9 informational handouts were developed to promote CREP



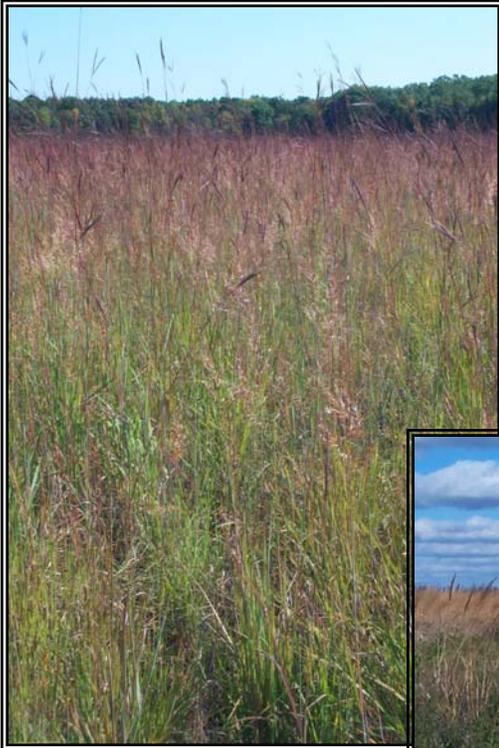
Partners involved:

- Arenac, Huron, Isabella, Sanilac, and Tuscola Conservation Districts
- County Equalization Offices
- County Drain Commissions
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Farm Service Agency
- Michigan DNR
- Michigan DEQ
- MSU Extension
- Pheasants Forever
- TNC



Cool season filter strip that has been mowed for maintenance.

Warm season filter strip in its first year of establishment



Wetland Restorations

