



Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Grant

Tracking code: 2002-0236



Land Conservancy of West MI

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Rogue River Conservation Easements Project

April 15, 2004 through December 31, 2006

The Rogue River Watershed is a major tributary to the Grand River, located 25 miles north of Grand Rapids, and is one of the best coldwater trout fisheries in Southern Michigan. Fragmentation of the natural landscape and the increase of impervious surfaces in this ground-water fed river system are a great threat to the river's continued health. The Rogue River Conservation Easements Project created a thorough database of all the land in the watershed and prioritized which parcels were of highest importance for protection with a conservation easement. The 600 highest priority landowners were identified and contacted through multiple letters, invitations to events, and 2 project-specific newsletters. This has resulted in securing three conservation easements, and has laid the ground-work for land conservation in the watershed for years to come.

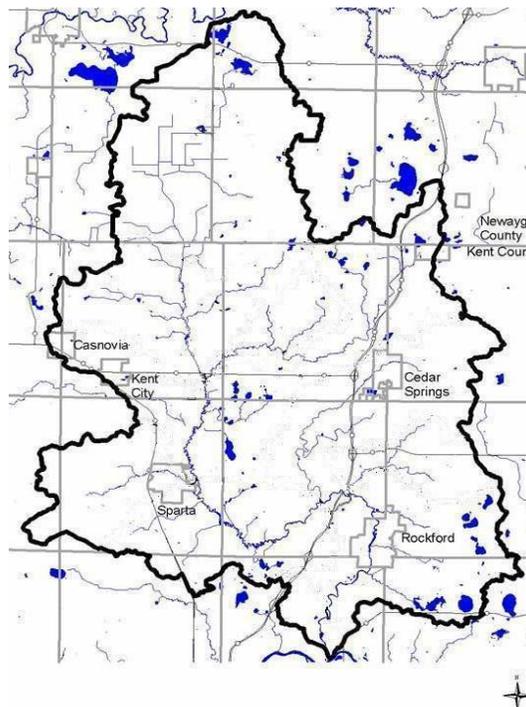


Grant Amount: \$ 40,800

Match Funds: \$ 17,200

Donated Easements: \$ 870,000

Total Amount: \$ 928,000



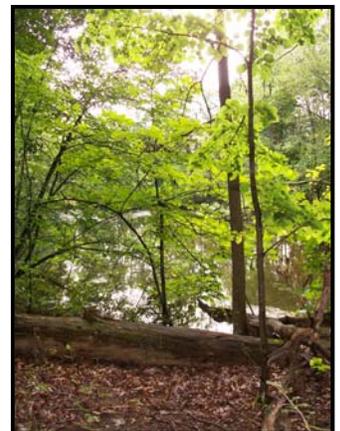
Best Management Practices:



- 270-acre conservation easement encompassing a private lake with over 7000 ft of lake frontage
- 27-acres protected by two conservation easements on adjacent parcels
- Protection of 2000 feet of Rogue River frontage

Annual Load Reductions:

- 16 tons of Sediment
- 79 lbs of Phosphorus
- 851 lbs of Nitrogen



I&E Activities:



- Prioritization of all parcels within the entire Rogue River Watershed based on their importance for land conservation.
- Identified 600 priority landowners continually contacted with information on land protection options, events and education.
- Created a fact sheet on conservation easements.
- Two educational, project-specific newsletters produced sent over 700 contacts throughout the watershed.
- Held in-depth conversations with over 70 landowners .
- Conducted 8 presentations for local landowners and interested citizens.

Partners involved:

- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- The Nature Conservancy, West Michigan Program Office
- Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute
- Varnum Riddering Schmidt and Howlett
- Driesenga & Associates, Inc.
- Rogue River Watershed Council
- Property owners (donated easements)