



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Nonpoint Source Grant**
2005-9147



Six Rivers Regional
(formerly Oakland)
Land Conservancy
Telephone: (248) 601-2816
Fax: (248) 601-4582
Email: dfolland@sixriversrlc.org

Stony Creek Corridor Conservation Easement

September 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008

The Stony Creek is a high-quality tributary of the Clinton River located in northeastern Oakland County and northwestern Macomb County. The Stony Creek subwatershed occupies approximately 10% of the 760-square mile Clinton River basin. The current condition of Stony Creek reflects the subwatershed's relatively low-impact land uses. Undeveloped, conservation and recreation lands comprise nearly 70% of the subwatershed's land area, while agriculture and low- and medium-density residential development dominate the remaining 30%, with a small area of intense development clustered in the southern end of the subwatershed. The primary goal of the project was to acquire a 36-acre conservation easement over this high quality natural resource parcel and permanently protect water quality within the Stony Creek Subwatershed. The project also provided a greenway connection between two trail and park systems. The conservation easement acquisition project was completed in collaboration with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and was important to their success in securing a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to acquire fee title. This successful project established a nature park, which is protected by a conservation easement, and engaged the public in the enjoyment and continued conservation of the Stony Creek and this beautiful natural area. Additionally, the project created an exemplary model of inter-agency collaboration to meet regional conservation goals.



Grant Amount: \$ 525,000

Match Funds: \$ 286,474

Total Amount: \$ 711,474



Best Management Practices:

- 36-acre Conservation Easement

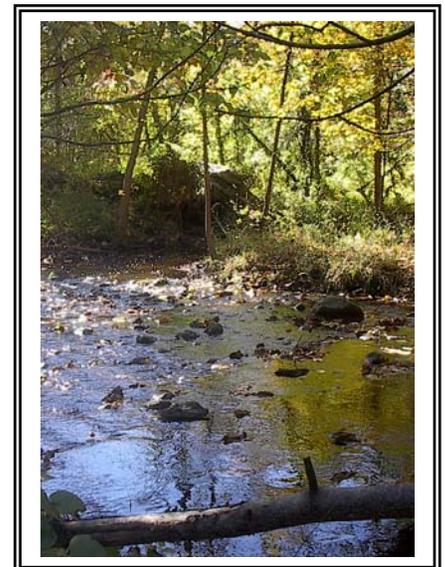
Annual Load Reductions:

- Sediment - 5.2 tons
- Phosphorous - 210 pounds
- Nitrogen - 25 pounds



Partners involved:

- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan - GreenWays Initiative
- Huron Clinton Metropark Authority
- Kezlarian Family
- Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
- Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund





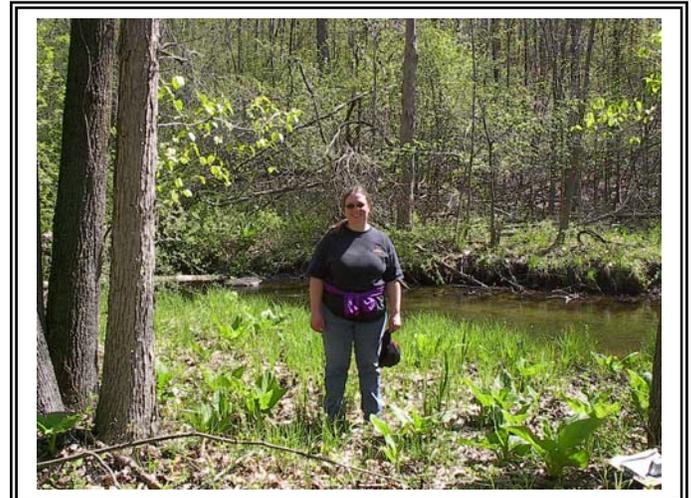
The 2,000 linear foot stretch of the Stony Creek that falls within the conservation easement is remarkable for its ecological diversity and integrity. Thorough documentation of the habitats and species was an essential early step in project development. Protection of the site includes not only the stream corridor, but also encompasses the adjacent floodplain, slopes and uplands that drain into the stream.



The creek, floodplain and adjacent upland slopes were monitored in detail over four seasons to develop a thorough knowledge of the site. Now that the conservation easement is established, the Conservancy will monitor the site at least annually to continue developing our understanding of the site, spot potential problems and negative impacts, and help the landowner to correct them early.



Understanding the location of the conservation easement's boundaries and marking them clearly is an important step, especially in more developed areas. Subsequent monitoring visits will include observation and documentation of all boundaries. Any threatened or existing encroachment issues at the boundaries are often resolved by assisting the landowner to communicate with adjacent neighbors and engaging them in stewardship of the easement.



Good relationships with neighbors are especially important when the conservation easement is surrounded by development. Keeping neighbors and other community members informed of our activities on the conservation easement and welcoming them to accompany us on our monitoring visits will extend the level of protection of the site by deepening the community's commitment.