



**Federal Clean Water Act  
Section 319 Grant**  
2002-0067

Van Buren Conservation District  
Telephone: (269) 657-4030  
Fax: (269) 657-4925  
Email: tricia-bizoukas@mi.nacdnet.org

## Black River Watershed Planning Project

October 1, 2002 through April 30, 2005

The Black River Watershed encompasses approximately 280 square miles in Allegan and Van Buren Counties, flowing into Lake Michigan in South Haven. Primary water quality concerns in the watershed are erosion and sedimentation, nutrient loading, and development issues. The Black River Watershed Project worked to create a Watershed Management Plan to guide efforts to protect and improve water quality in the lakes and streams of the Black River Watershed.

As part of this planning process, other objectives included public education and outreach, completing a watershed inventory, identifying pollutant sources and causes, identifying critical areas, and gathering information about the watershed from preexisting sources, as well as gathering attitudes and opinions from watershed residents through surveys and one-on-one conversations. These goals were all met effectively. Much of the success of this project can be attributed to the commitment of many project partners and stakeholders.

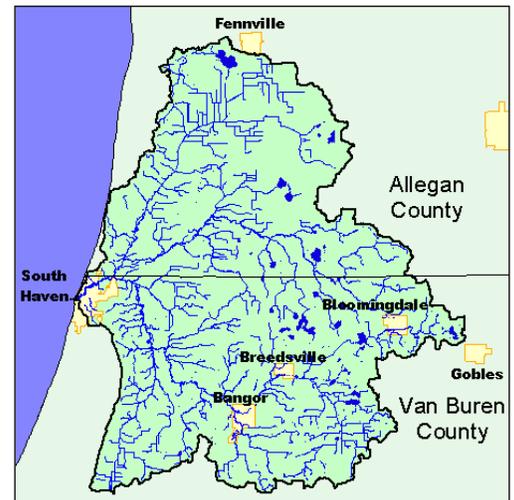
**Grant Amount: \$ 104,382**

**Match Funds: \$ 54,451**

**Total Amount: \$ 158,833**

### Partners involved:

- Allegan County Drain Commission
- Allegan County Road Commission
- Allegan Conservation District
- Allegan County Math and Science Center
- Bangor Depot
- Black River Watershed Assembly
- Casco Township
- City of Bangor
- Columbia Township
- Committees (Information/Education, Technical and Steering)
- Lake Michigan College
- Lee Township
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Lake and Stream Associations
- Michigan State University Extension-Allegan County
- Michigan State University Extension-Van Buren County
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sauk Trails Resource and Development Council
- Van Buren Co. Land Management Department
- Van Buren Conservation District
- Volunteers



### I&E Activities:

- Developed and presented educational program on watersheds to Bangor Middle School
- Black River display set up at Kalamazoo Riverfest
- Presentation given at the "Introduction to Lakes Program"
- Chemical and Biological Assessment of creeks performed with high school students
- Photo contest sponsored to increase awareness of Black River Watershed
- Presentations on Watershed to various schools (elementary through high school level)
- Website updated/created
- Various brochures, newsletters, newspaper articles, press releases, maps, and flyers produced to promote project